

TRUSTEE CONFERENCE REPORT

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

Name: Carol Millar Date Submitted: February 13/22

Name of Conference: Public Education Symposium 2022 (PES)

Sponsoring Organization: OPSBA

Conference Dates: Friday January 28/22

Location: Virtual

Workshops/Seminars/Presentations/Keynote Speeches Attended:

“Hundreds of trustees, student trustees and school board administrators typically participate in OPSBA's Public Education Symposium each January. This premier professional development symposium, specifically designed for school boards, offers dynamic sessions on topics directly affecting the role of trustee and the broader environment within which school boards operate.”

The morning began with a welcome by OPSBA President and an address by the Minister of Education - Stephen Lecce

The Audacity to Dream in the Face of Adversity - Randel Adjei - Ontario's Poet Laureate

Randel is Ontario's First Poet Laureate, a non-partisan position. He spoke about the importance of dreaming in the face of adversity. He is an author, inspirational speaker, arts educator and community leader who uses the spoken word to empower and transform. He is the founder of R.I.S.E. Edutainment. (Reaching Intelligent Sounds Everywhere). He advocates for youth voices through listening and supports the province with art and public policy.

Moving Forward with Anti-Racism in Every Classroom - Matthew R. Morris, Educator (TDSB)

Matt talked in detail about the 4 steps to anti-racism in the classroom. - 1) examine our allegiances and excavate our biases 2) acknowledge the truth 3) freestyle the plan. 4) Action through action

The three “t”s are key 1)Trust - think outside the box 2)Transparency - meet people where they are and 3) Teaching - curriculum is not the issue, its how educators deliver it. We need to consider the hierarchy of power and the need to decentralize it in the classroom.

The Profound and Enduring Impact of Coronavirus on the Way We Live - Nicholas A. Christakis, Sterling Professor of Social and Natural Science at Yale University & Author of Apollo’s Arrow

Interesting presentation on the history and current day impact of COVID on global communities. He compared proviso pandemics with that is happening with COVID. Answered many questions, myths and misconceptions.

Panel Discussion: Ontario School Boards - 2022 and Beyond

Interesting panel discussion on the upcoming municipal elections. Discussed the importance of representation and how we need to ensure that our candidates “look like” and share the experience of the people they represent. Mentioned that only 6% of school board trustees are from radicalized, marginalized communities. Talked about incumbency and the advantages of term limits.

Materials Taken Away:

General Distribution

Trustee Distribution

Staff Distribution: Name of Staff Member: _____