

TRUSTEE CONFERENCE REPORT

Name: Mike Ramsay

Date Submitted: August 1, 2023

Name of Conference: Global Summit of the Worldwide Commission to Educate All Kids (Post-Pandemic)

Sponsoring Organization: Worldwide Commission to Educate All Kids

Theme (if any): Post-Pandemic Solutions to Help Kids

Conference Dates: July 29 - 30

Location: University of Toronto Faculty Club

41 Willcocks Street, Toronto ON

Workshops/Seminars/Presentations/Keynote Speeches Attended:

From Saturday July 29 to Sunday July 30, I attended the in-person Global Summit of the Worldwide Commission to Educate All Kids (Post-Pandemic) that was held at the Faculty Hall of the University of Toronto.

The Summit brought together education leaders from across Canada, the U.S.A, Uganda, Jamaica, Netherlands, Montenegro, United Kingdom, India and Hungary.

The session began with an Indigenous Greeting.

The morning started with a panel consisting of Kirby Mitchell, High School Teacher with the Peel District School Board, Anne Longfield, Former Children's Commissioner of the United Kingdom, Robert Pianta, outgoing Dean of Education, University of Virginia U.S.A., and Canute Fagan, Dean of Discipline, Calabar High School Jamaica. The discussion focused on kids who became disengaged and dropped out of school during the pandemic ("Third Bucket

TRUSTEE CONFERENCE REPORT

Kids”). It was a lively discussion that revealed how countries with fewer resources than wealthy countries seem to have weathered the pandemic storm in

a more efficient way by focusing primarily on the needs of students...”putting kids first”. In Jamaica, Principals, Teachers and Guidance Counsellors went from “yard to yard” (door to door) to keep kids engaged (especially those considered marginalized).

We then heard from Shantha Sinha, former Chairperson, National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights, India, Fiona M. Kiggundu, Executive Director, Project Princess Initiative, Uganda, Eszter Salamon, Director, Parents International (Hungary & Netherlands), Biljana Maslovaric, Professor of Preschool Education, University of Montenegro & Head, Pedasgoski Centar, Montenegro and, Grant Frost, Classroom Teacher, Educational Commentator and Writer, Halifax Canada. The discussion focused on Lessons Learned from Conflict/Emergencies. Another lively discussion about how quickly some countries were able to bounce back from the pandemic with very little negative impact on the education of children.

We also heard from students Keaton S., 17, Naomi K., 23, and Kyle L., 21 about the impact of the pandemic on them, in their own words and what not to do if this ever happens again; Also heard from Elizabeth Calvin, Director, Project Youth Energy and Terry Branch, P. Eng., Mentor, Project Youth Energy about youth mentoring.

In my opinion, the Summit did “bring acute awareness to the fact and consequences of kids who were ‘ousted’ from all forms of schooling over the course of the Covid-19 Pandemic”.

If anyone has any questions etc. feel free to contact me via email to mike_ramsay@wrdsb.ca