FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

The miracle is this - the more we share, the more we have. –Leonard Nimoy

Winter weather heralded in the New Year! I hope you all enjoyed the winter break with family and friends participating in the many winter activities available in your community!

Please join us in welcoming Angela Murchie as the OFHSA Executive Secretary! Angela brings a wealth of Home and School experience and a skill set that is vital to support members of OFHSA at all levels of the organization.

Conference 2017 DELEGATE REGISTRATION BOOKLET is ready…outstanding workshop opportunities for delegates – I can’t wait! Register NOW.......The Centennial Bell is presented to the association that registers the most delegates for Conference.

This mailing includes the January OFHSA Bulletin – a publication to share! There is an important Notice of Voting Delegates for the 2017 Annual Meeting along with sensitive reminders.

At the Federation:
I am happy to inform members that OFHSA has been successful in obtaining a PRO Grant to support continued efforts to provide leadership and learning opportunities to strengthen the parent voice that influences the systems that serve and support children and families in Ontario.

At the January 2017 OFHSA Board meeting, Workgroup Leaders and Executive will spend time aligning workgroup objectives with Federation strategic goals that place our organization as the provincial resource centre for parent education and leadership. Directors will finalize conference workshop participation, brainstorm Town Hall ideas and discuss Annual Meeting details. OFHSA meeting dates and minutes are available @ www.ofhsa.on.ca/for-members/#mminutes-tab

Information and support is always available to members who are concerned their Association is experiencing some difficulties. OFHSA Directors will connect with members and associations to help you become effective, informed and engaged leaders!

Contact: Federation office: phone 905-308-9563 OR info@ofhsa.on.ca
Robin, Membership Workgroup Leader: membership@ofhsa.ca

For Associations/Councils:
Meetings are opportunities for parents to learn about public education, define and explore issues important to families, and build understanding. The goal of any meeting should be to conduct business in a fair and orderly way. Members want effective meetings to ensure that good decisions are made for our schools and students, and that goals are achieved.

What Makes a Meeting Effective?
• having a purpose (conduct general business or deal with a problem or crisis)
• starting and ending on time (remain on task)
• creating a manageable agenda so business can be accomplished in the time available
• making decisions and completing business
• determining follow-up actions (clarify what, by whom, and by when)
• making meetings FUN - that is a topic to share!

Best wishes on new opportunities in this New Year!

Sandra Binns

OFHSA Bulletin: answer the “secret question” in the January edition and WIN!