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**Delegates Report – OSBCC 2011 Conference**  
**February 1-5, 2011**  
**Richmond Hill, Ontario**  
**Presented at the Regular General Meeting Feb 26, 2011**

*997 Delegates – Debbie Gillan, Herb Pounder, Kirk McFarlane, Tracey Benson, Fiona Williams, Lynn Raback and William Campbell*

The Ontario School Board Coordinating Committee (OSBCC) gathered in Richmond Hill for their annual conference in early February this year. More than 300 delegates from school boards across the province gathered under the banner of “Together Everything is Possible”. The conference lived up to its theme by approving a landmark precedent-setting resolution calling for centralized bargaining.

The conference also debated, negotiated and passed a resolution putting in place a new bargaining committee structure for future centralized provincial bargaining, a resolution in which CUPE 997 delegates played a pivotal role.

The genesis of the OSBCC committee proposed bargaining structure came from consultation meetings held last fall and early winter at each of the 17 OSBCC areas across the province. CUPE 997 delegates along with delegates from other area 7 locals (Local 218 (Durham DSB + DCDSB), Local 5555 (KPRDSB) and Local 1453 (PVNCCDSB)) proposed and debated in favour of amendments to the committee proposed structure. The amendments to the committee proposal gained traction with the conference delegates to give us the new structure we have today.

With these resolutions and throughout the conference delegates showed their commitment to building a stronger union and a better Ontario by building on the collective efforts of all delegates in a truly democratic process.

During the opening plenary, on Tuesday evening Terri Preston, OSBCC chair, reviewed the year and touched on some highlights.

1. The government has made a major shift in the before and after school component of the Early Learning Program (ELP) in that they want to allow school boards the ability to contract out this work to the private sector. CUPE’s position is that this will undermine the seamless delivery model recommended in the Pascal report.
2. The government invited CUPE to discuss how to implement the 2 year compensation freeze. CUPE’s position was clear. “We rejected outright any notion of a wage freeze but agreed to meet with the government to discuss how to protect and improve the services we provide”. Brother Brian Blakely led the discussion and spoke about issues like, speeding up the implementation of the



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- Early Learning Program, returning to the notion of community schools, identifying alternate education uses for schools as opposed to closing them, contracting in of work that is currently contracted out, just to name a few.
3. Preparing for Centralized Bargaining.
  4. Anti Privatization campaign to raise awareness of contracting out and what it costs us all.
  5. Provincial Wide Benefits Plan. CUPE continues to move slowly forward on this goal that came out of the 2008 PDT. Three additional meetings have been scheduled prior to June to move this issue along.

On Wednesday CUPE researcher Paul O'Donnell presented the results of the 2010 Bargaining Survey Review. Members may recall that we were asked to complete a survey in December 2010 that asked us to rate which of our benefits were most important to us and which benefits needed to be improved. Questions regarding bargaining a new collective agreement were also asked. CUPE 997 members were well represented in the survey. Later on Wednesday meetings with our fellow OSBCC area boards continued the discussion on the survey results.

Thursday morning delegates broke into their job classification groups to network and identify common issues and possible campaigns. 997 delegates attended the following classification workshops: Educational Assistants, Office Clerical, Technical, Maintenance, and Custodial so we were well represented.

Thursday afternoon delegates went to one of 11 workshops. 997 delegates attended workshops on: Emerging Case Law Blitz, Attendance Management, Pay Equity and Employment Insurance.

The Emerging Case Law Blitz focused on Social Networking such as Facebook, blogs and MySpace and Employer access to medical information.

Friday morning Brian O'Keefe spoke about our OMERS pension plan. Brother O'Keefe is a Member representative / co-chair on the OMERS Sponsor's Corporation. Specifically O'Keefe spoke about the underfunding issue that brought about the remittance increase for this year and the next two and how the board came to the decision to bring in the increase, O'Keefe also touched on the board structure and spoke about the new AVC (Additional Voluntary Contribution) program.

The remainder of Friday was consumed by reporting back from classification meetings held on Thursday and motions and debate regarding the bargaining structure.

Saturday morning the delegates were treated to a keynote speech by Susan Stewart. Susan is a recovering professional comedian turned Human Resources staffer turned inspirational speaker. Susan's message was to "Live Well, Laugh Lots".

The remainder of Saturday morning was filled with final motions and wrap up.

Delegates Report submitted by William Campbell

"Be it resolved that the OSBCC Delegates Report be received"