

Mario Turco

Educator/Consultant/Leader

Introduction

Mario Turco is the retired Director of Education from the Algoma District School Board who was responsible for the learning and well-being of over 10,000 students and overseeing over 1500 staff. Mario served as an educator for 42 years. During the last 22 years, he spent 9 years as Director of Education and 13 years as Superintendent. Prior to that, he held positions of Secondary Principal, Vice-Principal, Department Head and teacher of mathematics.

Mario is highly regarded and respected for his experience, his interpersonal skills, his knowledge and positive outlook. Mario has been described as visionary and a strong advocate for Public Education. His personal experience as a young immigrant boy educated in Ontario fostered his conviction and his passion about the importance of education not only for what education can do to prepare our youth for the future, but for the importance of education to the viability of a strong and prosperous society.

Mario has been described as a system thinker who is student focused. He is a motivational leader who possesses high problem-solving and organizational abilities. Mario possesses good judgment, common sense and is very sensitive to the needs of others. He is a leader who leads by example and who is able to bring the best in others.



Current Professional Activity

Educational Consultant

Partner with firm *Toffanello Consultant Services Incorporated* working with educational and health care institutions in the areas of Coaching & Mentoring, Recruitment & Selection, Governance and Leadership Development.

Consultant, Coach, Mentor, Presenter, Special Assignment

Has worked with the Ministry of Education, School Boards and other organizations and individuals on educational, leadership and management matters as well as providing workshop presentations.

Employment History

Director of Education

Algoma District School Board, Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Superintendent of Education

Algoma District School Board, Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Superintendent of Human Resources

Sault Ste. Marie Board of Ed., Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Principal

Bawating C&VS - Sault Ste. Marie Board of Education, Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Vice Principal

Bawating C&VS - Sault Ste. Marie Board of Education, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

Department Head

Korah C. & V.S. and Alexander Henry H.S. Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

Teacher

Korah C. & V.S. and Alexander Henry H.S. Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

Educational Background

Masters of Education

Curriculum & Administration - University of Toronto

Bachelor of Education

Laurentian University
Teacher Certification

Honours Bachelor of Arts

University of Guelph
Mathematics

Supervisory Officer Certification

Ministry of Education, North Bay

Principal Qualification Certification

Ministry of Education, Toronto

Specialist Certification

Health & Safety

Implementation of a **Strategic Technology Plan** allowing for a favourable computer-student ratio and the provision of lap-tops, I-pads and projectors in classrooms supported by a robust wide-area wireless network utilizing the latest software and technology to support the improvement of teaching and learning for all for the foreseeable future.

Implementation of a **Leadership, Succession and Mentoring Program** that promoted a Collaborative, Professional Learning Culture.

Implementation of a **Capital Plan** resulting in the closure, consolidation, demolition and renovation of existing facilities culminating with the construction of 3 new state-of-the-art and environmentally friendly schools, including a new geo-thermal, energy/technological supported Hornepayne Jk-12 school.

Coordination of a **Community Partnership Table** that introduced the Algoma Model, a one-stop support of community services for students, and the formation of the CEO Planning Table representing all community agencies and organizations working with children and youth.

Currently working with individuals who are seeking leadership opportunities, leadership skill enhancement, and coaching and mentoring in areas of education and industry.

Leadership Highlights

As Director of Education, some of the highlights and accomplishments include:

Implementation of the **Board's Mission, Vision** through a **Strategic and Annual Improvement Plan** resulting in a 16% improvement in Literacy and Numeracy and a 14% improvement for students accessing Special Education Programs.

Implementation of **Individualized Alternative Programs for At-Risk Students** which included the Coop School, Late School, Aboriginal High School, Field School, Outdoor Education, School College Connection and E-Learning.

Implementation of **Various School Organizations** ranging from the traditional elementary/ secondary schools to Jk-3, Jk-6, Gr.4-6, Gr.7-12 and Jk-12 schools.

Experience & Professional Development

EDUCATION RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (ERDI)
Associate Member 2010-2012

ALGOMA DISTRICT CEO PLANNING TABLE
CHAIR 2009-2012

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION REGIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL (REC) MEMBER/CHAIR 2003-2012

COUNCIL OF DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION (CODE)
MEMBER 2003-2012

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION REGIONAL CURRICULUM COUNCIL (RCC) MEMBER/CHAIR 2003-2012

LABOUR RELATIONS NETWORK
MEMBER 1990-2006

EDUCATIONAL REFORM STEERING COMMITTEE
MEMBER at the provincial level
CHAIR at the regional and local level 1998-2003

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE
MEMBER 1996-2003

NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
1990-2003
MEMBER at the Provincial level
CHAIR at the regional and local level

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMITTEE
CHAIR 1980-2003

PAY EQUITY COMMITTEE
CHAIR 1990-2003

GRIEVANCE AND ARBITRATION COMMITTEES
CHAIR 1990-2003

ONTARIO PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION (OPSBA)
MEMBER Legal Defense Fund 1998-1999

OPSBA MID-NORTHERN REGION COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER 1992-1998

NIPPISSING UNIVERSITY PRINCIPAL COURSE
INSTRUCTOR 1990

JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
CO-CHAIR 1985-1990

Association, Community & Lifelong Learning

ON-GOING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Current on educational, leadership and management issues. Member of the Ontario Public Supervisory Officer Association, The National Association of Secondary School Principals the Invitational Education Alliance and National Curriculum Development Council.

Current on school systems in Ontario, throughout Canada and other parts of the world.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

As Director, Superintendent and previously Principal, often called upon to address staff, students, and parents on various topics and issues such as Education Reform, Teacher and the Law, Staff Performance Appraisal and Collective Bargaining.

Motivational speaker at principal qualification courses, staff meetings, graduations, sports and academic functions, teacher –Parent Nights and Service Club Meetings

Associations & Community

SAULT AREA HOSPITAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Member - Quality and Service Committee and Education Committee 2015-present

COMMUNITY AGENCIES COORDINATION

CHAIR 2003-2012

Led such initiatives as Healthy Schools, Mental Health (Algoma Model), Breakfast Programs, Action for Building a Community that is Drug Free (ABCD) Aboriginal Self Identification and Education Partners Committee

SAULT MAJOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Member and Supporter 1994-2003

SAULT STE MARIE ROTARY CLUB

1988-2000

Rotarian, Board of Directors (1991-1993)

Involved in variety of projects

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH, S.S.MARIE

Member of Executive Board, Chair of the Membership Committee 1982-1985

CREED FITNESS CENTRE, S.S.MARIE

Board of Directors 1986-1988

SOO PEE WEE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Member and supporter 1981-1994