

# TRUSTEE CONFERENCE REPORT

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Date Submitted: August 8, 2019

Name of Conference: Public Education Symposium 2019

Sponsoring Organization: OPSBA (and ACEPO)

Theme (If any): Stronger Together

Conference Dates: January 24 — 26, 2019

Location: Sheraton Centre Toronto

## Workshops/Seminars/Presentations/Keynote Speeches Attended:

### 1) **Educating in a World Where Education is everything.....Don Drummond**

- Education is important to social conditions
- Battle of our lives over fiscal resources
- This year, our provincial deficit is \$12 to \$15 billion dollar
- Can't reconcile the promises to reality
- Don't seem to have a plan to turn things around
- We will be up to \$17 billion in the next 4 years
- 26% before 2007-2008 and we are now in the 47% arena
- Ontario has one of the largest debt burdens in the world
- To balance the budget by 2022, all spending could only increase by 1.2% per year
- That would be a decline of 1% per year
- Our sustainable growth is at 1.5% per year
- .5 % growth
- 18 years is 1% per year
- Conference board estimates 2% based on 0.6% growth not seen since 1960
- Sustainable growth
- Japan wants 2% growth but it is not possible
- Situation could be worse - spending cannot exceed 2%
- We are about to increase education growth
- We are not in a fiscal battle but in an ideological battle
- Concern about the lack of focus on the real issues
- Only way to improve results of tests is to teach to the test
- Results of the tests show that we not moving forward
- Arizona is going in and cheating to raise math results from 40% to 70%
- Asking people what results that they used to achieve
- 65-75% of determinants of health are based on social economics

- Things will be imposed on the system
- Standardized tests can be raised by raising the bottom

## 2) Managing Polarization in Public Consultation - Eric Bergman

- How to use it for public consultation
- How to use hostile opinions to change opinions in your favour
- Polarization model is his tool
- Bridge gap between truth and transparency
- Secret sauce, answer questions effectively
- How to answer the question
- Skill is least effective in public education
- Higher question is more effective and better
- How to give a shot at working
- Public consultation like a bad day at the bank
- If you lead with emotion, you want to hear what they say
- These models work everywhere, not just in business
- Arises as a result of issues
- Issue a fight looking for a place to happen
- No opinion line does not exist at a problem discussion
- Drag agenda to openly hostile side
- At one end is openly hostile and the other end is openly supportive
- In an argument you stay in the middle
- As you move to the outer sides, you are moving to an emotional argument
- Neutralize the negative so you can form a latent or unformed opinion
- Group that is easiest is the logical
- Allow polarization to fester and you cannot be a success
- Polarization - answer in clear and concise terms
- Bridge truth and transparency
  - Lying - you believe to be untrue when you make statements
  - Deception - is different than lying, you arrange facts that leave an impression you don't believe
  - Spin - leaves more positive impression
  - Transparency - "truth", available info, "ask me anything"
- Spin - are facts correct, impression credit correct
- Imperative to ask questions and find the answer
- Transparency - I have nothing to hide
- 300 to 600 questions in 90 minutes
- Blind loyalty and least objectionable
- Cannot control the message
- Make sure there is transparency
- Answer questions clearly and correctly

- They want to hear the answer
- 10 words to answer the question
- Yes I do have an answer and it will provide it to you
- No but I will find out
- Yes but I cannot answer at this point
- 10 questions in one minute
- 1.5 hours - 45 minutes are yours and the other 45 are theirs
  - Pause
  - Answer
  - Stop Talking and Stay on message
- Create an issue for an event
- Who speaks on behalf of the Board?
- Secret sauce - answering questions effectively

Openly hostile

### 3) Lori Lukinuk

- March 26 on Kindle - Roberts Rules of Order - in brief
- (Roberts Rules)
- “Fundamental Principles of Parliamentary Law”
  - Order
  - Equity
  - Justice
  - Minority & absentee rights
  - Majority prevails
- Nothing procedural in by laws
- Roberts’ Rules has a refined new document
- 6 steps to handle motions (seek & receive recognition)
  - 1) Member makes a motion
  - 2) Another member seconds
  - 3) Chair states motion
  - 4) Body debates the motion
  - 5) Chair puts the question
  - 6) Chair announces the results
- Chair abstains and can become reflected as a vote
- 6 against      5 for      1 abstention

### 4) Trust with Respectful Oversight

**Sheila MacKinnon      Michael Barrett      Louise Sirisko**

- 169-171
- Creature of statute
- Board bylaws can be seen as rules of engagement

- Board policy to carry out board activity
- Ministry of Education says we are a strategic Board
- How you operate as a Board
- Policy & procedures must reflect governance
- Role of Director is to take policies and reflect them in the procedures
- Board sets policy - they should be very short
- Director translates into action to help reach goal
- Oversight that trustees understand
- Multiyear plan one of the most important roles of trustees
- How to move forward with multiyear plan
- Director and staff establish planning with support
- #1 job of trustees - hire, fire, monitor, support Director
- Trustees support one employee only - their job
- Trustee job to support one employee only
- Trustees job is to act in favour of all elected officials, all areas, all issue
- Trustee has no right as a single member
- Must represent the whole
- Have no power
- Individuals are powerless
- Role of trustee is to listen, be empathetic and keep a record
- Trust until you don't
- entrust management by staff through the Director
- Difference between being Directional - you should stay out of school operations
- Lead through questions
- Municipal conflict of interest act
- Staff need to know what each trustee is interested in for support
- No surprises from staff nor from trustees
- Critique your relationship
- Be open to hearing that there is work to be done
- Chair reflects the will of the Board
- Look forward but not back
- Understand the role
- Speak to those who overstep that are on the Board
- Chair needs to know all of the trustees
- Listen and refer to the Director
- "Lead in a different way"
- Focus on the goals
- Need to know that you can make a difference
- Strong leadership skills and how to work in the Board room
  - Effective

- Leadership
- Fair
- Work well with others (Director)
- Focus on Board Mission & Vision

**6) Pin Ball Clemens spoke on Friday about his experiences. Great stories and ideas.**

**7) Student Trustee Panel**

- Students want to
  - Realize - Publicize - Legitimize - Democratize - Utilize
- Thames Valley has one Indigenous student trustee who is elected by the community
- There is a free tampon program in TVDSB
- They are placed in the non-binary washrooms - they now are in female and non-binary washroom
- Superintendent of Facility Services has as part of the operations budget
- OSTA supports to assist students to attend school
- Member boards offer up to \$700 per student per conference so that more student trustees may attend conference
- Offer flexible registration
- Bring in new contacts, not an A+ student to encourage more variety in student trustees
- No mark requirement
- Travel, free pizza

**8) Collective Agreement Expiring - What's Next**

- Background to collective bargaining
- Penny talked about recent history
- SK & JK - cap of 29 student
- Grades 1 - 3 no average - look at 20 students
- Secondary, an average of 22 - senior academic grades with no equipment have much larger classes

**9) Relationships in School Board**

- Important to understand trustee relations, how to communicate to the whole board
- Chair & Director roles must be respectful of each other and of all trustees
- Need to work together and must be respectful
- Ability to run meetings is important for the chair to be able to manage
- Be able to cut people off in a polite manner
- Important within the team to have good working relations
- Need to know all of your trustees well if you are the Chair
- Need to have the chair direct the staff with respect to what the Board needs
- The chair must try to keep all trustees in the tent as long as possible

- “Everyone needs a win” on the Board
- Work on the effectiveness of the Chair
- Chair will direct the staff with respect to what the Board needs
- Chair must try to keep all trustees in the tent as long as possible
- Director needs to understand all of the dynamics
- Chair needs to share their understanding of where trustees start
- What causes a Board to divide?
  - Lack of clarity around roles & responsibilities
  - Meeting process and explanation
  - Information that is shared or not shared (skilled chair knows when not happening and deals with it)
- Chair & Director should have excellent communication with one another
- Chair should be obsessed with the agenda
- Board Chair should not have an opinion
- “Staff really wants to serve you well”
- Advise in advance your questions, comments and staff can be ready to react at the Board