

President's Address - Fall Social 2019

1) Welcome

Hello Everyone.

On behalf of the *Ottawa Zone for Math Educators* (formerly COMA...more to say about that) Council, I'd like to welcome and thank you for coming to our annual, *Fall Social*. My name is Chris Stewart, and I'm very privileged to be serving our Membership this year as your Chapter President.

The *Fall Social* is our first opportunity, as a Membership, to meet one another, share and discuss our educational goals and plans for the year, and to do some networking--networking that can support our professional learning over the course of the year. What we know about networking is the following: "*Effective networks can develop the power to turn educational systems into self-evolving, learning organizations*" (Fullan and Rincon-Gallardo, 2016).

If you've been a part of networked learning, here, in Eastern Ontario, then you've likely experienced the positive impact its had on your own learning and the learning at different levels of your organization (e.g., at a school- or district-level). The impact you noted was most likely related to a conceptual framework of features that are essential to effective collaboration (see Fullan & Rincon-Gallardo, 2016). Through leadership opportunities with professional organizations--like OAME--the impacts of collaborative professionalism can also be experienced.

What's essential for us to remember is that the road towards improved student learning is not borne out of our organizations' independent approaches: our greatest impact comes when we're collaboratively exploring--with rhythm and frequency--our pedagogical approaches to teaching mathematics and how that bumps up against educational research.

In a few moments, I'd like to share with you a few of these features and how they align to the ongoing and projected work of OAME and your local Chapter, *O₃4ME-The Ottawa Zone for Mathematics Educators*.

2) Acknowledgments: Executive & Council Members

Before we do anything else this evening, there is no way that we would be able to reach our mission without the involvement of our Executive and Council Members. Due to their hard work and dedication, events like these and leadership for our Chapter's learning, are made possible.

At this time, I'd like to ask for this year's Executive to stand.

Karyn Hepburn - *Vice-president*

Gregory Taylor - *Secretary*

Chelsea Cleveland - *Treasurer*

Tony Alexander - *Membership Coordinator*

Jimmy Pai - *OAME Chapter Representative*

I'd now like to ask all of our Council Members to stand with their Executive.

Please join me in thanking our Council for their decision to practise servant leadership for our Chapter's Membership.

3) O₃4ME Mission & Branding

In the Winter of 2019, Council met to consider its relationship to its Membership, OAME, district school boards and potential directions for professional learning and Mathematics Education.

What we recognized is that to better reflect the values being espoused by our partners in Education, we also need to model our leadership for learning--learning for continuously improving the conditions for teaching and learning Mathematics.

Collectively, our moral compass (or Educational 'Why') has settled on the following principles (see slideshow) to help us frame each and every decision that we make on behalf of our Membership. These principles have a direct, co-relation to OAME's guiding principles, and as I mentioned earlier, you'll see that the Strategic Priorities we're putting into place align with the some of the essential features of effective learning networks--namely, connecting outwards to learn from others AND forming new partnerships with teachers and communities. Strategically, O₃4ME recognizes just how important it is to take responsibility for the improvement of other groups, as well as our own.

What's exciting about this is what lies in the space between outreach and partnerships--relationships (i.e., relationship-building). And what's more exciting about this is where YOU can come in. Your voice--your participation as an OAME member (through O₃4ME)--over the course of this year will be incredibly important to creating effective networked learning.

If this is sounding good thus far; the conversations you have this evening are inspiring; and you'd like to find a way to contribute to O₃4ME's mission, more details for Membership are forthcoming and if you are not yet a member, please touch base with any one of the Council and/or information on our website and social media platforms.

At each table, there are contact cards for you to take away. There are also some prompts--tied directly to our Guiding Principles--that you can use to tweet @o34me #o34me #OttawaZoneMath with any and all things related to our Chapter.

We understand that there is a demand for both precise and personalized professional learning in Mathematics Education, here, in Eastern Ontario, and our goal is to respond to that call as best as we can starting with:

Building Relationships - 2019/20, followed by
Learning Partnerships - 2020/21 (growing and sustaining partnerships) and
Coherence - 2021/22 (fluid, dynamic engagement with our partners)

4) Dr. Marian Small

Tonight, we are excited to have a champion for effective, Mathematics teaching and learning--contributing deeply to our profession.

- Locally (here, in Ottawa--most recently witnessed as Chair of the 2019 Annual OAME Conference);
- Provincially (as a K-12 consultant to school and district improvement in Mathematics instruction); and
- Beyond (as a developer of a variety of resources that educators can access to help guide their decisions as instructional leaders in Mathematics).

Thank you, Marian, for joining us. We look forward to how you'll be making spaces for us to occasion some thinking this evening. Please help me in welcoming Dr. Marian Small.