

Special Education Parent Forum - Featured Speakers

Thursday January 14, 2016 (6:00 - 9:00 pm) - Monarch Park CI

Irwin Elman

Irwin Elman was appointed Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth of Ontario in 2008, the first independent Child and Youth Advocate for the province. Now in his second term in the position, Irwin leads an Office that is rooted in the courage and wisdom of the children and youth it serves. Drawing on the strength of young people, the Office has worked to fill the gap between what government, service providers and caregivers intend, and the reality experienced by the most vulnerable children and youth in the Province. Walking alongside children and youth, ensuring that they are heard and therefore visible, the Office has become a catalyst for change on the ground, in policy, and in the corridors of power.

Ying Ong

Ying Ong is an ABA Instructor Therapist, working with children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. As part of her education and training, she did a 3 month field placement in a DD Classroom and gave a presentation about ASD for parents new to their child's diagnosis at the agency where she did her second field placement. She is also a parent of two and active in their schools, on their School Councils and in CPAC (Cluster Parent Academy Committee – Cluster A2). Through CPAC, Ying presented at the 2015 Parent Academy Conference on Advocating for a Child in Special Education as well as was invited to speak at various school.

Uton Robinson

Dr. Uton Robinson is currently the Executive Superintendent of Special Education and Section 23 Programs for the Toronto District School Board (TDSB). He has and continues to welcome every opportunity to work in partnership with partners and professionals in education to support and promote inclusionary school cultures.

For over twenty-nine years he has enjoyed serving in a variety of ways and roles with students, parents and staff, diverse school communities and school Trustees, all with a focus to foster and celebrate learning in the TDSB and the broader City of Toronto community. During his tenure with the TDSB, he has served as teacher, vice-principal and principal in a number of schools such as, Waterfront, Regal Road, Davisville, Ryerson Community School and Metropolitan Toronto School for the Deaf. As a member of TDSB's Senior Team since 2004, he has served in different supervising capacities including Family of School Superintendent, System Superintendent and presently as Executive Superintendent.

As System Superintendent he assumed an important role as co-chair for the Leadership Action Team, the TDSB committee responding to the School Community Safety Advisory Panel, following the death of Jordan Manners. He subsequently worked closely with Toronto Police Services as System Superintendent for Safe and Caring Schools, to mention a few. Currently as a member of the TDSB Senior Team, he has been entrusted with the task of ensuring that all students with special needs be welcomed, included and supported within well-resourced neighborhood schools and that they will be provided with the most supportive and inclusive environment possible for learning and reaching their individual potentials.

Maria LoBianco

Ms. Maria LoBianco is currently the Supervising Principal for Special Education in the East Region and has been in this role for the past two and a half years. She comes to us with over twenty one and a half years of experience in the teaching profession.

Throughout her tenure, she has served as teacher, vice principal and principal in a number of schools; one of which has been vice principal at Ellesmere Statton for 3 years, as well as principal at Scarborough Village for 6 years.

Much of Maria's experience has involved the special education portfolio and she continues to serve our students in such a capacity.