

QESBA-AAESQ Spring Conference 2013

Our time

...à notre façon

The history of Quebec's English public school system is a rich one of innovation, adaptation, perseverance and inclusion. So is its future. The challenges of distance, diversity, scarce resources and increasing demands are ever-present — but, so is the will and determination to ensure the success and well-being of every one of the students we serve. ***Our time*** to find new strategies to meet those challenges is now. In a changing Quebec, we will do so, as we always have ***...à notre façon***. Here is the preliminary list of conference workshops, each of them addressing our theme, ***Our time ...à notre façon***:

1. Mental wellness – student and staff issues and approaches

This is a personal story of a mother and education professional who is faced with a teen suffering from mental illness. This mom will share her story as a parent of a 17 year old, and what schools did -- and did not do -- to help her son and the entire family. As well, she will offer some suggestions for schools and parents in similar situations today.

Presenter: Lynn Harris M.Ed., AMI Québec Action on Mental Illness

2. Harnessing the power of social media in today's classroom

Social media in the classroom? YES! Wondering what these tools are? Come and find out how you can harness the power of social media to improve student learning in a safe and responsible way. (Bring your own device to the session, smartphone, laptop or tablet.)

Presenters: Tanya Avrith, Google Certified Teacher and Apple distinguished educator and Sue Connery, Educational Technology Teacher

3. Preparing for school board elections

A primer on rules, strategies and social-media tactics. Participants will receive a practical summary on election procedures, responsibilities and organization, followed by a hands-on presentation on launching and promoting a campaign, building voter awareness and turn-out.

Presenters: Kim Hamilton, QESBA Director of Communications and Special Projects/Mike Cohen, EMSB Communication and Marketing Specialist

4. “TELL THEM FROM ME”

– Our students talk back, on how they learn, who they trust, what they expect out of school (session will be offered twice)

Each of our nine school boards has collected rich and important data from a comprehensive survey of our students. That data is being used to track success and plan future programs. What did our students tell us? What can we learn from their answers? The students get the chance at this session to tell us.

Moderator: CTV News Anchor Tarah Schwartz and senior students from English school boards across Quebec.

1. Abdelhamid Kenzy, CQSB
2. Auger-Pagé Francis, ETSB
3. Beauchamp Laurie, RSB
4. Bergeron Jonathan, NFSB
5. Gabrielli Daniel, LBPSB
6. Kagan-Fleming Dustin, EMSB
7. Lapierre Simon, ESSB
8. Papathanasopoulos Alexandra. SWL

5. On-line Communities of Collaboration: A vision for sustainable professional learning

Professional learning in our education community has frequently relied on a “train-the-trainer” model and/or workshops which were simply one-day wonders with no lasting impact. This workshop will explore research-proven professional learning models involving on-line communities of practice. Be it professional development or training for teachers or elected school board members, this sustainable and collaborative model works.

Come see how.

Presenters: Michael Canuel, CEO, LEARN; Bev White, Director of Studies and Community Development

6. Working in First Nations Communities from an emotionally intelligent paradigm

This presentation by two Cree School Board consultants will focus on productive and rewarding relationships built based on attachment theory. By targeting ability as opposed to need, teachers and educators can find optimal conditions for success with students with special needs. After modeling a scenario, participants will be asked to synthesize the situation using a framework to guide their thinking.

Presenters: Shauna Simpson, Education Consultant and Claire Robinson, Education Consultant from the Cree School Board

7. Social media PD opportunities for your staff

Twitter, Youtube and Pinterest can be great professional development tools. Actually they're more than tools...they are PD providers. Differentiation and collaboration – keys to today's classroom of inclusion - are just as relevant for the staffroom. Find out why it's time to change our PD strategies, and how to do this in a sustainable way.

Presenter: Marc-André Lalande, Pedagogical Consultant, RECIT Provincial Service for General Adult Education

8. Inclusion in today's classroom – finding the right balance for students with special needs...for all students

There are many systems that interact and affect a child's growth and learning. So says Bronfenbrenner's Model. Find out how theories and research on classroom inclusion support the concept of ALL stakeholders in a community having a role to play. Whether you are a classroom practitioner or a school board commissioner, you have a stake in meeting the challenge of addressing diverse student needs in the classroom -- effectively and every day. This session will explore how to do so, using simulation activities and hands-on learning strategies

Presenters: Dawn Uniat, Pheleshia Hudson, Educational Consultants, Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

9. Strategies for addressing poverty/exclusion

Poverty and exclusion are unfortunate realities and stubborn obstacles to learning in a surprising number of English schools, in both rural and urban areas. This session will feature two case-study schools, one urban, one rural, presented by the people who've developed the locally tailored responses to poverty and exclusion.

Presenters: Roger Rampersad, Principal, Riverdale High School, LBPSB and Nancy Bennett, Principal, Grenville Elementary School, SWLSB

10. Vocational education – Busting the myths and misconceptions

Too often, vocational education is misunderstood by students, their parents as well as educators and education decision-makers. A panel of practitioners responsible for adult and vocational education across our system will do their best to bust the myths and misconceptions, in this session designed most specifically for those who do NOT work in this domain. There are programs to be added, student futures to be enhanced, jobs to be filled. Adult and vocational education are part of the answer. Come and ask the question!

Panelists: Noel Burke, DEAN Concordia School of Extended Learning; Paula Pedroso, Director, Vocational Pearson Adult and Career Centre, LBPSB, Gloria Fung, Adult Graduate of the Rosemont Technical Centre EMSB, and Sima Brockstein, EMSB.

11. Making small schools work

Close to half of the 340 schools in the English sector are small ones of under 200 students. How do our nine Boards find ways to deliver quality programs, provide adequate staffing, produce efficiencies and create innovative solutions to make those schools as good as they can be – despite the challenging numbers? How do they do it in both rural and urban settings? Two case studies.

Presenters: Jim Daskalakis, Principal, St. Gabriels School, EMSB and Brett Mitchell, Principal, Metis Beach School, ESSB