**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

 **Committee Name:** Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee

 **Date:** March 7th, 2017

 **Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Present:** Samra Amir (Student, University of Waterloo), Sheila Cary-Meagher (Trustee Co-Chair), Alice Cheng (TDSB student), Pam Gough (Trustee), Catherine Leighton (TRCA), Jessie Sawyers (Teacher Candidate, OISE), Kristen Schaffer (Teacher Candidate, OISE), Bob Spencer (Beach Community Energy Co-operative), Linda-Sue Thomas (Retired TDSB Principal)

**TDSB:** Richard Christie (Senior Manager, Sustainability Office), Kristen Evers (Green Projects Team Leader, Sustainability Office), Cynthia Chan (EcoSchools Specialist, Sustainability Office), Esther Collier (Teacher), Justin Nadeau (Green Projects Team Leader, Sustainability Office), Annie Slater (Vice Principal) Jenn Vetter (Sr. Associate Communications), Kathryn Winton (Teacher)

**Recorder:** Serita Lawson (Business Process Analyst)

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| **ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **ACTION /RECOMMENDATION/ MOTION** |
| Call to Order  | Meeting called to order at 6:36 p.m.Welcome and introductions. |  |
| Approval of February 7th Minutes | The minutes of February 7th, 2017 were approved. |  |
| Motion for New Environment Report | Kristen Evers provided an overview of current sustainability initiatives at the TDSB (see attached). Kristen Schaffer reviewed ESAC’s recommendations from June 16th, 2016 meeting (see attached). Members broke into three smaller groups to discuss ways that the attached Board motion might be addressed.**Overview of Group Discussions:****Plan to Increase Waste Diversion*** Barriers - Issues with municipal pick-up, sorted waste sometimes ends up in single stream
* Hire new full time staff to manage waste diversion
	+ Support non-EcoSchools
	+ Procurement (purchasing and end of life management)
	+ Look at ways to eliminate waste
	+ Conduct waste audits
	+ Influence and assist with caretaking training
* Build ongoing savings data into the waste audit
* Review Certification Toolkit and list what needs updating
* Question - What is Toronto’s goal for waste diversion? Possibly borrow City of Toronto’s language
* Survey teachers to find out ways to support them

**Plan to Increase EcoSchools*** EcoSchools should be mandated by Superintendents
* Include EcoSchools in the SIP and BIP (eco is a value just like equity)
* EcoSchools logo should be on all disseminations (at school level)
* Develop a platform to connect and share with other schools (EcoSchools and non-EcoSchools)
* Develop student leadership from a young age
	+ Create eco-kits for every category or major initiatives of the EcoSchools program that include kid-friendly cards outlining roles and responsibilities
* Secure two percent of budget to provide support to EcoSchools
* Reach out to TFSS (Toronto Foundation for Student Success) to help support EcoSchools that cannot raise money
* Increase education beyond the school
	+ Offer communication in various languages
	+ Outdoor signs
	+ Community events
* Provide a synopsis to EcoSchools of local natural areas
* Celebrate or reward principals and caretakers who are active in EcoSchools
* Break barriers in communication (EcoSchools staff need to be able to connect with other schools)
* Pick an annual day to mobilize and celebrate EcoSchools (this event includes whole School community)
* More communication from caretaker to night school staff
* Expose students to youth eco-champions

**Plan to Raise Awareness about the TDSB’s Environmental Policy*** Need more signs and banners to celebrate EcoSchools
* Environmental pledge for students
* More delegation to Board on environmental issues
* Congratulate schools that receive water bottle refill stations and bike racks
* Attend road shows and trustee ward meetings
* Highlight new EcoSchools in Direct Line and Board Communications
* Offer Award of Excellence for eco-initiatives
* Announcement of awarded EcoSchools in May/June not the end of June/July
* Annual events to recognize EcoSchools or environmental issues in TDSB involving external organizations
* Include active transportation as carbon reduction initiative
* Send out EcoSchools e-news to community members
* Engage executive superintendents
* Engage Super Council more at the EcoSchools Office and award and recognize student eco-heros
* Tie recognition to environmental policy
* Develop a special mentor program that is less than the bronze level (entry level)
* Have Sustainability Office staff share sustainability initiatives with Trustees via Trustees’ Weekly newsletter
 | Sustainability Office staff will consider ESAC suggestions when developing recommendations for new Environment Report |
| ESAC Terms of Reference (draft)  | Kristen Schaffer reviewed ESAC’s Terms of Reference for committee approval. Members made the following recommendation: **Decision Making*** Clarify/include that when voting*, ‘a simple majority of those present will be sufficient*.’
 | ESAC Terms of Reference were approved by Committee Members.  |
| New Business | Bob Spencer announced that the Beach Community Energy Cooperative won “Community Developer of the Year” at the *Powering Prosperity Awards* for the solar project at Kew Beach JPS.  |  |
| Next Meeting Date | April 4th, 2017 at Central Technical School (Room 208) |  |
| Adjournment  | Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m. |  |