

Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Education Centre

St. Catharines

6:15 - 7:00 p.m. [Private Session]

7:00 - 10:00 p.m. [Public Session]

A G E N D A

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD

1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory
2. Call to Order and Noting of Members Absent
3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

1. Motion to Move to Committee of the Whole (Private Session)
2. Motion to Return to Open Board (Public Meeting)

C. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

Prince Philip Public School (NF) choir will sing 'O Canada', via video

D. REFLECTIVE READING

By Trustee Jennifer Ajandi

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Recommended Motion:

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Pages 5-19

Recommended Motion:

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated February 23, 2016 be confirmed as submitted.”

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

4. Ratification of Business Conducted in Committee of the Whole

Recommended Motion:

“That the business transacted in Committee of the Whole be now ratified by the Board.”

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS

1. Director’s Report and Recognition

W Hoshizaki
Pages 20-23

Update from Provincial, Regional and Local Perspective

- a) Director’s Recognition – Becky Parton, Educational Assistant and Swaizie Lauzon, Student, Fort Erie Secondary School
- b) Director’s Update to Trustees

2. Educational Showcases

- a) Gordon Public School Science Fair
- b) Education Foundation of Niagara

W Hahn
K Pisek

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

1. Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement
Mid-Year Update – September 2015/March 2016

J Dickson/H McGregor
Pages 24-27

Recommended Motion:

“That the Board receive the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement Mid-Year Update – September 2015/March 2016.”

H. DELEGATIONS

I. BOARD RECESS (Optional)

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING COMMITTEE

C Keddy Scott
Pages 28-32

Recommended Motion:

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee, dated March 1, 2016 be received.”

2. REPORT OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE (handout)

C Keddy Scott

Recommended Motion:

“That the report of the Policy Committee, dated March 8, 2016 be received and the recommendations adopted.”

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

L. NEW BUSINESS

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. Staff Reports

- a) Request to Begin School Naming Process

Wes Hahn
Page 33

2. Trustee Information Session

No information session scheduled.

3. Correspondence and Communications

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

5. Ontario Public School Boards' Association Report

J Ajandi

6. Future Meetings

The March and April calendars are attached.

Pages 34-35

N. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion:

“That this meeting of the District School Board of Niagara be now adjourned.”

**March 8, 2016 Board Meeting
Director's Update to Trustees**

Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions – Becky Parton, Educational Assistant and Swaizie Lauzon, Student, Fort Erie Secondary School

This Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions award represents the teamwork and mutual admiration of educational assistant (EA) Becky Parton and student Swaizie Lauzon. Becky has been an EA for 28 years, 18 of which have been in her home town, at Fort Erie Secondary School (FESS). Swaizie is a FESS student in the school's Specialized School to Community (SSTC) program.

For the past three years these two women have overseen the school's Breakfast Club every morning, serving approximately 40 hungry learners each day. The work that goes into this club represents approximately 300 hours each year, with 8 hours per week consumed with overseeing the Breakfast Club, shopping, and cleaning up before and after. Under Becky and Swaizie's guidance, the rest of the SSTC program also assists.

For the Breakfast Club, Becky ensures that the students and staff within the SSTC program take into consideration nutritional aspects of healthy eating, coordination of the club, leadership, literacy and numeracy in creating the shopping lists, working within the community, bagging groceries, life skills, and contributing to society by helping others.

Swaizie was recently sponsored by the Grocery Foundation and Toonies for Tummies which brought communities together to highlight awareness on how to bring healthy eating to student nutrition programs. Swaizie was one of 11 students chosen from within the Province of Ontario. Becky accompanied her to this conference in Toronto which was Swaizie's first time taking the GO train and staying in the big city.

Swaizie has been integrated into the school's culinary program where she will work toward achieving this credit. As well, last week she participated in the DSBN Skills Competition for baking. Swaizie, along with Becky, volunteers her time monthly with Food for Soul at St. Paul's Church. In addition, she is a member of the talented team of students that oversee the Pomegranate Restaurant at FESS, a student run restaurant catering to patrons every Wednesday evening. Swaizie has also assisted with various catering events throughout the Town of Fort Erie such as the Chamber of Commerce and BEC functions. Through her educational pathway, Swaizie plans to become a personal support worker.

Both Becky and Swaizie have formed a relationship that transcends through the belief in others and in assisting them through the Breakfast Club and into the larger community of the Town of Fort Erie. Thank you both for your extraordinary work and dedication to DSBN students. Congratulations on receiving the Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions!

Local

Sears Drama Festival

Congratulations to Governor Simcoe Secondary School and Stamford Collegiate Secondary School for being selected to represent the Niagara Region at the 70th Annual Southwestern Ontario Regional Drama Festival in Windsor, Ontario during the week of April 18th-23rd, 2016.

Governor Simcoe presented a terrific interpretation of Dwayne Craft's absurd comedy, *Ridiculous by Proxy*. The play explores the lengths that we will go to, as humans, to avoid health risks and epidemics. In addition to Outstanding Production, Governor Simcoe was also awarded the Brock University Drama Award for the Best Experimental Play. Special congratulations go to the Puppeteers, the Ensemble, Victor Papaiz and Kasey Brown, for earning Awards of Merit and Excellence for their performances in the play.

The second play selected to represent Niagara at the regional festival was a student directed play from Stamford Collegiate Secondary School. They presented a post-modern adaptation of the Lizzie Borden tale, called *Lizzie*. In addition to their Outstanding Production Award, Stamford Collegiate also received the Best Visuals Award and the Best New Play Award. Extra congratulations go to Austin Kills-Enemy, Jayde Kocsis and Aaron Millward for earning Awards of Merit and Excellence for original music, performance and student direction, respectively.

Good luck to the casts and crews of both shows at the regionals in April!



Anything Goes!

Presented by Laura Secord Secondary School

DSBN Schools Succeed at DECA Provincials

On February 7, 8 and 9th, over 7000 students from across Ontario competed at the DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) Provincial competition in Toronto. The DSBN had 85 students from six schools competing in various business related areas.

Congratulations to Westlane Secondary School who had two teams place second overall in their respective categories. Second time winners, Kunj Patel, Jasim Khan and Harroop Ahuja wowed the judges with their Entrepreneurship Promotion Project by scoring an 98% overall score on their 27 page written report and presentation. Also placing second with a 93% in the Learn and Earn Project were Matt Rodgers and Azaan Adnan. Both teams competed against almost 40 other teams to place in their categories.

All five Westlane students will represent the DSBN and DECA Ontario, Canada while competing against close to 19,000 students from around the world at the DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC) to be held in Nashville, Tennessee on April 21-28, 2016.

Kunj and Harroop attended ICDC last year and know how intense the competition will be, and are striving to place in the top 10 in the world.

For almost 70 years, DECA has been preparing emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe.

DSBN Students Serve in the Legislative Assembly

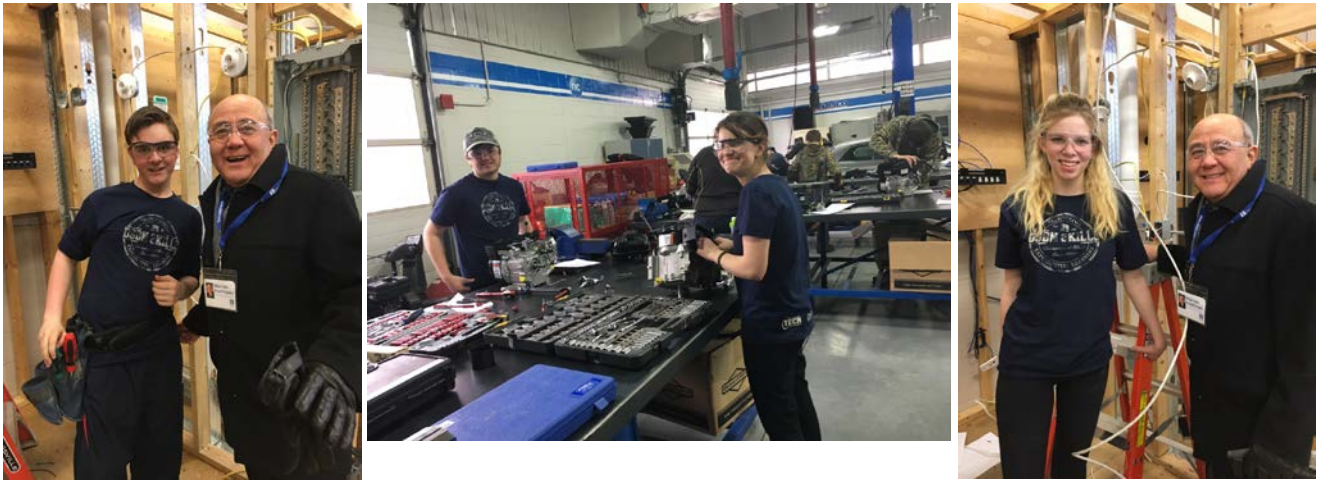
Grade 7 students Sarah Mateus, Dalewood Public School, and Charlotte Fritz, Woodland Public School, are both currently serving as pages in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

About 140 grade 7 and 8 students from across the province are chosen to participate in the program annually and they must submit an essay explaining why they would be a good candidate to participate in this program. The program provides youths the opportunity to experience provincial legislature in action.

Terms run for 4 weeks and the students are responsible for a host of duties including serving water and distributing documents to MPPs.



DSBN Technological Skills Challenges



The 18th annual DSBN Technological Skills Challenges took place last week for both elementary and secondary students. This year the challenges were entirely hosted by Niagara College and took place at both the Welland Campus and the Niagara on the Lake Campus.

All of the Challenges were packed with excited students eager to show off their skills and talents, along with some very proud teachers watching and supporting them.

Niagara Community Design Awards

The 2015 Niagara Community Design Awards Celebration was held last week and the District School Board of Niagara was proud to accept two awards.

- The Walker Living Campus at Woodend – Sustainability Award
- Twenty Valley Public School - Architecture – Large Budget Award

The awards recognize and celebrate excellence in design in the Niagara Region that demonstrates smart growth and sustainability in buildings and communities. Congratulations to all those involved in the projects!



MID-YEAR BIPSA UPDATE

▶▶ September 2015 / March 2016 ◀◀

Collaborative Instructional Leadership

Principals and VPs led a variety of learning teams (division, subject, grade, math, literacy, course type, etc.) to support the achievement of their school improvement plan goals.

All Principals, VPs and Superintendents are involved in learning teams/networks that meet throughout the year.

Professional learning opportunities for elementary and secondary Teachers for new curriculum included: Health and Physical Education, French, Native Studies, Classical and International Languages.

300 more Teachers participated in the 'Earn A Device' program this year (for a total of 450). They learned how to incorporate technology to support student learning in their classrooms.

The Leadership Development Program expanded to include two new workshops: "Mentoring for All" and "Facilitation for Group Effectiveness". Additional supports were added for New Administrators, Instructional Coaches, Teachers and Aspiring Leaders.

The October 21-22 Leadership Learning Conference for Principals and VPs featured topics such as Math Learning, Technology in the Classroom, Mental Health, First Nations Métis Inuit (FNMI), and Service Excellence.

Elementary Instructional Coaches met monthly with their superintendents for job-embedded PD focusing on math and literacy strategies.

There was an increase of seven system secondary Instructional Coaches (to a total of ten) who supported learning teams in all secondary schools during semester one.

A secondary Teacher Learning and Leadership Program (TLLP) team from our three ESL schools worked in semester one to support ELL learners with literacy and numeracy strategies.

November 13 Secondary PD day offered over 140 different learning opportunities in all subject disciplines led by DSBN Teachers, Social Workers, Youth Counsellors, Instructional Coaches, Consultants, Educational Assistants, IT4 Learning Team and Administrators.

All Subject Councils met in semester one to focus on assessment and evaluation, new curriculum, FNMI awareness and integration of technology.

Secondary Consultants and Instructional Coaches learned about coaching strategies, assessment and evaluation, FNMI, supporting ELL and identified learners, deepening their understanding about creating thinking classrooms, and supporting students in low socio-economic circumstances.

Data-based Decision Making

School improvement plans were created in every school based on student needs and assessment data. These plans include strategies to support student achievement and well-being as well as professional learning for staff.

Every learning team, network and CIL used student data as an integral part of their learning cycles.

All Superintendents have focus schools to intentionally enhance and support professional learning and student achievement. This strategy allows Superintendents to differentiate supports (human resources, financial, instructional strategies, Instructional Coaches and SSS supports) based on individual school needs.

Differentiated learning opportunities were provided from November through January to support Teachers, LRTs and Coaches on how to effectively administer and use the BAS assessment.

BAS or GB+ are used in all junior classes to support student reading development and to determine next steps for students.

Teachers and Administrators from all elementary schools attended EQAO Capacity Building sessions to learn how to utilize data to enhance instruction and learning.

All secondary schools participated in literacy team days in the fall to analyze student data, learn about effective literacy strategies and develop their literacy goals.

Training provided in semester one for all secondary Secretaries, Principals and VPs focused on student attendance data and best practices to support student success.

Math & Literacy Focus

All K-6 students in elementary schools have a Dreambox license for use at school and at home. Teachers used data from the Dreambox Teacher Dashboard with support by elementary Instructional Coaches.

Primary and Intermediate Benchmark Assessment System (BAS) has been implemented on a school initiated basis with system rollout coming in the Fall 2016.

61 of our schools used Levelled Literacy Intervention (LLI) in their primary classrooms. All elementary areas have an LLI Early Intervention Teacher to support Teachers in its use.

All schools are participating in a DSBN created mid-year EQAO assessment for Grades 3 and 6, with the support of elementary Instructional Coaches and Consultants.

All Learning Resource Teachers (LRTs) and ESL Teachers have directly supported students based on the action plans developed in response to Grade 3 and 6 mid-year assessments.

143 Teachers are participating in the Primary and Junior Math AQ course that DSBN provided this year, bringing the total to 601.

47 primary French Immersion Teachers participated in Collaborative Inquiry Learning

sessions (CILs) based on student needs in language and math.

English, French, literacy and math secondary subject councils met in semester one to share instructional strategies, delve into assessment practices and identify specific learning needs for their students and staff.

Secondary Instructional Coaches and Consultants supported learning teams in every school to use high yield instructional strategies, expand assessment practices and improve student engagement.

A group of 12 secondary Teachers with support from SSS have been spiraling their Grade 10 applied and Grade 11 college courses. In semester two, three more Teachers joined the learning team and the group are expanding the strategy to their Grade 9 academic courses.

Maintenance in pass rates and students achieving above 70% for most of our Grade 9 and 10 English and math courses has continued. There was a 4.7% increase in students achieving above 70% in Grade 9 academic math, and a decrease of 5.4% in Grade 9 applied math. There was an increase in the pass rate of Grade 9 applied English of 3.1% and a decrease in pass rate in Grade 9 applied math of 3.3%.

Career/Life Planning

38 Grade five classes began the "Ignition-Digital Citizenship" program to learn how to use the Internet more responsibly. They are being supported by Youth Counsellors.

Four new SHSM programs began in September including a new sector, Justice and Community Services. Four more applications have been submitted for next year.

On November 13, 24 secondary Teachers participated in the Educator-Employer-Exploration (E3) event. They visited a wide variety of organizations to learn more about the skills employers are seeking in graduates and to make connections to their curriculum.

Student Voice

Ten elementary and secondary students participated in the Strategic Planning In-Focus group sessions on January 14 and February 22.

21% of all recipients for the DSBN on-line strategic planning survey were students.

On February 10, 143 Grade 7-10 students participated in the 'Pink Shirt Day Everyday Forum' to empower them to address bullying in their schools.

Three DSBN students are participating on the Minister's Student Advisory Council (MSAC) to

share their voices with the Ministry of Education.

On December 8-11, 12 Grade 7 and 8 students and four secondary students participated in an Indigenous Leadership Conference. The conference developed the students' leadership skills and increased self-esteem and personal empowerment.

A Grade 9 and 10 Student Voice event was held on November 12 for 120 secondary students and was facilitated by student leaders.

The Student Trustee Senate is supporting Mental Health awareness and Mental Well-Being in schools. Their "Step Past the Stigma" Mental Health Awareness Walk on May 7 is for all DSBN students, staff, families and community members.



Achievement & Well-being

Director Hoshizaki spoke to Administrators at the January system meeting and followed up with a video message to DSBN staff about the importance of supporting mental wellness for students and staff.

On the November PD Day all youth counselors and social workers participated in SafeTALK training to support students with mental health needs.

In January, Administrators received the updated Tiers of Intervention and the Pathway to Care documents to support student wellness.

Administrators received a revised Tragic Response Event Communication Fan-Out to expedite the sequence of communication during a tragic event.

The Walker Living Campus Outdoor Education program has had 1,127 students visit from 29 elementary schools and 13 secondary schools.

The DSBN concussion curriculum, 'Head Strong', was implemented for students in Grades 1, 4, 8 and 9.

A concussion lead Teacher from each elementary school participated in training in collaboration with medical professionals.

A DSBN web-based concussion training module was implemented for all staff in September. Since then, 115 Administrators and 54 Secretaries have completed the training. Concussion training was provided for Administrators at area meetings.

Use of Desire 2 Learn (D2L) for blended learning increased 267% for elementary students, 19% for secondary students and 58% for Teachers compared to the same time last year.

The first DSBN Hour of Code week was held in November with 44 elementary and 11 secondary schools participating. Students in these schools completed 760,000 minutes of code.

On February 17, 400 educators from across Ontario, including over 200 from the DSBN, participated in the "Turning High Poverty Schools

into High Performing Schools" conference hosted by the DSBN.

Over 800 parents and students participated in the "Parent Power" conference run by the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC). 17 different learning opportunities were offered to help with supporting positive school experiences.

Schools continue to improve their communication with parents and guardians by using the DSBN app, social media, school and classroom websites, D2L, emails and Synvoice telephone messages.

45 Teachers and Administrators participated in a Residential School visit. 71 staff completed FNMI cultural awareness training in the fall.

DSBN developed a Grade 6 unit on Residential Schools that is currently being piloted in 7 schools.

The 2016 training for LRTs included "Learning for All", Tiered Interventions, understanding students with learning disabilities and Remediation Plus.

Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) training was delivered by the Mental Health Team to Structured Strategies, Bridge and Alternative Education Teachers in February.

Professional development was provided to elementary schools to support the Arts, Health and Physical Education, Social Studies and Science with a focus on intentional planning and assessment.

351 Kindergarten Teachers and DECEs attended two days of a three-part series on effective play-based kindergarten programs.

60 educators from year five Kindergarten schools participated in a two-part learning series on the Functional Screening and Strategies for Kindergarten Success (FSSKS) Tool.

Six evidence-based elementary classroom programs are being delivered by youth counselors in 166 JK to Grade 8 classrooms. Skills include resiliency, self-regulation, stress management and empathy.

The EGALE Canada Human Rights Trust provided training for Grade 7 and 8 Teachers from each elementary school to support the new HPE curriculum with a focus on Ontario Human Rights, sexual orientation and gender identity.

Credit accumulation rates increased from last year. In Grade 9 there was a 3.32% increase; in Grade 10 a 2.05% increase; and, in Grade 11 a 0.87% increase.

DSBN Academy expanded their programming into Grade 11 this year.

A third secondary site for ESL programming was added in Welland to meet increased need. There was also an increase in secondary ESL Itinerant Teacher support for students.

The School Support Initiative (SSI) continued in Grade 9 and 10 applied classrooms in all schools and Alternative Programs (92 in total). Ministry funding expanded this year from 13 to 15 schools.

Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs) learned how to support numeracy and Transitional Aged Youth Protocols through their subject council meeting.

A new FNMI Resource Teacher was added using Ministry funding to support secondary student achievement, SSI and re-engagement in school.

A new Grade 11 Native Studies English course titled "Contemporary Aboriginal Voices" was added to DSBN eLearning offerings in semester one.

177 students earned eLearning credits in semester one, an increase of 7% from 2015.

The Routes program re-engaged students from Low German communities in Niagara. 14 students participated in semester one, earning a total of 29 credits.

Since September, the DSBN has spent over \$3.8 million dollars on capital improvements including program enhancements and renewal needs in 51 schools. \$5.1 million dollars has been spent on the construction of John Brant PS and Greater Fort Erie SS, to date.





March 1, 2016

Dale Robinson, Chair of the Board
District School Board of Niagara
191 Carlton Street
St. Catharines, ON L2R 7P4

Re: Request to Begin School Naming Process as per Policy A-09

Dear Chair Robinson:

On behalf of our Pelham Centre and E.W. Farr Memorial Public schools, I would like to request that the schools come together to begin the process of naming as referenced in the Policy A-09 School Naming.

This is an opportunity for students, staff, families and the communities of Pelham Centre and E.W. Farr Memorial Public schools to join together in preparation for September 2016 when students from both schools will be combined at the Pelham Centre Public School site while they anticipate the opening of the new school in Pelham in September 2017.

In March, a transition committee will be formed with representation from both schools to begin the process of coming together.

Requesting permission to begin the naming process as per Policy A-09 is the beginning of the exciting journey that is ahead for our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'W. Hahn'.

Wes Hahn
Superintendent of Schools, Area 2

March 2016

Trustee Calendar

Feb 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28	29					

Apr 2016

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb 28	29	Mar 1 1:00 PM SAL	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 5:30 PM Policy Committee Meeting 6:15 PM Board meeting	9 6:00 PM Community Partnerships and Planning Meeting	10 6:00 PM SEAC	11	12
13	14 9:00 AM March Break	15 12:00 AM March Break	16 12:00 AM March Break	17 12:00 AM March Break	18 12:00 AM March Break	19
20	21	22 6:00 PM Program and Planning	23	24 8:30 AM Strategic Plan Working Committee Meeting	25 9:00 AM Good Friday	26
27 9:00 AM Easter Monday	28	29	30	31	Apr 1	2

April 2016

Trustee Calendar

Mar 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		

May 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 27	28 9:00 AM Easter Monday	29	30	31	Apr 1	2
3	4	5 6:00 PM Program and Planning	6 1:00 PM SAL 5:30 PM PIC	7	8	9
10	11	12 6:15 PM Board Meeting	13	14 6:00 PM SEAC	15	16
17	18	19 7:00 PM Student Trustee Senate	20 6:00 PM Finance	21 9:00 AM Concussion Conference	22 12:00 AM Concussion Conference	23
24	25	26 8:00 AM Connect Conference 6:15 PM Board Meeting	27 12:00 AM Connect Conference	28 12:00 AM Connect Conference	29 12:00 AM Connect Conference	30