

# **TRUSTEE CONFERENCE REPORT**

**Please attach to your Professional Development/Conference Expense Reimbursement Form. Thank you.**

**Name: Jayne Herring**

**Date Submitted: January 27, 2020**

**Name of Conference: Public Education Symposium**

**Sponsoring Organization: OPSBA**

**Theme (If any): Public Education**

**Conference Dates: January 22-25**

**Location: Toronto**

## **Workshops/Seminars/Presentations/Keynote Speeches Attended:**

**Thursday, January 23**

### **Michael Fullan – Keynote Speaker**

-spoke about the Trustee-Director relationship and governance in general

-in his discussion of ‘Deeper Learning’ Fullan talked about the changes or transformation that needs to take place in public education

### **Presentation to Standing Committee on Finance**

Along with Trustees Weston and Woodcock, I travelled back to Kitchener in order to appear before the Standing Committee on Finance & Economic Affairs. We presented to the Committee re the need for sustainable and equitable funding for education. A copy of our presentation is included as part of the Agenda package for the January 27, 2020 meeting.

As a result of having to travel to Kitchener and return we were not able to attend any of the other workshops on Thursday.

## **Friday, January 24**

### **The Nature of Leadership by Ziya Tong**

- humorous, informative presentation on examples of leadership from the world of animals
- learned about various leadership styles and how animals have adapted their leadership styles and how we can understand and learn to be better leaders

### **Strong Governance Practices and Locally Elected School Board (Panel)**

- interesting discussion and presentation on the role of trustees and how some provinces have discontinued the role of Trustee
- President of Nova Scotia Teachers' Union talked about what has happened in his Province with discontinuing position of Trustees
- as a result there is no voice for parents or understanding of local issues
- PEI had discontinued Trustees but is now looking at reinstating due to advocacy issues
- interesting discussion of the role of trustee in current labour relations situation and it was recommended that because trustees approve the local contract that we not become involved in any way in negotiations

### **Legal Restrictions on the Role of Trustee as Advocate**

- very informative workshop on the legal role of trustee
- additional discussion on the role of a trustee during contract negotiations
- took copious notes on how we can make sure that we are doing our due diligence
- discussion on the responsibility to uphold the decision of the whole Board once it has been made

**Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>**

We attended a Regional West Breakfast Meeting before leaving the conference at noon.