

District School Board of Niagara Science Subject Council

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MINUTES

School	Representative	School	Representative
A. N. Myer	H. McGlone	Laura Secord	G. Munro
Beamsville	F. Dimartino	Niagara District	W. Kramer
Centennial	J. Wideman for G. Warriner	Port Colborne	L. Sardella
E. L. Crossley	S. Keller	R.C.B.H.S.	J. Snopek
Eastdale	M. Macdonald	Sir Winston Churchill	J. Zalewski
Eden	R. Chappell	South Lincoln	R. DuVuono
E. R. C.	S. Hopkins	St. Catharines Collegiate	G. Macdonald for A. Acs
Fort Erie	D. Kamatovic	Stamford	W. Trefiak
Governor Simcoe	J. Freeman-Shaw	Thorold	A. Huyzers (Thorold rep.)
Grimsby	M. Lamarre for D. Wyatt	West Park	G. Eckhardt
Kernahan Park		Westlane	N. Corey
Lakeport	P. Taylor		

1. Call to Order : 12:35 p.m.

Good News Items :

Centennial - Council welcomed Janine as she takes on Greg's responsibilities in his absence.

Thorold - Council welcomed Andre as he represents Thorold after Lori's departure.

Lakeport - Paul is surviving preparing for 8 classes in his 4 split level courses.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting - adopted by Bill Trefiak, seconded by Andre Huyers

3. Review of the Action List :

- Sample markbook entries and Biology materials were submitted to appropriate subcommittees.
- Additional names were put forth as possible Starry Night coaches. Shawna will approach appropriate principals and teachers - schedule to follow.
- Ron reported Dave Erb site : kpdsb.on.ca/kpdsb/science9/index.html
- Council reviewed and passed two motions relating to safety in the Science classroom (see attached) to be submitted by Marni with a covering letter to individuals and groups identified in attached.

4. Staff Development :

a) *Literacy in Science* - Ken Draayer walked Council through Science specific highlights of *Content Area Literacy* (Manzo, Manzo & Estes - copies are in your school). Science teachers are especially encouraged to use the following (see handout):

Assessment Instrument	Additional Details	Use
Informal Textbook Inventory (ITI)	- aligned to Science Power 9, but by changing page references, could be adapted to Nelson's Science 9*	- diagnostic assessment tool that highlights to teachers student abilities to deal with the textbook + provokes active (not passive) awareness of text features
Standard Cloze Passage Test	- an instructional strategy aligned to Physics strand (Electricity) and Science Power 9 text, could be adapted to Nelson's Science 9*	- an excellent diagnostic assessment tool to activate prior knowledge ? one key problem in science reading is there is not a lot of context or background material for new knowledge to "stick to" - this tool helps teachers facilitate raising our students' consciousness and thinking and talking about what they <i>do</i> know about science (electricity)
Suggestions for Notebook Formats	- includes strategies to guide vocabulary instruction	- could be easily aligned to various course profile activities e.g. Science Log

* This material was sent to you electronically, facilitating customizing. Hardcopy handouts distributed at meeting.

b) *Choices into Action and Science - Employability Skills 2000+* - Ola Tkaczyk provided an overview of Choices Into Action, with references to the Career Education Portfolio. It was suggested that students include "high interest" science work in these portfolios, and that teachers could refer to the skill building competencies listed at the back of the folder when considering weighting of particular processes or products. Council was walked through the Technological Education Career Path.

5. Liaison Consultant Report :

- Council completed the Inservice and Curriculum Needs Survey. This will be used to direct funding requests as well as provide support for workshops, curriculum development etc. Summary to be distributed for next meeting.
- Council reviewed samples of individual school lab report formats previously submitted. As a

response to issues of fairness, consistency and use of Exemplars, Council agreed to begin to collect samples of various levels of student lab report work for Grade 9. In September 2001, when science teachers distribute individual school lab report formats to students, teachers will select and distribute to students, at the minimum, a sample of Level 3 lab report work. Students will then assess, using the achievement chart, strengths/ weaknesses and suggest feedback for improvement. (this would give students an opportunity to see what work at the provincial standard (minimum) looks like, promoting the assessing of their own learning and facilitate further opportunities for both peer and self evaluations. In addition, DSBN teachers would, in a manageable fashion, be beginning to incorporate the use of exemplars into regular instruction.) It was suggested by Council that schools may choose to distribute samples at all levels, and that Council could bring to our first meeting for 2001/02, school samples to be used for a moderated marking exercise and/or beginning of an exemplar bank. This will be further discussed at our April meeting.

- The DSBN Dissection Procedure was distributed and reviewed. Members were asked to ensure their departmental practices adhered - further action may be the purchase of additional copies of simulation software. Refer to Digital Frog 2 *site license* costs (handout) if ordered before March 31 (recall each school has a donated copy already). Also, recall Dave's list of on-line dissections distributed last meeting.
- The DSBN Tendered Catalogue of Equipment and Materials has been reviewed, reformatted, and expanded to match new expectations found in *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9-12 Science*. A fair to highlight new equipment needs that you may decide to purchase through school or Science 2002 \$, featuring all DSBN Science suppliers and buyers, will be held (*Addendum : Monday, April 30, 2001 - ERC Pelham Room, 3-5:30 p.m.*)

6. Subcommittee Work and Reports :

The meeting continued with 4 working groups addressing the areas of concern below :

- Performance Assessment Team
- Enduring/Core Learnings Team
- Retooling the Course Profiles Team
- Written Exam Team

Progress reports next meeting.

7. Correspondence : none

8. Information Items and Members' Concerns :

- Memo S-53 was distributed - reflect on usefulness to mentor ship participants ?
- New professional organization - National Association of Biology Teachers - visit www.nabt.org. Convention on Nov. 7-10, 2001.
- See www.osee.org for information and conference details (Sat.May5, Sun May 6) of the Ontario Society for Environmental Education. Cost: \$198 (all inclusive)
- Irwin Focus Group - Gr 11 Physics U - March 1, 2001 ERC M-3, 3:30 -5:30 p.m.

9. Date/Time/Location of Next Meeting:

Date : April 18, 2001

Time: 12:30 -3:30 p.m.

Location : ERC, Wainfleet Room

10. Adjournment : 3:40 p.m.