**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Committee Name**: Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee

**Date:** May 2nd, 2017

**Time:** 6:30 P.M.

**Present:**  Sheila Cary-Meagher (Trustee), Paula Gallo (Evergreen), Pamela Gough (Trustee), Debby Martin (Manager, Evergreen), Lisa Milne (Community Member), Jessie Sawyers (Teacher Candidate, OISE), Kristen Schaffer (Teacher Candidate, OISE), Linda-Sue Thomas (Retired TDSB Principal), Rachelle Winton-Dean (Community Member)

**TDSB:** Richard Christie (Sustainability Office), Kristen Evers (Sustainability Office), Peyton Leung (Teacher), Annie Slater (Vice-Principal), and Kathryn Winton (Teacher)

**Guests:** Heidi Campbell (Evergreen),Deb Doncaster (Earth Day Canada), Christy Health (Community Member), Linda Naccarato (Earth Day Canada), Miriam Porter (TDSB/Evergreen), Brenda Simon (Earth Day Canada), and Jenn Vetter (TDSB/Evergreen)

**Recorder:** Serita Lawson (Sustainability Office)

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| **ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **RECOMMENDATION/MOTION** |
| Call to Order/Quorum | Meeting called to order.  Welcome and introductions. |  |
| Approval of April 4th Minutes | The minutes of April 4th, 2017 were approved. |  |
| Introduction to OPAL | The ESAC Community Co-Chairs suggested that the committee may want to explore writing a Play Policy to help support teachers in promoting outdoor learning. This policy could then be presented to the Board of Trustees.  The evening’s presentations from Earth Day Canada, Evergreen and the TDSB are intended to help inform ESAC’s discussion on developing a Play Policy for the TDSB. |  |
| OPAL pilot and next steps | **Brenda Simon, Director of Play Programs, Earth Day Canada**   * 46% of children are getting three hours or less of active play per week, including weekends * Only 5% of children, ages 5-17, are active enough during the school day to meet healthy active guidelines * Many teachers, especially FDK teachers do not have the resources they needed to run play-based inquiry or do not know how best to use the resources available to them. * The Outdoor Play and Learning program (OPAL) was rolled out to 250 schools in the UK * The basic ingredients of play are: supervision and social supports, materials or “loose parts” supply and environments that are interesting and challenging; OPAL focuses on the first two * Play policies must include risk benefit; they should address difficult questions   TDSB’s OPAL Pilot:   * Has been piloted at 6 TDSB elementary schools * Earth Day Canada led school teams and assisted with the development of play policies through workshops * Activity levels are higher 🡪 students are moving * Fewer office visits during recess 🡪 students are developing problem solving skills * Various levels of physical literacy being exhibited * STEM education * Mixed-age play * Builds collaboration/community within schools * collecting loose parts is challenging   Peyton Leung, a teacher at one of the OPAL pilot schools, shared the following:   * A site-specific play policy engaged the whole community * Program helped encourage students to take responsibility * Is changing the school’s culture of play |  |
| Supporting teachers through Outdoor Play and Learning workshops | **Heidi Campbell, Senior Designer and Paula Gallo, Project Manager, Evergreen**   * Recommended to apply “pop-up play” before implementing permanent structures to see how students use the space * Identify assets on playground (eg. shade trees) and work with what you already have * Participatory design is key aspect of design process 🡪incorporating the views of all space users into the design * Evergreen delivers teacher workshops to help build capacity back at school * Currently working in partnership with the York Region School Board to deliver workshops on loose parts * Through workshops, teachers are provided with ideas to translate back to their outdoor spaces   Resources:    [*Outdoor Play and Learning Video Series*](https://www.evergreen.ca/get-involved/resources/teachers-corner/)  [*Outside Play*](https://outsideplay.ca/) – An online tool to help parents and caregivers gain the confidence to allow their kids to engage in more outdoor play. |  |
| Board support for school ground greening | **Miriam Porter, School Ground Design Consultant, TDSB/Evergreen**   * 15 years ago the TDSB and Evergreen established a partnership to provide practical support and services for EcoTeams as they work toward greening their schools. * Three Evergreen Associates work out of the Sustainability Office. * OPAL and Evergreen’s Outdoor Play and Learning workshops help to augment the school ground greening work being done at the TDSB:  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Earth Day Canada’s OPAL Program** | **Evergreen’s Outdoor Play & Learning Workshops** | | * Maximizing play value * Risk benefit analysis * Play Literacy * Establishing spaces that are both interesting and challenging | * Guidance on how to bring children outdoors * Providing school staff with an understanding of space * Spatial programming – how to design and play for flexible outdoor play and learning environments * Spatial and nature literacy |  * School ground greening projects at the TDSB include: tree planting, garden projects, outdoor classrooms and play and learning environments * When designing new spaces at the TDSB, *Landscape and Child Development* (resource linked below) is used as a guide. * School ground design projects are intended to meet the emotional, physical, social, and cogitative developmental needs of students through the implementation of both fixed (things that are installed) and moveable parts (loose parts) * These design projects plan for different types of play/needs of students - gathering, individual, experimental, ecological and active spaces. * Through school ground greening, the TDSB offers schools fixed components; OPAL and Evergreen provide schools with the support to help animate their spaces.   Resources:    [*Landscape and Child Development: A Design Guide for Early Years - Kindergarten Play - Learning   Environments*:](https://www.evergreen.ca/downloads/pdfs/Landscape-Child-Development.pdf) A TDSB/Evergreen publication  [*EcoSchools Photo Gallery:*](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ecoschools/Home/PhotoGallery/SchoolGroundGreeningGallery.aspx) Particularly the Kindergarten Features and Kindergarten Areas galleries. |  |
| New Business |  | Any questions from May 2nd meeting should be directed to ESAC Community Co-Chairs and will be discussed at the June meeting:  [kristendschaffer@gmail.com](mailto:kristendschaffer@gmail.com)  [Jessiemaysawyers@gmail.com](mailto:Jessiemaysawyers@gmail.com) |
| Next Meeting Date | June 6th, 2017 at Central Technical School (Room 208) |  |
| Adjournment | Meeting adjourned at 8:38 P.M. |  |