OAME Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

Hilton Garden Inn, 2648 Steeles Avenue East, Brampton, ON L6S 6J9

June 8-9, 2018

Friday June 8th, 2018

Minutes of a regular meeting of the board of directors of the Ontario Association for Mathematics Education, held in the Hilton Garden Inn, June 8-9, 2018.

Attendance:

Present: Jill Lazarus, Judy Mendaglio, David Petro, Sandra Jean Price, Bill Otto, Jacqueline Hill, Pat Kehoe, Tim Sibbald, Liisa Suurtamm, Elizabeth Pearsall, Cal Armstrong, Pamela Chun, Freda Liu, Chi Hang, Bart Vanslack, Greg Clarke, Corrine Russell-Pritoula, Melissa Black, Kathy Pilon, Lynda Ferneyhough and Fred Ferneyhough.

Regrets: Mary Lou Kestell, Kathy Kubota-Zarivnij, Paulene Washington, Amanda Laxton, Katelyn Beecroft, Andrew Skelton, Alvarine Aldridge, Denise Filopovic, Lori Yee

Guests on Friday night: Paul Alves and Dwight Stead.

Resignation: Tom Boland (accepted with regrets)

6:30 pm - 7:00 pm: Chapter Representatives meeting

A separate agenda was sent to Chapter Representatives. They conducted their meeting from 6:30 – 7:00 pm.

7:00 pm – 7:30 pm:

President's Welcome and Remarks: Jill Lazarus thanked everyone for a great year. She welcomed Melissa Black as a new 7-12 Board member, Freda Liu as K-6 board member, Sandra Jean Price as VP and Paul Alves as President-Elect. She thanked Pat Kehoe, Tom Boland and Judy Mendaglio, who are all leaving the board.

Reports:

Leadership 2018: David Petro reported that registration had opened and that were about 35 registrations already and some group codes had been established.

NCTM: Jacqueline Hill indicated that the June Gazette provides a list of summertime activities from NCTM.

7:30 pm – 9:30 pm: Report from the Ad Hoc Conference Committee. (attached at end of minutes)
Moved by Pamela Chun, seconded by Judy Mendaglio that the report be accepted. Approved.
The Board worked on discussing the recommendations and how and when they can be implemented.

Saturday June 9th, 2018

9:00 am – 10:00 am: <u>General Meeting Of The Board Of Directors:</u>

- **Approval of the Agenda** Moved by Bill Otto, seconded by David Petro, that the minutes of March 23-24, 2018 be approved. Carried.
- **Approval of Minutes March 23-24, 2018** – Moved by Pat Kehoe, seconded by Pamela Chun, that the minutes of March 23-24, 2018 be approved. Carried.

- **Financial Report and Proposed Budget:** Lynda Ferneyhough presented the financial picture as of Wednesday, June 6, 2018. We are in a rare position of having too much money and need to plan for using the surplus revenue funds over three years in order to maintain our non-profit status for charitable donations. She then went over some of the details in the financial report. Moved by Pamela Chun, seconded by Elizabeth Pearsall, that we accept the financial report as presented. Carried.
- Moved by seconded by Pamela Chun, seconded by Pat Kehoe that we move surplus revenue to a Special Projects reserve fund. Carried.
- Notices of Motion: (Jill Lazarus)
- The following motions were presented to the board.

1. Moved by David Petro, seconded by Judy Mendaglio, that we change the OAME presidency to a two-year term, and forward the constitutional changes to the Annual General Meeting in October 2018.
   Article 7.1 of the Constitution be changed as presented in the table below:

Existing documents	Proposed changes
Constitution Article 7.1.1 1.1. Executive Committee There shall be an Executive Committee of OAME/AOEM consisting of the following Officers of OAME/AOEM: 1.1.1. Voting members as follows: 1.1.1.1. President (Chief Executive Officer) 1.1.1.2. President-Elect 1.1.1.3. Two Vice Presidents 1.1.1.4. The immediate Past President	Constitution Article 7.1.1 1.1. Executive Committee There shall be an Executive Committee of OAME/AOEM consisting of the following Officers of OAME/AOEM: 1.1.1. Voting members as follows: 1.1.1.1. President (Chief Executive Officer) 1.1.1.2. President-Elect or Past President 1.1.1.3. Two Vice Presidents

This motion was carried and will be included in the Annual General Meeting in October 2018.
If the above motion passes at the AGM, then the board will need to consider the next motion.

2. Moved by , seconded by , that the board effect any changes necessary to the By-Laws and Terms of Reference at the board meeting following the Annual General Meeting if the two-year presidency is passed.
   Changes to By-Law 9 and By-Law 11 and Terms of Reference 4.3 and 4.5 as presented in the table below:

Existing documents	Proposed changes
By-Law 9 **Terms of Office of Officers and Directors** 9.1 The term of office for each of the President-Elect, the President and the Past President shall be one year. The term of office of each of the Vice Presidents shall be two years. In each case the term begins on September 1 following the election at which the election of the Officer is announced.	By-Law 9 **Terms of Office of Officers and Directors** 9.1The term of office for the President shall be two years. The President shall serve as President-Elect for one year prior to his/her Presidency and for one year as Past-President after his/her term as President. The term for the President-Elect begins on September 1 following the election at which the election of the Officer is announced. 9.2 The term of office of each of the Vice Presidents shall be two years. In each case the term begins on September 1 following the election at which the election of the Officer is announced.
By-Law 11 11.1 The Nominations/Elections Committee will consist of three people: the immediate Past President and two other members of OAME/AOEM appointed by the immediate Past President subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. The	By-Law 11 11.1 The Nominations/Elections Committee shall consist of three people, the two Vice-Presidents and one other member of OAME/AOEM appointed by the Vice-Presidents subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. The least recently elected

immediate Past President will serve as Chair of the Committee. If the immediate Past President is not available, the Executive Committee will appoint the Chair and the Chair will appoint two other members of OAME/AOEM subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.	Vice-President will serve as Chair of the Committee. If the least recently elected Vice-President is not available, the Executive Committee will appoint the Chair and the other two members.
Terms of Reference 4.3.1 Executive Committee Membership 4.3.1.1 The President as Chair. 4.3.1.2 The Past-President 4.3.1.3 The President-Elect. 4.3.1.4 Vice-Presidents 4.3.1.5 The Executive Director(s) as non-voting members.	Terms of Reference 4.3.1 Executive Committee Membership 4.3.1.1 The President as Chair. 4.3.1.2 The Past-President or the President-Elect. 4.3.1.3 Vice-Presidents 4.3.1.4 The Executive Director(s) as non-voting members.
	Add the following to TOR section 4.3.2 Function 4.3.2.2 In the second year of the President's Term, the Executive Committee will be responsible for organizing the Leadership Conference.
4.5 Leadership Committee **4.5.1 Membership** 4.5.1.1 The President-Elect as Chair, and the Executive Director(s). 4.5.1.2 The Chair will act as Executive Liaison.	4.5 Leadership Committee 4.5.1 Membership 4.5.1.1 In years when there is a President-Elect, membership on the Leadership Committee will consist of the President-Elect as Chair and the Executive Directors. 4.5.1.2 In years when there is not a President-Elect, all members of the Executive Committee shall be members of the Leadership Committee, with the President as the Chair. 4.5.1.2 The Chair will act as Executive Liaison.

3. Moved by Judy Mendaglio, seconded by Sandra Jean Price, that we add a new position to the Board of Directors and the Executive committee as outlined below, and forward the constitutional changes to the Annual General Meeting in October 2018.

The changes to the Constitution are outlined below:

Creating an Emeritus Position for the Executive

Rationale: Over the past few years, the concept of an Emeritus Position has been floated several times, but never taken on in our documents. With the change to a two-year term as president, the Executive will be reduced to four members. This seems like a good time to introduce this concept again. I propose the following changes to our documents:

Constitution Article 7 – Organization

Non-voting members of the Executive Committee

7.1.2.1 The Emeritus Executive Member (except in situations where a tie exists on an issue amongst the Executive)

With the changes to the Executive, there will only be four voting members, and the chair is expected to vote on all matters. If a tie exists, it is proposed that the Emeritus Executive member cast the deciding vote.

This motion was carried and will be included in the Annual General Meeting in October 2018.

If the above motion passes at the AGM, then the board will need to consider the next motion.

4. Moved by , seconded by , that the board effect any changes necessary to the By-Laws and Terms of Reference at the board meeting following the Annual General Meeting if the motion to create the Emeritus Executive Member is passed.

Changes are listed below:

By-Law Changes

Add the following to By-Law 9

9.9 The Executive shall appoint an Emeritus Executive Member as needed for a two-year term renewable as agreed upon by the Executive and the Emeritus Executive Member.

Terms of Reference changes

Officers and Directors Terms of Reference – insert the following between 1.4 Vice-Presidents and 1.5 Directors

1.4 Emeritus Executive Member

1.4.1 The duties of the Emeritus Executive Member shall be to:

1.4.1.1 Serve as the Executive Liaison with the Strategic Planning and Renewal Committee

1.4.1.2 Provide a historical perspective for all matters before the Executive

1.4.1.3 Cast a vote on any issues where there is a deadlock amongst the Executive.

1.5 Refer to the critical path document for their role and forward recommended changes to the Executive Director(s) by the conclusion of the June board meeting.

Terms of Reference
If this is approved at the AGM, we will need a clause added to the Terms of Reference,
4.3.1.5 The Emeritus Executive Member (to add them to the Executive Committee)
Further, I propose that the Emeritus Executive member be assigned to SPaRC so we will need this clause.
4.8.1.2 The Emeritus Executive Member as the Executive Liaison

Increasing The Board of Directors by Two Members

Rationale:
Over time, we have had many post-secondary mathematics teachers serve on the board and on the executive of many chapters. However, in Ontario, while many of our OAME members are employed at post-secondary institutions, and currently, directors' positions span only K-6 and grades 7-12. In the spirit of equity across our membership. The Executive Committee proposes that we add two directors, one from the community colleges and one from the universities, to have a three-year term each.
In preparing this, we found no place in our documents where we specify that we need to have directors elected by panel, so we have included those changes below:

5. Moved by Pat Kehoe, seconded by Chi Hang, that we add two new positions to the Board of Directors as outlined below, and forward the constitutional changes to the Annual General Meeting in October 2018.

The changes to the Constitution are outlined below:

Constitution

Existing	Proposed
7.2.1.1.3 Individual members, the number determined prior to each election and to be such as to bring the total voting membership of the Board to a maximum of twenty-seven. Individual members could also serve as Chapter Representatives. *Note: This is in error – at the moment, we have twenty-six voting members. With the change to the presidency, we will go down to 25.*	7.2.1.1.3 Individual members, the number determined prior to each election by the Elections/Nominations Committee, so as to bring the total voting membership of the Board to a maximum of twenty-seven (27). Three of the elected directors are to represent grades K-6, three directors are to represent grades 7-12, one director is to represent the colleges and one director is to represent the universities. Individual members could also serve as Chapter Representatives.
Looking at the list of non-voting members, we will need to add a clause.	7.2.1.2.2.5 The Emeritus Executive member.

This motion was carried and will be included in the Annual General Meeting in October 2018.
If the above motion passes at the AGM, then the board will need to consider a motion that might arise out of changes to the ByLaws and Terms of Reference. The SPaRC Committee will examine those motions and bring a recommendation back to the board in October 2018 if necessary.

10:00 am – 10:45 am: OAME2018 Conference debriefing: Wayne Erdman covered some of the features of his report on the OAME 2018 Conference. Despite some glitches with technology at the conference, the event went very well. It appears that the E-Conference either broke even or was very close to doing so. He presented some of his recommendations. One recommendation was to have OAME purchase HDMI cables and adaptors for computers and other cables and connectors for presenters to use. The Executive Directors will be happy to take some direction about the needs for future conferences.

10:45 am – 12:00 pm: OAME Mission, Vision, Goals**.** The group was divided into groups to discuss the Mission, Vision and Goals. The feedback will be taken to the Executive retreat to be held in London, Ontario in early August.

12:00 pm - 12:30 pm: <u>LUNCH IS SERVED</u>

12:30 pm - 2:30 pm: Board Committees

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm: Committee of the Whole
Moved by Sandra Jean Price, seconded by Judy Mendaglio, that we suspend ByLaw 25.1 immediately until further notice. Carried.

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm: Any last minute business

3:15 Adjournment

CHAPTER REPORTS

In April, **COMA** had its first annual Spring Social showcasing our Ottawa talent speaking at the 2018 Annual conference. It was well attending with lots of networking taking place. Carleton-Ottawa Math Olympics was held in April at Caraine Wilson Secondary school; a very successful event run by our new OMO representative. Many of our Members attended this year's Annual OAME Conference, as delegates, presenters and job shadowers. COMA has committed to host in 2019 with Marian Small as chair. All committees have put in lots of effort to make things happen and have completed a couple of walk-throughs the Ottawa U campus. For Outreach, a few of our executive members were present at other local events to promote activities and conferences from OAME and COMA. This included a booth at a secondary math PD day in a local school board.

GOLDEN ran a mini-conference at Brock University earlier in April than usual, and had a number of excellent speakers for teachers from primary to secondary and from Locally Developed courses all the way through Academic courses. It was an excellent Professional Development opportunity for all! Thanks go out to the organizing committee for planning such an excellent event.

ISOMA members who attended the OAME Conference were very complimentary of the conference; we were happy to see a number of members share their learning through presentations of their own. The preparations for the 2019 OMO continues, and we're delighted to announce we'll be at York University next year. A meeting of the Executive in May laid out the schedule for next year, including our annual conference in January along with more informal PD conversations to be held in the Fall and Spring, decided on by a survey sent to members.

MAC2 has still been holding our meetings by using Google Hangout. We have been holding our meetings in both BARRIE and Orillia locations. We held our annual Spring Mini-conference in April in Orillia this year with tremendous success. We planned it on the eve of a PA day which helped to increase our number of attendees. Our keynote speaker was Mark Chubb, from Niagara DSB. He shared his insight on Making Math Visual. He referenced @Trianglemancsd, and Taking Shape and Paying Attention to Fractions. We also had two breakout sessions in which Mathies tools were addressed along with other effective strategies for making math visual for our students. Math Olympics were held at the Public and Catholic boards. We also sent a team to OMO from the Trillium Lakelands board. In total MAC2 supported three teams of excited youngsters to compete at OMO this year. Each meeting has the last half-hour dedicated to our book study on the book "Becoming the Math Teacher You wish you'd had" by Tracy Zager. We are still taking nominations for the first ever recipient for the Jack LeSage/Mac2 Teaching Award until June. This award is a teaching award for classroom teachers, who are members of MAC2 and have made contributions to mathematics education in his/her school and/or family of schools. We have also continued our discussions on our Google + Community which was set up to encourage our members to post their ideas on the book or anything Mathematical. In our latest meeting, we enjoyed sharing our OAME conference experiences with each other and brought back to the group what we had learned. We have concluded our meetings for this academic year. We will have a planning meeting later this month, with our executive, to try and make next year exciting and mathematical for our members.

PRMA members have been busy helping at the 2018 OAME conference in May and planning OAME 2020 with SAME. We have had two planning meetings with SAME and our chair people have been assigned. We are happy to be sending three teams to OMO and we have planned our AGM for later in June.

WOMA update; the executive has met to plan a social event tentatively scheduled for late September.

Y4MA hosted our Intermediate Math Olympics on April 4, 2018 @ Middlefield CI. We had 41 teams from YRDSB, YRCDSB, and TDSB participating, an increase from last year. The top three teams were Beckett Farm PS, Glen Shields PS, and Sir Wilfred Laurier PS. They will represent Y4MA at the OMO. We did not host a mini-conference this year.

OTHER REPORTS:

NCTM

The June Gazette has a top 10 list for summer time activities. It highlights the professional reading and activities that are available from NCTM.

As well I would like to highlight the "threaded discussion boards" that NCTM gives its members opportunity to join. You are connected via the discussion board to all of the NCTM teachers who choose to use that means of communication.
I was interested in one such discussion that would be good for chapters gatherings. It is not unlike a tea party, tea tasting, or a brew tasting. Why not host a "book tasting"? This would happen with like minded friends.
A quick "How to host"
1) Send out invites telling each participant to bring one of their favourite pd or math related book.
2) Tell those invited to be ready to share one highlight of the book.
3) The day of the gathering. Have snacks and beverages (that are book friendly) provided.
4) Provide a recording form for those invited. This could be as elaborate or simple as you like. For example it could take the form of a book mark :)
5) Note: if your group wants to do the activity again, or with a larger audience you could have a "Menu" of book areas in the room and the participants could go to the areas they are interested in.
6) Be certain to bring cell phones to take pictures of titles or ISBN numbers.
7) Always close the meeting with a plan (set another date) etc.

COMMITTEE MINUTES:

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES

Present:
Lynda Ferneyhough, Executive Director, Greg Clarke, OAME Webmaster, MAC2, Melissa Black, COMA, Pamela Chun, GOLDEN, Calvin Armstrong, ISOMA, Kathy Pilon, QSLMA, Freda Liu, SAME, Chi Hang, Y4MA, Bart Vanslack, TEAMS, Elizabeth Pearsall, SWOAME, Sandra Jean Price, PRMA, Corrine Russell-Pritoula, NWOAME
Regrets: Paulene Washington, MAC2 (Greg to represent MAC2 at meeting), Amanda Laxton, CHAMP, Andrew Skelton, GVMA, Denise Filipovic, NOMA, Katelyn Beecroft, WOMA
MINUTES

1. Executive Director's report / information items
   - OAME has extra $, and is looking at legit ways to spend it / share, potentially with chapters
   - There already exists a process for a $5000 chapter grant that can be applied for ($5000 per year, could have been spread out)
   - Looking for ideas / suggestions for fund called Special Projects ($130,000) - looking at ways of spending the surplus over the next 3 years. Chapters will be asked to submit proposals.
   - Heads up - go back to your chapters - $ will be available this coming school year (2018-2019)
   - Process has not been finalized yet - but will be determined.
2. OAME Website / Google Site update
   - oame.on.ca email addresses → have you set yours up?
     - Password resets needed - Cal
   - Google docs for file sharing - best to set these up using OAME domain users (but for now, we're okay with sharing them using other email addresses)
     - Create them using OAME accounts so they stay accessible to the organization, even after individuals have left
   - Google sites for chapter websites
     - https://hangouts.google.com/hangouts/_/oame.on.ca/OAMEboard
     - Quick Demo by Greg … how-to guide below:
     - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1U8DradMy7lIC0wF6UHEqxAWGeog3YeSVyXUStlAnSPc/edit?usp=sharing
     - Let Greg know if you would like a Google site setup for your chapter - even if just to play with over the summer
   - Chapter specific accounts for preserving longevity/history
     - Each chapter has a generic account that should be used for chapter email, docs, website creation (e.g. MAC2@oame.on.ca)
     - Generic exec users can also be created for your chapter, even if they are not OAME board members, so that your local chapter exec can send/receive email from official OAME accounts. Added bonus would be again, as personnel change, the history stays with the generic accounts. (e.g. MAC2president@oame.on.ca , Y4MAtreasurer@oame.on.ca , QSLMAwebmaster@oame.on.ca)
3. Future of OMO - Discussion to take place at main board meeting
4. Questions / Discussion on Chapter Sharing items - please look over chapter sharing chart, and ask individuals for clarification as needed / interested.

COMMUNICATION

Gazette Editor Report

June Issue, 2017

This issue of the Gazette seemed to run quite well. The only issue was the weather where excessive freezing rain impacted Jacquie because her power went out. However, otherwise it was essentially uneventful (which is good) other than a few workload slow downs.

Two articles written by Chris Suurtaam, Kelly McKie and Jill Lazarus have been translated into French and, with OAME permission (after checking with the authors), used by ADCO for professional development of principals. In granting permission an option to allow the AFEMO to publish the French translations was made. Notably the ADCO was delighted that this might take advantage of their translation efforts. The AFEMO has reviewed the translations and indicated their intention to publish the two articles in French.

A proposal for a series of articles has been received. This comes from Anne Yeager who is interested in writing about robotics that is being used in the schools. The sense is to have these peer reviewed but that there may be enough interest in the topic to have it turn into a column (if appropriate). Committee approves this initiative.

A proposal for a column has been received from Ron Lancaster, which I am in favor of accepting. Committee approves this initiative. He describes it as follows:

> Dear Tim:
> Here is a possible title for the new column:
> **Mathematical Snapshots:** The art of noticing, wondering and questioning
> - What I have in mind is a column that consists of photographs and videos accompanied by mathematical questions that teachers can use with their students. The questions would model what we want students to do these days - notice, wonder and ask questions (NWQ). Each column could end with an invitation for teachers to submit what they and their students noticed, wondered and asked about the photographs. Teachers and students would also be invited to submit their photographs and videos with their own NWQs.
> - The videos would be made accessible by including a QR code that readers could use with a mobile device to obtain them.
> - I am thinking about the column being two pages long.
> - I could get something to you by July 10.
>
> Ron

Editorial Team meeting

The team got together with the exception of Gitta who would have difficulty travelling. The meeting was very effective and Penny was clearly thrilled to see this approach. It was also clear that Anne and Jacquie gained from it (not to mention benefits for the editor). The following are point form elements that came from the meeting — in many cases with questions for the committee.

1. Penny deletes files after 9 months. How often should Tim delete his files? After discussion, Tim should keep records anywhere from 1 year minimum to perpetuity.
2. Anne and Jacquie would both like to receive hardcopies of the Gazette. Can this be mechanized or does Tim need to mail them. (Lynda dealt with this via Pole Printing)
3. It was suggested that a next step might be to have the Communication Committee provide some guidance/discussion around how the editorial team should navigate the need for dissenting or less popular voices with the goals of the organization. Committee is willing to field some of these problems and to offer support to the Editorial team however and whenever we can.
4. Tim mentioned the possibility of having a photo contest. Budget for the following, to be judged by the editorial team, and/or members of the board of directors. Prizes to be 1st $100, 2nd $75, 3rd $50 (i.e. cost $450 for each division/contest) and an option to print any entries with acknowledgement of the contributor. Committee approves this idea and budget.
   A. Best photo math by a student — must have an explanation. Divisions K–8 and 9–12
   B. Best geometric construction — K–8 as a pattern, Grades 9-12 as a "visual" proof
   C. 3D, video, motion software depiction of some math content

   The idea is to set these up for the September issue with contest closing dates in April so that results can be in the June issue. However, it is anticipated that there may be some early entries facilitating having some examples in the December and March issues.
5. Tim needs the October deadline moved up and will arrange someone (Possibly Dan) to organize the proofreading component. Committee agreed with this suggestion.
6. The editor and associate editors would like professional development to improve our understanding of the editorial process. I have spoken to a professional editor who is interested and in ten minutes I learned quite a lot about how to make the process more effective and efficient. Pricing is a work in progress. Committee approves this initiative. Budget set at $1000 maximum.

Website update:

Greg gave a brief update - basically - no major changes in the website, but plans for moving to the new server over the summer - will try to do it with a minimum of disruption - goal is to have things moved over and working on the new server by Sept 1 (or sooner) – He's hoping for the bulk of the work to be done in July before he leaves for Italy, with August being used

to tune up and test it before going live. Greg will be assisted by Chris and Mark and there is money in the budget to pay for the time it takes for this major overhaul.

CURRICULUM

Attendance: Corrine Russell-Pritoula, Pamela Chun, Jill Lazarus, Liisa Suurtamm, Elizabeth Pearsall, Chi Hang, Anne Yeager, Judy Mendaglio

1. Discussion about our critical path:

We are wondering if our committee could start to break off and tackle projects in small groups such as:
-learning opportunities (ex. Monthly digital learning sessions for members)
-online resources
-grade specific resources and exemplars of student work
-Assessment Abby
-resources and ideas to run OMO
-developing some of the board pd

2. Possibly in the fall we will write a proposal for a special project to get members together outside of our regular meetings.
3. Broke up into two groups and worked on two separate Assessment Abby columns.

Committee of the Whole:

Size of committee to split into smaller units i.e. digital PD, Assessment Abbey, etc…

OUTREACH

Committee of the Whole:

Implementing Ad Hoc Conference Committee recommendations. Who hires, finds, and controls the conference planner? Want the Toronto site every other year and Ottawa, London, Barrie other years.
OMO gender issues still a concern? It was decided to end the face-to-face OMO after this weekend. Cal indicated that ISOMA would be accommodating and try to develop a digital OMO either for 2019 or 2020.
It was stated that the Conference planner would be hired in 2020 to start planning for the first event that they would head up in 2023.

SPaRC

1. **From the March Minutes:**

a) The current Constitution files (Constitution, By-Laws and Terms of Reference) are stored on the OAME website. Our group needs to check that the documents are complete and accurate. Bill and Fred agreed to do this. **Done**
b) The June meeting will be the last meeting for Pat to sit on the Board of Directors. She needs to go through her OAME files and delete any that are no longer needed/relevant. Other files need to be kept and will be stored in cloud space managed by the Executive Directors. Pat needs to find out how to transfer ownership of these documents and pass them on to Fred as Executive Director. **Done.** The ownership of files can only be transferred to a person in the same Domain. Therefore Pat cannot transfer ownership of files to Fred. Since Lynda has copies of all minutes Pat has taken there are no files that really need to be shared. In the fall once a new chairperson for SPaRC is selected Pat will share whatever documents the new chair wishes to have.
c) The executive has asked SPaRC to investigate a timeline and procedure for changing the office of the President from one year to two years and to create the appropriate motions to affect the necessary changes**.**
-As Fred and Bill proofread the Constitution documents they will keep an eye out for any changes that would be required
Done motions submitted to Executive in May from Bill and Fred

2. **Critical Paths (from the Executive):**

The critical paths are the responsibility of the Executive, not SPaRC

3. **Budget Request Form (from the executive)**

Filled in request form and submitted to Directors. Picture of completed request form shared with committee

4. **Before Next Meeting:**

Review Section 4.4 of Terms of Reference: Should all members of the executive be voting members of the finance committee?

Bill and Fred have an online meeting in July 3rd 9:00 EDT to create the motion and then sift through the documents (Constitution, Terms of Reference, By-laws) to see what other changes result from the passing of that motion.
Bill and Fred will also look for any other changes that result from the motions going to the AGM in the fall. They will send pertinent materials to the entire SPaRC committee and they will review the proposed changes at an online meeting July 17th 9:00 am EDT

Committee of the Whole:

Need more members to chair and vote since Bill is the only voting member on the committee next year.

AD HOC TECHNOLOGY:

Committee of the Whole:

What do we see as needs for them to consider or what do we want out of it?

Spending surplus revenue ideas and further questions.

- Full day PD for the board
- Chapter Presidents' meeting
- How will the profit from OAME 2018 be shared? One suggestion was to give each chapter an amount and invite each chapter to request further amounts. Another suggestion was to provide money for each board member to attend OAME 2019 and have chapter representatives meet with delegates from their chapter.
- If we share the profits from next year we wouldn't have the same surplus revenue problems next year as well.

Written/Oral Reports **ONLY if needed** *Please email your report to EDs@oame.on.ca by June 5, 2018, for inclusion in the agenda.*

• Outreach – Sandra Jean Price
• Communications – David Petro
• Chapter Representatives – Lynda Ferneyhough
• Strategic Planning – Bill Otto & Fred Ferneyhough
• Curriculum Committee –Jill Lazarus & Judy Mendaglio
• Executive Directors' Report – Lynda Ferneyhough
• OAME 2018 Conference – Wayne Erdman
• Leadership 2018 – David Petro
• Ministry of Education – Alison Macaulay
• OTF/Ministry of Education Subject Association – Judy Mendaglio
• NCTM – Jacqueline Hill

OAME AdHoc Conference Committee
Final Report
The OAME Annual Conference - A Vision for the Future

Executive Summary

In the fall of 2016, an AdHoc committee was formed to examine every aspect of the annual conference in light of the growth of the conference over the last four years. It was tasked with looking at the elements that are essential to the annual conference's continuing survival and identify elements that are no longer relevant or feasible. A recurring theme that emerged from our look back at past conferences is that from year to year there seems to be a disconnect between organizing committees in determining elements that are essential and those that could be discontinued. Also, the conference planner no longer provides a definitive guide for planning.

The AdHoc committee reaffirms that the primary mission of the annual conference is the professional learning experience of the delegates but we also recognize the importance of the conference to sustaining OAME membership. The conference model that moves forward must balance the interests of the organization, keeping in mind what is feasible for an organization of volunteers, and the membership of the organization. The committee acknowledges this tension between the people who organize the conference and meeting the needs of the delegates and the recommendations that follow are an effort to balance what is feasible and what is essential to maintaining the mission of the annual conference.

The AdHoc committee realized that the genesis of many of the issues regarding the annual conference are the result of ineffective communication. The AdHoc committee heard from various stakeholders that this issue of communication resulted in a variety of problems. Whether that communication was between the organizers and presenters or delegates, or between different organizing committees or between the organizing committee and the board, there was some lapse in communication that impacted the conference. The recommendations in this report will hopefully address this communication issue. More specifically, the Ad Hoc committee recommends hiring a conference planner and reimagining the OAME Board committees to facilitate communication and planning.

This report will provide recommendations on six key areas related to the annual conference:

1. Conference location
2. Conference length
3. Digital conference (eConference)
4. Conference registration
5. Conference Organization and Administration
6. Program

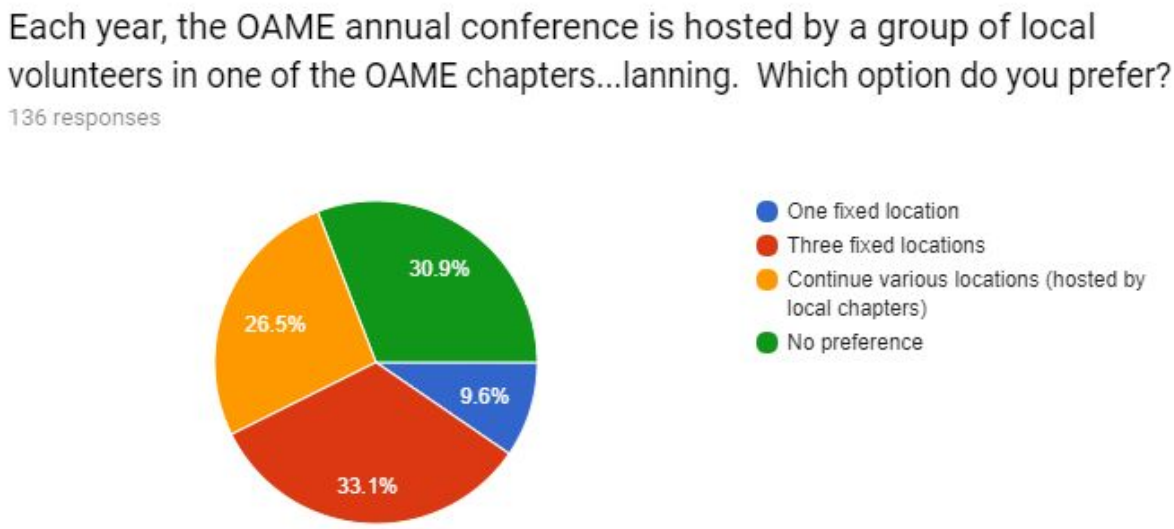
For each area, data from a membership survey and recommendations with rationale will be shared.

1. Conference Location

OAME is organized into fifteen chapters each representing geographical regions of the province. Historically, the annual conference has been hosted by one of these chapters with the conference organizing committee being volunteer educators from the hosting chapter. When the scope of the conference was smaller and the number of delegates was fewer than 1000, this model worked well.

However, over the last five years there has been increased demand for professional learning in mathematics education in the province thus the scope and size of the annual conference has grown considerably. The current model of a local chapter hosting the the annual conference has become untenable as evidenced by the OAME board planning and hosting two of the last four annual conferences due to no chapter willing to host.

From the survey of the membership by the AdHoc committee, preferences on four options were gathered:



In order of preference, the survey found that three fixed locations was the most prevalent option with 33.1% of the responses. Next, 30.9% had no preference. The status quo accounts for 26.5% of the responses. A single fixed location such as the model for STAO (Science Teachers Association of Ontario) and Reading for the Love Of It (Literacy Conference) was preferred by only 9.6% of the respondents.

Further analysis shows if you ignore the no preference votes, the breakdown is:

- 49% of the responses prefer three fixed locations;
- 37% of the responses prefer the status quo;
- 13% of the responses prefer one fixed location (13%).

Also, when you consider the number of conferences attended by the respondents, every category (newbies to veterans) selected three fixed locations as their preferred choice (narrowest category was 1-3 conferences attended - 18 people selected 3 fixed locations and 17 people selected status quo). When you consider respondents who have volunteered as part of an organizing committee, those who have NOT volunteered, preferred the status quo model by one vote (27 for 3 fixed vs 28 for status quo). Those who have volunteered, overwhelmingly support 3 fixed locations (18 for 3 fixed vs 8 for status quo). This would seem to support the idea that those who know the challenges of organizing the conference recognize the wisdom of having three fixed locations.

Recommendation 1.1:
Since almost half of the members who were surveyed, and expressed a preference, three or four fixed locations for the annual conference should be identified with the location cycled between these fixed locations. The single fixed location should be eliminated from consideration since fewer than 1 in 10 of the members surveyed preferred this option.

The AdHoc committee proposes that Toronto, London, Ottawa and Barrie be the four fixed locations since most of Southern Ontario lies within a reasonable driving distance to at least one of the four identified fixed sites. Further, the rotation cycle could be a simple rotation between the four sites, or a model that sees the annual conference being held in Toronto every second year. The rotation could be Toronto-London-Toronto-Barrie-Toronto-Ottawa. Since conferences held in the GTA are more profitable due to larger scope and size, this model supports the long-term financial health of the organization.

Recommendation 1.2:
Using the lens of serving the professional learning needs of our members as our primary mission, and the trend to larger scope and size for the annual conference, the AdHoc committee recommends one or two permanent conference planners be hired to assist planning of future annual conferences.

Having permanent annual conference planners aligns OAME with STAO. It also prevents the OAME board from planning and hosting future annual conferences. The board can refocus their energies and talents on supporting Mathematics Education in the province not on planning and hosting annual conferences.

Permanent conference planner(s) reduce the workload on the conference organizing committee since the work of facilities committee is not required. The planners can identify possible venues in each location saving valuable planning time. This allows the organizing committee to focus on the conference program and registration. Also, these permanent planners become the institutional memory that will support future organizing committees and reduce the communication issues and perennial issues associated with planning the annual conference mentioned earlier.

Two permanent conference planners are required since the four fixed locations in the province cover a wide area. One planner could be responsible for two of the locations with the other planner responsible for the remaining locations. When a conference is being planned in one location, the planner responsible would be the lead planner with the other providing support.

Recommendation 1.3:
The Leadership Conference should continue to be planned by the OAME executive and be located not in the same location as the Annual Conference in each year.

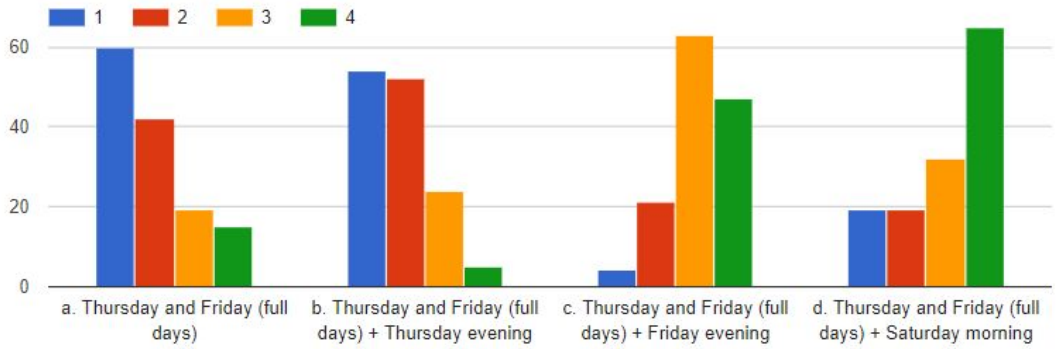
Over the past few years, there has been a corresponding increase in size for the OAME Leadership Conference. Locating this conference in smaller locations is not as challenging as the annual conference is since the total registration is typically less than 200. The practice of the OAME president-elect being responsible for the planning of the Leadership conference should also continue, of course, with the support of the permanent conference planners.

2. Conference Length

Traditionally, the annual conference has been held for 2 full days (Thursday and Friday) and 1 half-day (Saturday). In 2016, the AdHoc committee supported a proposal for a 2-day conference format for OAME 2018. The rationale for supporting this proposal was that the traditional format is no longer necessary to support the needs of participants and organizing committees, and that a 2-day event makes sense financially.

The OAME Board member survey results support the rejection of Saturday sessions. In response to an open question that asked what Board members could live without, for instance, nine people indicated that they could live without the Saturday sessions. The same survey asked members about the "most important feature" of the annual conference and nobody identified Saturday sessions to be an important part of the conference.

Results from the OAME membership survey also reflect an overwhelming rejection of the traditional Thursday, Friday, Saturday (morning) model. The bar graph below shows that the most first place votes (represented in blue) and second place votes (represented in red) were for Thursday and Friday (full days) and for Thursday and Friday (full days) + a Thursday evening session.



The membership results also show an overwhelming rejection of the traditional model, with the most (65) fourth place votes. There is a clear direction to move to a Th/Fr model, with or without Thursday evening sessions.

Breaking the membership survey results down by number of conferences attended, the preference between Thursday/Friday only and Thursday/Friday/Thursday evening narrows when moving from people who have have attend less conferences to those who have attended more conferences. There was a clear preference by those who have attended less than 6 conferences for the Thursday/Friday format (45 votes), with 11 more votes than the Thursday/Friday/Thursday evening format. Those who have attended more than 6 conferences prefer Thursday/Friday/Thursday eve (19 votes) by 7 more votes than Thursday/Friday only. This would imply that those who attend the conference regularly, maximize their experience by attending as many events as possible.

Recommendation 2.1: Move away from Saturday, with a minimum of a 2-day conference. Thursday and Friday should be at the core but the local organizing committee may wish to do more (e.g., Thursday evening, Friday evening, Saturday). Saturday sessions are no longer necessary to meet the needs of participants and organizing committees. The two-day format also brings us in line with other conferences (STAO, Reading for the Love of It).

3. Digital Conference (eConference)

The annual conference is typically located in Southern Ontario. For teachers located in Northern, Southwestern and Northwestern Ontario, attending the annual conference in person is often unattainable. The cost and time to travel for people from these regions make attendance for face-to-face learning unfeasible. If the mission of the annual conference is to provide professional learning opportunities for their members, then effort has to be made to serve members in these geographically remote regions.

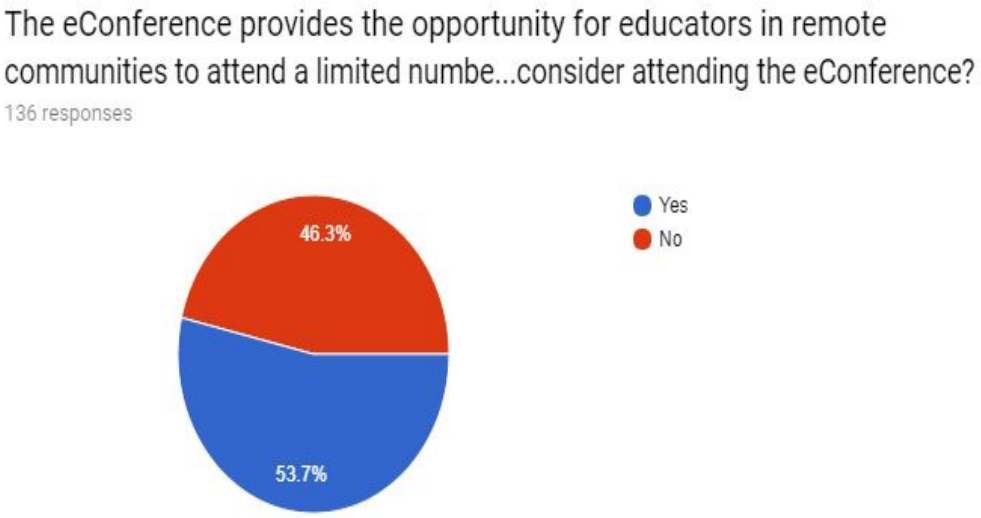
The increase in digital learning environments is an emerging trend in teacher professional learning. The Ministry of Education (Revised Math Strategy), TVO (Teach Ontario), OTF as well as each Teacher Federations, and Additional Qualification from Faculties of Education all offer digital learning options for teachers. Since OAME is branded as the preeminent professional learning opportunity for most classroom teachers throughout the province, offering some form of digital learning associated with the annual conference is imperative.

Recommendation 3.1: To meet the learning needs of OAME members in geographically distant regions, the annual conference planning committee must consider digital learning opportunities when planning the annual conference.

It is a challenge to determine the type of digital learning opportunities associated with the annual conference since it is difficult to predict how professional learning should be offered due to the rapidly changing, and constantly shifting, landscape of digital tools. In past conferences,

synchronous streaming of speakers and facilitated online discussions have been employed. In the future the conference planners may have to explore archiving videos of speakers and offering on-demand and asynchronous professional learning options.

When the AdHoc committee surveyed the membership it noticed that only 53% of the membership would attend the eConference if unable to attend in person. This result demonstrates a bias due to the lack of opportunities for OAME members to participate in a digital learning environments, or the lack of familiarity with this evolving learning environment. Many members indicated a preference for face-to-face learning, but as mentioned earlier, this is not always possible for members situated in the geographically distant regions of Ontario.



One of the greatest strengths of the annual conference, or any conference for that matter, is the opportunity to confer with colleagues sharing ideas and strategies on improving mathematics education. As James Britton mentions "learning floats on a sea of talk". So, teachers, like students, need the discourse that comes with conferring with colleagues. Teachers who attend the annual conference digitally will also require opportunities to confer and discuss. Where possible, teachers attending digitally should be encouraged to gather in groups in order to have local face-to-face discussions. If this is not possible, digital discussions should be planned by conference planners or by a local facilitators.

Recommendation 3.2: Annual conference planning committees employing digital learning options should encourage delegates to attend in local face-to-face groups in order to facilitate discussion, and hence improve learning. If that is not possible, facilitated online discussion options should be planned to allow delegates to discuss what they are learning.

The characteristics of effective online professional learning is continually evolving. Based on similar online offerings from the Ministry of Education, Teacher Federations and AQ courses, several effective models have emerged:

- live streaming (synchronous) with live facilitated discussions such as the Ministry RMS series
- archived or on-demand (asynchronous) content in short video clips with discussion questions and materials such as The Learning Exchange
- Blended models that feature both synchronous and asynchronous content and discussions such as online AQ courses
- Self-directed (asynchronous) professional learning such as Ministry RMS Google Sites intended for groups educators with or without a facilitator
- Twitter chats (synchronous) that are offered at times outside the school day

Recommendation 3.3: To support the professional learning needs of the members, OAME should consider planning and delivering a variety of digital options throughout the school year, preferably every second month.

The organization has a collection of archived resources such as past conference keynote videos. The curriculum committee might consider ways to edit the videos into smaller videos (at most 10 minutes) and prepare discussion questions related to the video. These on-demand webinars can be promoted via social media and stored in the members-only section of the web site. Additionally, regularly scheduled twitter chats on wide variety of topics (assessment, spiralling the curriculum, project based learning…) could be hosted by a knowledgeable member without much effort.

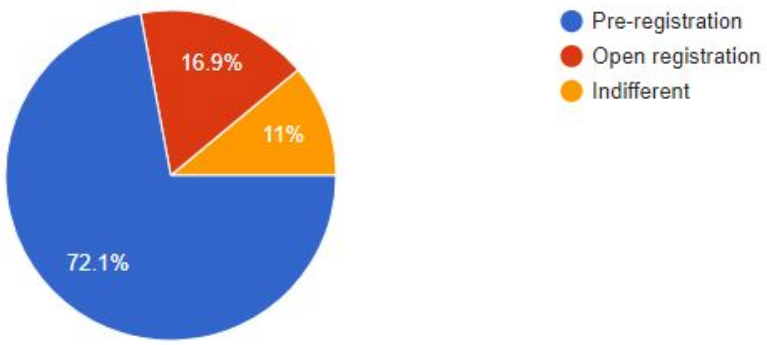
As technology continues to evolve, digital professional learning options provide all OAME members access to high quality resources regardless of their location in the province. These digital resources complement the annual and leadership conferences, but like the OAME Gazette provide ongoing support to members throughout the school year.

4. Conference Registration

Currently, the annual conference has pre-registration for individual sessions using MCIS. The AdHoc Committee has discussed the possibility of open registration. Open registration is a feature of many other conferences (e.g., NCTM, CMESG, STAO) and would reduce the complexity of the registration process. Feedback from the OAME Board, Executive, and membership, however, reflects an overwhelming rejection of moving to open registration. Responses to the OAME membership survey show a clear preference (72.1% of responses) to retain the status quo of pre-registration for sessions. Members responded to the following survey question.

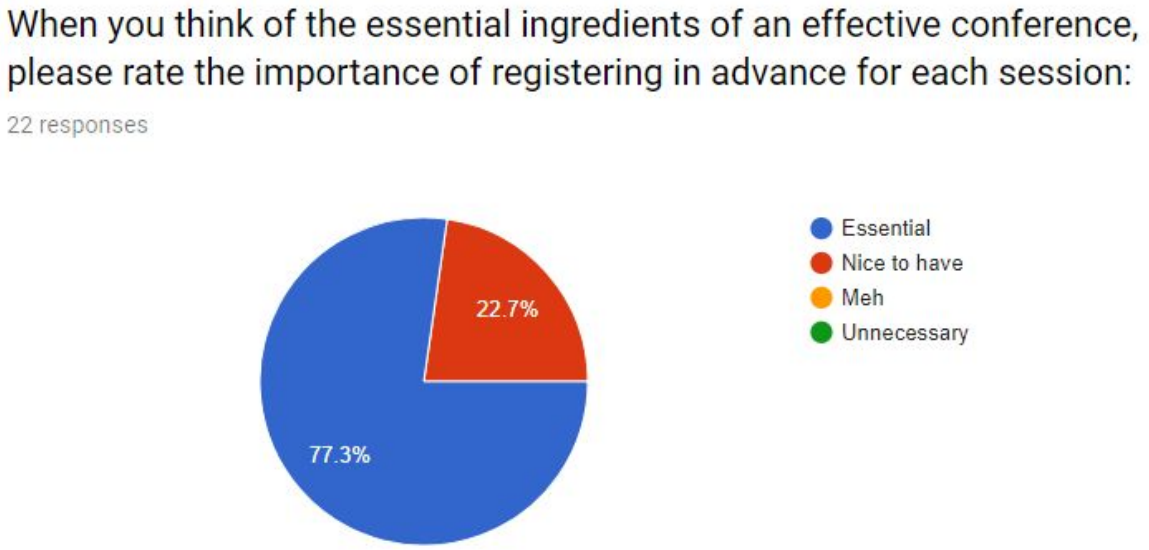
Currently, OAME has pre-registration for individual sessions at the conference. To reduce the complexity of conference registration, OAME is considering moving to an open registration format. With open registration, you do not pre-register for your sessions. Rather, you go to your preferred session(s) and will be admitted to those sessions if space permits based on a program that is provided in advance of the conference. Which registration process would you prefer?

136 responses



As the results indicate, only 16.9% of responses were in favour of open registration and 11% were indifferent.

Similarly, results from a survey of OAME Board members indicate a clear preference for pre-registration, with 77.3% of identifying pre-registration as an “essential ingredient” of an effective conference and 22.7% indicating the pre-registration is “nice to have.”



As shown above, no Board members were indifferent (choosing "meh") or indicated that pre-registration is "unnecessary." Thus, there is a clear preference to continue with pre-registration.

The support for open-registration decreases as you move from people who have attended less conferences to people who have attended many (e.g. 21% of 1-3 conferences attended support open registration whereas 14% who have attend 6 or more support open registration). Suggests that people who return to the conference year after year prefer this feature of the conference. Presenters like it because it allows them to plan for session size and contact attendees and participants like it so they can ensure their seats in high demand sessions.

Responses to an open item on the OAME membership survey, which asked respondents to include any comments they would like to make about the OAME annual conference, suggest that many members are passionate about keeping pre-registration. The following responses highlight some of the perspectives of delegates and presenters, and of people who have attended open registration conferences:

"Pre-registration is something that makes OAME such a valuable conference to attend - you can ensure that you get to go to session that are of interest. I greatly dislike the NCTM model where you have to leave a session early to make sure you get a seat in the next one you really want to attend."

"From both an attendee and a presenter point of view, I really value the pre-registration process. Knowing how many people to expect in a session is very helpful. Knowing that you will have a seat when you get to a session and not have to look for another is also great. I have been to conferences where there is no pre-reg and people skip one session to line up for the next. It is a bit crazy."

"Do NOT use open registration. NCTM uses this and it is not good. People leave sessions early to make sure they are in line to get into the next session. Some people sit through 2 or more sessions they are not

interested in, to make sure that they are able to attend one session they really, really want. Presenters are never sure how many people to expect. If a presenter wants to share something, there is no easy way to contact people who attended your session."

"Open registration conferences are chaotic.....people racing to attend the most popular sessions. I feel strongly that a conference of this size should be pre-registered."

"I think that moving to an open registration model would be a huge disaster since people would likely not attend certain sessions in order to line-up for more popular sessions (ex. Dan Meyer). Attendees also often travel to attend the conference to see specific sessions and will become frustrated if the sessions they are interested in are full. It may also become difficult to find another session appropriate to teaching level/interest if the conference is held at a large campus like St. Lawrence College. In addition, this would make it difficult for presenters to properly prepare if they don't know how many attendees to expect."

Pre-registration increases the complexity of the registration processes. An observation noted in the OAME 2017 Conference Report, for example, was that pre-registration and not paying was a significant problem - a large number of people pre-registered for sessions without paying. A "strong recommendation" in the OAME 2017 report is that there are no sessions assigned to pre-registrants; sessions may only be chosen by those who have paid (or been paid for by employers or unions), unless there are extenuating circumstances. This issue may have been addressed in 2018 but needs to be maintained.

Recommendation 4.1:
Pre-Registration. The AdHoc committee recommends continuing with pre-registration and ensuring that there is incentive for people to register early. Online registration should be similar to making online purchases. People should not be taking spots in sessions until payment is received. Perhaps there might be something like a "Cart" option (like Amazon) that allows delegates to select sessions, without holding spaces in those sessions until transactions are completed. Or, maybe they should not be able to select sessions until after payment is received. Either way, individual spots should not be saved without a group code or until the registration fee is paid.

Recommendation 4.2:
Priority Registration. The AdHoc committee recommends that the organizing committee offers priority registration. In order to allow the Program committee to put in place the program, we suggest that priority registration for sessions opens on February 1st and that regular registration opens on February 15th for a week window prior to regular registration. Priority registrants need to pay before they can hold space in sessions. They have a week before registration opens to complete their registration. The Ad Hoc Committee also recommends that presenters be included as priority registrants.

Recommendation 3:
MCIS. There is a need to address MCIS issues and for MCIS succession planning (Greg will retire). It may be time to investigate another platform.

Recommendation 4.3:
Group Codes. There should be limits placed on group size (e.g., 200 people) and on the number of seats allotted to group codes (approx. 50% of total registrations). The key point is that the committee recognizes the support of boards or other organizations provide by sending large groups to the conference but we don't want those group registrations to overshadow the opportunity for members to register for the conference. The exception that might lead to exceeding this limit might be federation group code (e.g., OECTA). The rationale for this exception is that OECTA services the entire province and it would therefore be an equitable exception.

Group codes should have an expiry date from the date of issue. After the expiry date, the spaces go back into the pool. This issue may have been resolved in 2018. However, the AdHoc committee recommends considering providing group codes only after payment is received. Group code registrations need to be completed and paid (i.e. no generic names) by a date at least 1 month prior to the conference. Once the deadline is past, incomplete or unpaid registrants from group codes will be released for individual registrations. A waitlist feature might also be useful for when spaces open up in sessions and/or the release of sections should be shared (e.g., by email, Twitter). For consistency, the AdHoc committee recommends that one person on the organizing committee is responsible for handling group codes. The group code process should also be clarified (e.g., on the conference website) and to key partners such as OMCA (Ontario Mathematics Coordinators Association) early in school year.

5. Conference Organization and Administration

Throughout our discussions and discussions with various stakeholders issues were presented that did not fit into the previous categories but that we felt need to be included in our report and recommendations. Some of these issues were raised by members in the membership survey when they were provided the opportunity for further input on the conference. Many of them could be addressed as a whole as relating to the way the conference is organized and administered from year to year.

Recommendation and Rationale:

Recommendation 5.1:
Communication. The membership survey provided members an opportunity to provide general feedback on the annual conference. One comment that appeared frequently was the communication between the conference organizers and presenters/delegates. Some complained of not knowing when registration was opening while others complained about the desire to make sure that members have equitable access to registration (see section above on group codes). The committee feels that the issues that surround communication would be alleviated by the consistent presence of a conference organizer. They would be aware of key dates and pressure points from year to year ensuring that communication is made to all parties at the appropriate

times. During the conference planning period, they could be the primary person that looks after the social media accounts, website and emails to delegates and presenters. This would however not mitigate the timeless issue that people read their email/messages. No recommendation can crack that nut.

Recommendation 5.2:
Reimagine the OAME Committees. In order to implement many of the recommendations we are calling for OAME to look at its board organization and reimagine the structure of the board in light of the recommendations. The committees need to be more responsive to the needs of the organization and should be structured on a more adhoc basis if needed. The irony is that the board is already doing this as a result of the fact that chapters are not volunteering to host the conference on a consistent basis. Since 2015, the board has organized the conference twice in three years and could possibly organize the 2021 conference if a volunteer chapter doesn't step forward.

The AdHoc committee feels that the board needs to consider formally taking on the role of organizing parts of the annual conference by reorganizing the committees on the board. In particular, the two committees that we feel should become board responsibilities are the Program committee and the Digital Learning committee. The Program committee requires an institutional memory in order to avoid repeating errors and inefficiencies from past conferences and refining the program process from year to year. As mentioned earlier, the AdHoc committee would also recommend that a Digital Learning committee be created at the board level that would be responsible for providing digital learning opportunities (e.g Twitter chats, workshops offered on a digital platform, and other possible digital learning opportunities) to the membership and could also be responsible for the digital program during the annual conference.

Recommendation 5.3:
Past-president Lunch. The service of past-presidents for OAME is something that the organization needs to acknowledge but the past-presidents lunch is not the best way to provide this recognition of past service. The organization of the lunch sometimes circumvents the conference planning process and the lunch itself isolates this group from the conference. In addition, many who attend are no longer OAME members. We recommend that the past-president lunch no longer be allowed to occur at the conference and that in lieu of it that a membership rate be provided for past-presidents.

Recommendation 5.4:
Twitter/Social Media Use. The use of a new Twitter account each year for the conference should end. The @oamecounts Twitter account should be the single primary Twitter account for announcements and other items of interest for the membership but there should be a second account (e.g., @oamelearns) that engages the membership for all professional learning (provincial conference, leadership conference, digital learning offerings, etc) rather than having delegates follow a new account from year to year for the conference.

6. Program

The core of the conference is the quality of the program that is offered from year to year. This includes exceptional keynote and featured speakers as well as educators from around the province and beyond sharing their expertise on current issues and topics. This is the primary reason that the conference has grown in numbers from year to year. However, the area of programming also presents challenges for conference organization. The recommendations that follow result from surveys conducted among the membership and those involved in conference planning.

Recommendation 6.1:
Proposing Sessions.

a. This has been a feature of proposals for some time and continues to be a source of confusion for those proposing sessions and annoyance for those organizing the program. The proposer of a session can submit what seems to be any number of names as co-presenters for their session. The term itself seems to hint that the co-presenter has the same privileges as the presenter including free-registration despite the fact that on the proposal screen it usually states the contrary. We recommend that the practice of including multiple co-presenters be ended and that the practice moving forward should be one proposal - one presenter. There should be wording included in the proposal screen that lets the session proposer know that they can have someone assist/facilitate with their session but that this person would need to register like all other delegates (unless they are a presenter in another session).
b. Related to this is the ability of some presenters to include co-presenters without knowing their MCIS number. This ability needs to be curtailed as it then becomes a job for the programming committee to ensure that the MCIS number is present if there is one.
c. Lastly, the ability of a proposal to be submitted without ALL of the relevant fields being completed needs to be stopped as well. The program committee needs to then investigate and determine what is missing or if it was an abandoned proposal.

Recommendation 6.2:
Conference Threads

A comment that emerged from a few members was that they enjoyed the opportunity for deeper learning that was afforded by double sessions or threads. Although it makes it much easier to program single sessions, double sessions are a valuable learning vehicle for topics that require more time than is allocated for a single session. Also in some past conferences, themes or threads were offered where delegates could attend a series of workshops that were thematically linked. We recommend, where possible, that these unique conference features be present from year to year.

Recommendation 6.3:
Executive Members

The executive does not have a role at the conference despite their importance in the organization. We recommend that the executive be present at the conference and that they be

included in some way in the conference. This could include introduction of speakers or recognition of award winners.

Recommendation 6.4:
Alternative Programming

The AdHoc committee received feedback from the membership survey that can be collectively looked at as programming alternatives. This included comments such as providing sessions at the conference for networking (e.g. networking with featured speakers as was done this year with the fireside chat with Dr. Peter Liljedahl; networking for teachers at a specific grade band around a relevant topic) and session designed more along the EdCamp dynamic where sessions are published on the day of and delegates will select which session to attend on the date of the conference. This could be run as a conference within a conference. We put forth this recommendation for consideration in conference planning but feel it does not have as much force as other recommendations.