

# speaking notes

## Opening Remarks

Joy Bowen-Eyre  
Chair, Board of Trustees

COSC Meeting

Nov. 27, 2014

Thanks for your contributions and sharing your thoughts and ideas on both parent voice and how we strengthen COSC, as well as your input on the online forum tool.

We recognize the amount of information at the last meeting and the limited opportunity to ask questions. We will continue to strive to do better in the future with these meetings.

The Board appreciates the feedback from the COSC survey regarding parent voice. There is lots of information that we are still analyzing and we look forward to working with you on your feedback. Many things have resonated for us, such as the following:

- What we heard is that there is a great diversity among parents regarding how parent voice is heard within our system. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend their child's school council. A representative from each school council is then invited to attend the Board's Council of School Councils. Given this wide diversity, to appoint a single person or an executive council would not represent the wide diversity of parent voices within our system.
- We heard that you want us to come to you – either via Area meetings or attending your own school council meetings – as a result we are planning area meetings for the new year and will balance system meetings with area meetings. We want you to know that we are open to your school council meetings; please feel free to invite us.
- We also heard that in order for you to represent your school well and the many parent voices at your school, you need to have the topics and agenda that we are discussing well in advance. What does this mean? You need time to discuss topics with your school councils both before our meetings and following. You also need all the materials presented at the meetings as a take-home. As we wrap up our meeting tonight, Judy will let you know

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what the topics are for the next meetings so that you can take this back to your school councils.

- There will be an opportunity at today's meeting and the presentation on 'High School Success' to take the information back to your schools for discussion and then we will loop back with you in the new year.
- We heard that the online forum that we are creating will be a great opportunity for you to share your thoughts and ideas among and between school council members on how we move forward together to support student success. We will have more information regarding the online forum for you in the new year.
- Attending board meetings can pose difficulties because of the timing; however board meetings are videotaped and archived so that parents and members of the community may view them at any time. Parents are always welcome to attend public board meetings in person at any time.