

## Trustee Conference Report

Name: Jayne Herring

Name of Conference: Public Education Symposium

Sponsoring Organization: OPSBA

Theme (if any): Public Education

Conference Dates: January 28, 2028

Location: Virtual

### **2022 - Public Education Symposium, January 28, 2022**

Attended this day long online event (online due to Covid protocols). This was a great conference with a number of Breakout sessions.

The keynote was provided by Randell Adjei who is Ontario's Poet Laureate. Randell spoke to his experiences and how a great teacher can make all the difference in the life of a student – in this case, himself. Randell also encouraged us to remember our 'why' and when.

### **Understanding Operations vs Governance**

Informative workshop with the Chair and Director for the Grand Eerie District School Board and the Simcoe County District School Board. Topics included:

- what is the difference between governance and operations?
- how to establish effective communication between a Chairperson and Director
- challenges with the role of Trustee and how to navigate the challenges
- how to recognize the differences between the two areas and how a Trustee can still represent their communities
- challenges with colleagues who refuse to recognize that areas of Operations of not our role

### **Keynote Address – The Enduring Impact of Covid by Anthony Christakis, Professor at Yale**

This was a very interesting presentation on Covid. Dr. Christakis spoke about the stages of the pandemic and what stage we are currently in. He also spoke about pandemics throughout history and compare them with Covid19. Various aspects of this pandemic, including the effects of the economy, stages of grief as it relates to a pandemic and the role of fear and denial in our population. Really informative and timely presentation.

### **Ontario School Boards 2022 and Beyond**

Interesting panel discussion and a conversation around representation for minorities as School Board Trustees stood out to me. It was noted correctly that representation matters. Only 6% of Trustees represent minorities. We must do better and one of the panelists suggested that Term Limits might help with this as it is very hard to be an incumbent.