

TRUSTEE CONFERENCE REPORT

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

Name: Carol Millar

Date Submitted: February 3/2020

Name of Conference: OPSBA Public Education Symposium

Sponsoring Organization: OPSBA

Theme (If any): Building Blocks of Leadership

Conference Dates: January 22 - 25/2020

Location: Downtown Toronto Sheraton Centre

Workshops/Seminars/Presentations/Keynote Speeches Attended:

Thursday January 23/2020

Keynote Speaker - Michael Fullan

“The Governance Core and System Change”

Micheal Fullan is the Global Leadership Director for New Pedagogies for Deep Learning and a worldwide authority on education reform.

His presentation at PES focused and expanded on 5 key points - 1) The Need for Change, 2) Leadership from the Middle, 3) Coherence, 4) Deep Learning, 5) Core Governance.

His presentation was thought provoking and forward thinking but what stood out for me was the date that supported an urgency to

change what we are currently doing and the need for collaboration, coherence and shared leadership.

Specific to being a Trustee his thoughts on Politics and Governance stood out. He reminded us that politics might be what you do to get elected but Governance is what you “should do” between elections to run a good system. This is crucial and ignored element in the transition from campaigning to governing.

Here is the link to the slides from his presentation.

https://www.opsba.org/EVENTS%20AND%20PUBLICATIONS/Documents/2020PES_MichaelFullan_CoreGovernance.pdf

2nd Presenter - Nick Nanos - Polling Politics and the Public

Nick Nanos is a Canadian public opinion pollster, entrepreneur, public speaker, author and expert in political, business and social trends.

Mr. Nanos shared his insights on polling, the public mood and how populists politics is impacting democracy. He spoke specifically about the results from the OPSBA poll and shared his thoughts and findings - and the data is clear: the majority of Ontarians support public education and see it as an investment. Here is the link to the poll.

[2019-1531 OPSBA - Populated report w tabs.pdf](#)

3rd presenter - Gillian Tuck Kutarna - Legal Restrictions on the Role of Trustee as Advocate

This presentation focused on the legal restrictions on the role of trustee as an advocate. The presenter answered many specific questions from individual trustees. An important fundamental principle that resonated with me was that “minority views have the right to be heard; majority view has the right to govern?”

Here is the link to her presentation

https://www.opsba.org/EVENTS%20AND%20PUBLICATIONS/Documents/2020PES_GillianTuckKutarna_LegalRestrictions.pdf

Friday January 24/2020

Keynote Speaker - Ziya Tong - The Nature of Leadership

Ziya Tong is a Canadian TV personality and author as well as the former co-host of Discovery Channel’s show - Daily Planet.

This was a fun, energetic and creative presentation that looked at leadership traits in the animal kingdom and the lessons we can learn to shape human behaviour so that we can become better leaders ourselves.

2nd Speaker - Panel - Strong Governance Practices and Locally Elected School Trustees

The Panel was comprised of Micheal Barrett - former OSPBA President and current 1st VP, Laurie French - President CSBA, and Paul Wozney - President Nova Scotia Teachers Union

The panel discussed the important role of School Board Trustees and the decision by some provinces to eliminate this role. They reviewed the impact of this on public education in these provinces. A very interesting and informative discussion on the role of Trustees.

3rd Speaker - Panel of Chairs and Directors of Education - Getting the Working Relationship to Work

This panel discussed the importance of understanding your role, consistent clear communication and respect (in particular during crisis) to improve the working relationship between Chairs, directors of Education and the Board. They also discussed the importance of flexibility and trusting the skill set and work ethic that staff and Trustees bring.