

PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 5, 2016
6:00 p.m.
Grimsby Lincoln Room

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes of March 22, 2016
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
5. New Business

INFORMATION SESSION

- School Travel Planning L. Courtois
- Update on Play-based Kindergarten J. Dickson
- Update on Role of Learning Resource Teacher/Special Education Resource Teacher/Educational Assistants..... J. Dickson

6. Other Business
7. Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. – Grimsby Lincoln Room
8. Adjournment

School Travel Planning

*Helping families in Niagara choose
active school travel*





What is School Travel Planning?

A National program to improve safety around schools by:

↓ the # of car trips around the school during key times

↑ the # of children who walk or bike to school



Benefits

- Health
- Happiness
- Emissions reduction
(Eco schools 8 points)
- Community
- Cost

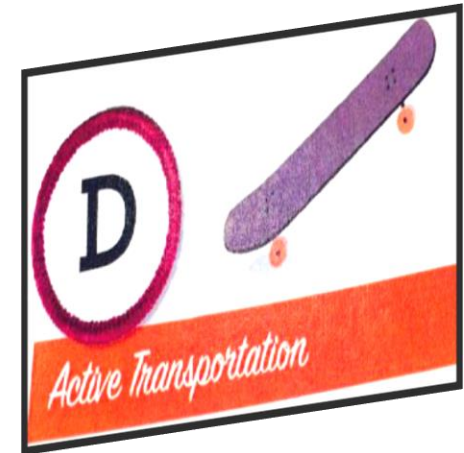
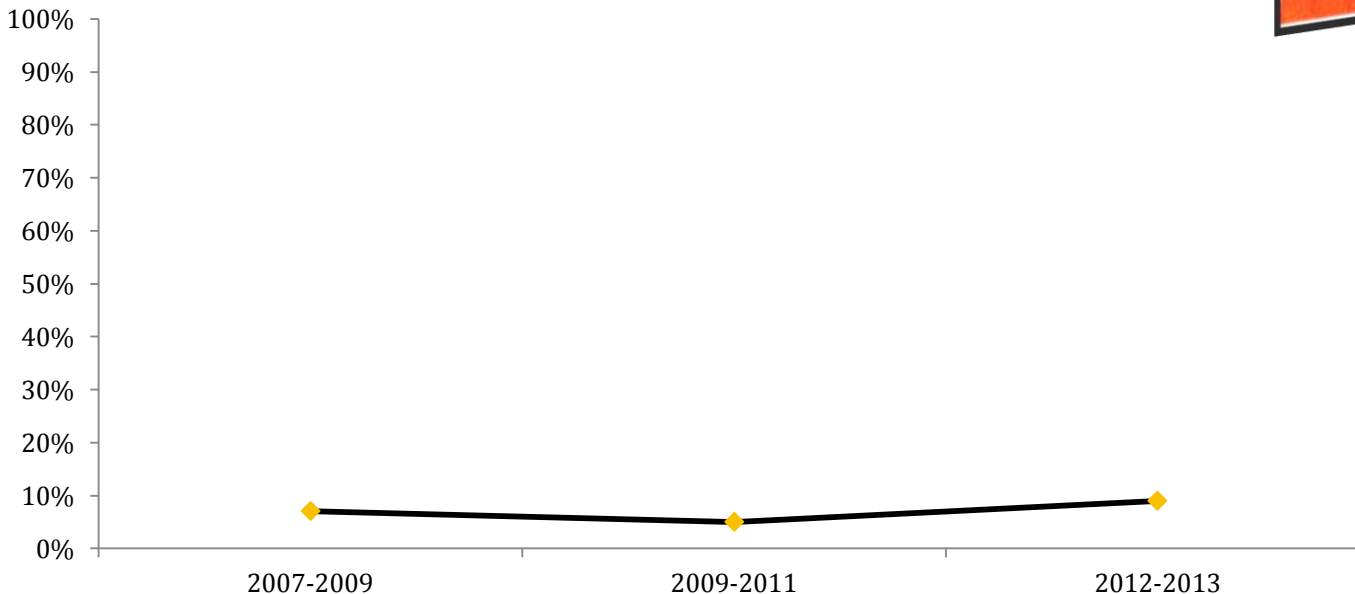


Source: Green Communities Canada
<http://www.saferoutestoschool.ca/school-travel-planning-toolkit>



Low grades across the board (again) in the Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth

% of 5-17 year olds in Canada who get the 60 minutes of heart- pumping activity they need each day



Milestones

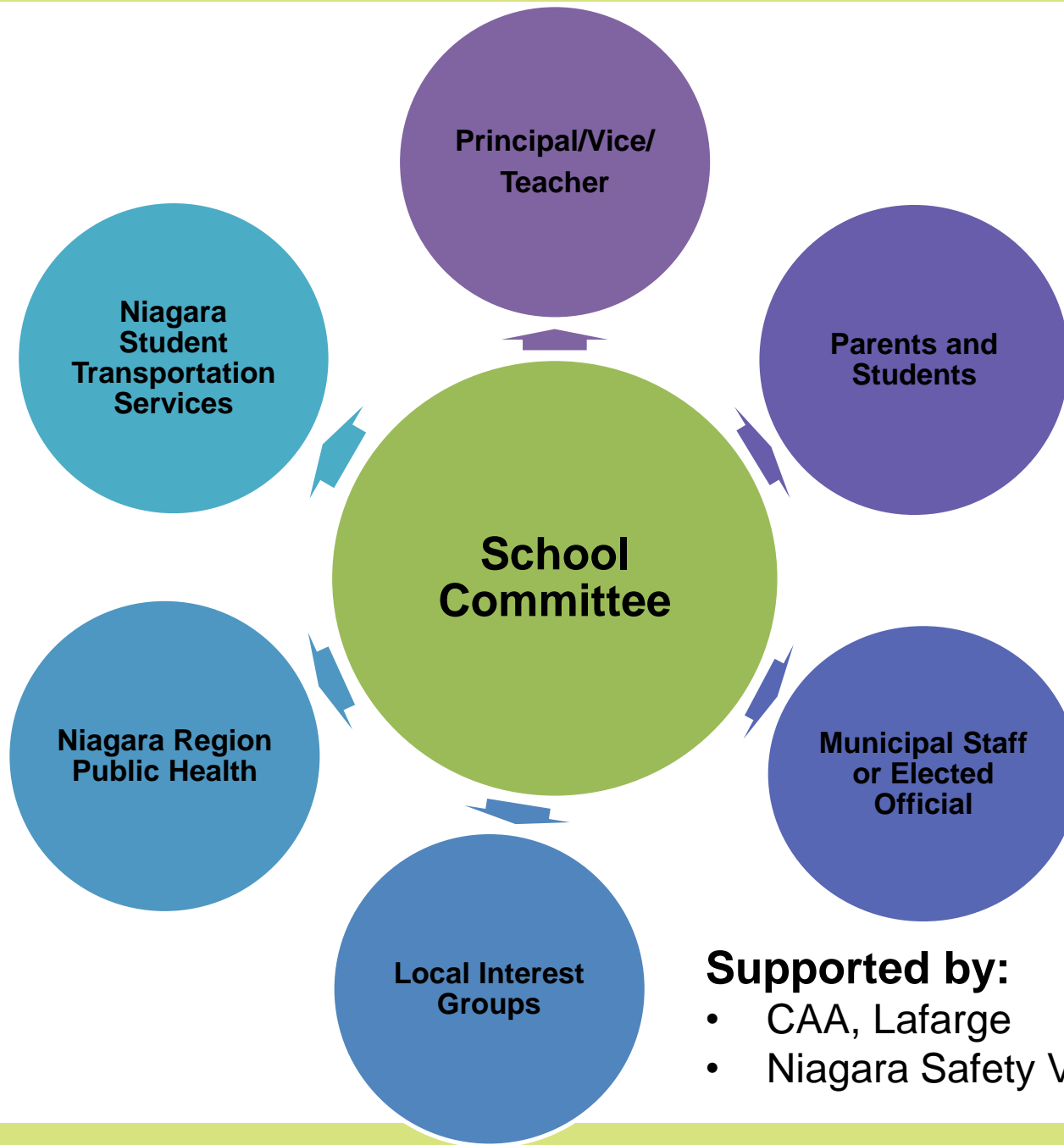
Niagara receives \$18,250 from Green Communities Canada and Heart and Stroke Foundation for pilot	2009 & 2010
Presentation to DSBN Trustees	2010
Pilot runs with four schools	2010-2013
Principals from pilot schools meet	2012
Sustainability options for Niagara explored	2013
Results from pilot distributed	2014
Program modified based on findings from the pilot	2014
Six schools from DSBN and NCDSB use the new program	2014-2015
“Engaging the school community” emerges as a priority at the Niagara Active Transportation Summit	2015
Niagara Region Public Health assigns a 0.5 FTE to School Travel Planning	2015
Niagara selected to host a 2016 event for Ontario by Green Communities Canada and Heart and Stroke Foundation	2015
Niagara Safety Village works with STP partners to submit proposal to the Ministry of Health for a cycling skills project (awaiting notice of funding)	2015



How do we do it?

- Explore school opportunity and readiness
- Verify capacity to bring new school on
- Bring champions together
- Hold school walkabouts
- Create a unique action plan for each school
- Access national resources
- Exchange knowledge across Canada





Supported by:

- CAA, Lafarge
- Niagara Safety Village

Niagara's Pilot Schools



Peace Bridge/General Vanier ◆ College Street ◆ Glynn A Green ◆ Lakeview



Main reasons Niagara parents drive their children to school:

1. Distance from home too far
2. Convenience/time pressures
3. Traffic danger
4. I'm on my way somewhere else
5. Weather
6. Age of Children



Parents would allow their kids to walk or bike to school if:

They were older

They did not walk or cycle alone

They did not live so far from school

There were reduced traffic dangers

There was a safer or improved walking/cycling route

There was bicycle riding safety training

They could lock their bike in a safe place



Local Activities

- ❖ Walking events e.g. Walking Wednesday
- ❖ Bike rodeos
- ❖ New bike racks
- ❖ Repainted pavement markings
- ❖ Adjusted timing of crossing signal
- ❖ Relocated crossing guards
- ❖ Adjusted bus pick up times
- ❖ Input into Municipal Master Plan
- ❖ New sidewalks and crosswalks
- ❖ Local media



National and Local Results

National Results (June 2011)

- Promising 1-6% shift in walking and cycling
- Intense programming led to a 20% shift

Local Results

- 5-10% shift in walking and cycling

Parent Satisfaction – most parents who responded to the survey indicated that they support ongoing School Travel Planning efforts (97%)



Results from College Street School



DSBN participating schools receive a Golden Shoe Award

Source: Amanda Moore/Niagara this week



Participating schools in 2015-16

- Lakeview, Grimsby
- Nelles, Grimsby
- Cardinal Newman, Niagara Falls
- St. Davids, Niagara on the Lake
- Glynn A. Green, Pelham
- St. Kevin, Welland
- College Street, West Lincoln



Nelles engages their school community in monthly events



Post pilot success

“Walking has increased since the events started. More students are riding bikes and walking together.”

Sara De Divitiis, Principal, Nelles Public School

“We started STP to address needs expressed by a parent who was concerned about the safety of her child’s walk to school. Changes made by the city to street parking and the addition of a crossing guard along with promotion of Footloose Fridays has increased the number of students who walk or bike to our school.”

Enrico Schirru, Principal, St. Kevin Catholic School



Post pilot success

- School staff work directly with municipal contacts to make walking routes safer
 - Sidewalks and lights in Pelham
 - Sidewalks in West Lincoln
 - Changes to parking zone along walking route in Welland
 - Provisions for crossing guards during construction in West Lincoln (no new busses required)
 - Invitation from NOTL's Lord Mayor to submit needs identified during walkabout



Next Steps

- ❖ Engage more schools while maintaining effectiveness for existing schools
- ❖ Consider follow-up action from Feb 2016 summit sponsored by Heart and Stroke Foundation and Green Communities Canada
- ❖ Develop cycling skills training project (pending funding)



For More Information

About School Travel Planning:

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About benefits to your specific school:

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www.saferoutestoschool.ca/schooltravel.asp