

TRUSTEE CONFERENCE REPORT

Name: Narein Chenthivelnathan (Student Trustee 2019/2020)

Date Submitted: February 28, 2020

Name of Conference: Board Council Conference 2020

Sponsoring Organization: Ontario Student Trustee Association (OSTA-AECO)

Conference Dates: Feb 20-23

Location: The Westin (Ottawa)

Workshops/Seminars/Presentations/Keynote Speeches Attended:

Friday, Feb 21:

- Opening remarks from OSTA AECO board of directors, and exec
- PBC break out session:
- Ice breakers with a discussion about current board initiatives
- OPSBA scholarship application information with OSTA AECO- 500\$ value opens around March

Working Group Breakout- French relations

- Planning French relations Conference Ontario Wide (conference than promotes student voice and leadership with a focus on the French language) (This is confidential at the moment until OSTA-AECO releases it officially)

Guest Speaker: Annie Kidder

- Annie Kidder- executive director/ founder of peoples for education
- Talked about universal and equitable education for all
- Reduction in funding and reduction in teaching possibilities, input from students about e-learning and how this really impacts students
- Why invest in education/ Why does public education matter?
- Education changes very slow while the world advances much faster
- We need a new set of basic for education to better equip the worlds growing economy
- Developing a sense of self and society
- Equity (are we trying to move the wrong needle)

Guest Speaker #2

- OPHEA concussion education E-Learning module
- Concussion education - Rowan's Law (concussion education is the #1 prevention/protection method)
- 2 modules, one for elementary and one for secondary (English and French, accompanied by a teachers guide)
- A blended or flipped classroom
- Possible barriers with language (ESL) how do we make sure that all students can access this information and how do we help them understand the information.

Debate session- How to properly get a debate organized

End of day

Saturday, Feb 22, 2020

- Executive Coordinator updates on communication and policy/Financial information in terms of OSTA AECO (all info confidential, OSTA AECO will post later)
- PBC Break out session - information on provincial wide initiatives and other board activities

Public Affairs Training

- Using school visits to promote student senate, using videos and assemblies
- Using social media and following other like-minded
- Get to know your individuals in the board, invite them for coffee, get to know what they are passionate about
- Respect is key, do not discriminate when trying to put an opinion out there.
- Same rights in a meeting as any other trustee, say whatever you want, under the education act
- Do not have to clear anything with staff before having to bring it up at a board
- Don't let other trustee's control what you say
- We are included in collective bargaining acts and labour issues
- They need to rearrange in-camera to include student trustees

End of day

Note: Many of the workshops at the conference were confidential in nature and are not able to be disclosed in the report, but will be publicized by OSTA-AECO in the coming months.