

TRUSTEE CONFERENCE REPORT

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

Name: Jayne Herring

Date Submitted: April 28, 2022

Name of Conference: 2022 Education Labour Relations & Human Resources Symposium

Sponsoring Organization: OPSBA

Theme (if any):

Conference Dates: April 28, 2022

Location: Online/Zoom

Workshops/Seminars/Presentations/Keynote Speeches Attended:

I attended this all-day workshop through the Ontario Public School Boards' Association on Labour Relations and Human Resources. The purpose for attending this workshop was to enhance my knowledge and understanding of some of the issues and challenges facing employers and our staff.

Public Education Panel

The first session was a panel discussion around the difference in the roles of the Trustee/School Board Associations that advocate for public education and are responsible for collective bargaining. Panel members included representatives from OPSBA, the French Catholic, Catholic and Public School board trustees. Differences and commonalities between the groups were explored.

Workshop – Developing Productive Working Relationships with Senior Board Officials

This workshop featured Graham Shantz and Matt Gerrard who are both WRDSB Coordinating Superintendents. Our Board was compared to the Ottawa Carlton DSB as we are of similar size to that Board, and two Sr Officials represented the OCDSB.

It was interesting to hear what the top concerns are for each of the Sr Officials and how they compare. Topics included hiring for diversity, absenteeism, pandemic recover, and staff among others.

Workshop – COVID19 – Case Law Update

This workshop covered issues dealing with COVID19 in the workplace. It provided an up-to-date summary of other school boards' response to the pandemic and reviewed upcoming and pending legislative changes that will have an impact on labour negotiations.

Workshop – The Future – Working from Home

This workshop covered issues that have surfaced as people have had to, and many continue to, work from home or develop hybrid working arrangements. Discussion focused on expectations, challenges and strategies to use when implementing working from home arrangements.