

Keynote: “Connecting Governance and Leadership to Impact within Public Education”

Featuring: Nourman Ashraf, Asst Prof, Rotman School of Management

Nourman Ashraf views education not just as an enabler of economic prosperity but also an enabler of cultural prosperity. He encouraged Trustees to look for opportunities to change, to look for the stories/voices that are not represented, to go to where the need is, to make it safe to discuss the “indiscussable”, and to think about limits as a driver of innovation.

Workshop: “Communications and Advocacy in your Local Community”

Featuring:

Aaron Davis, Director, Direct & Digital Marketing, Sick Kids Foundation

Shane Gonsalves, Managing Director, Government & Public Affairs, OPSBA

Tim Hudak, CEO, Ontario Real Estate Association

Shelley Laskin, Trustee, Toronto DSB

The panel discussed ways to advocate for issues impacting the community. These suggestions include engaging parents on the issue (virtually or in person), being credible, relentless and relevant, mobilizing those without a direct connection to the issue, and showing motive/potential impact.

Saturday, January 25, 2020

Participated in the Central West Regional Meeting. Boards shared best practices and received updates from OPSBA.

Plenary: “Polling, Politics and the Public”

Featuring: Nikita James Nanos, Chief Data Scientist & Founder, Nanos Research

This session reviewed the research recently done by Nanos for OPSBA, including how our public education system works within the entire ecosystem, how public education is contributing to society and how to maximize budgets. The session discussed how elections are often not about policies or voting for something, but often about a connection the candidate has with voters or because people are voting against an issue or a candidate.

I was unable to attend the afternoon workshop because I returned to Kitchener to present to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs with Chair Herring and Trustee Woodcock.

Keynote speaker: The Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education

The Minister listed the funds that had been put into the education system. He took three questions. His answers included: the Capital Priorities funds would be allocated in February or March, he could not comment on e-learning or class size as these topics are part of the current labour negotiations, and he agreed that meetings with Indigenous leaders are important.

Friday, January 24, 2020

Keynote: “The Nature of Leadership”

Featuring: Ziya Tong, author and former co-host of Daily Planet

Ziya Tong provided advice for leaders based on the behaviour of leaders within the animal kingdom. Her advice included fostering