

Name of Committee: Environmental Sustainability Community Advisory Committee (ESCAC)

Meeting Date: February 6, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

A meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Community Advisory Committee convened on February 6, 2024 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. via Zoom Video Conferencing, with Trustee Manna Wong and Community Co-Chair Anne Keary presiding.

Attendance via Zoom:

Manna Wong (Trustee, Ward 20), Anne Keary (Community Co-Chair), Matias de Dovitiis (Trustee, Ward 4), Debbie Field (Coalition for Healthy School Food), Mieke Foster (Community Member), Michael Green (Seniors for Climate Action Now), Barbara Falby (For Our Grandchildren), Hilary Inwood (OISE), Dan MacLean (Trustee, Ward 2), Jennifer Alexander (Parent), Linda Naccarato (Community Member), Sarah Urquhart (OISE).

Also present: Richard Christie (TDSB), Kelly Crosthwaite (TDSB), , Pam Miller (TDSB), David Hawker-Budlovsky (TDSB), Nancy Gillis (TDSB), Jenn Vetter (TDSB), Mary Kokinakis (TDSB), Marion Shanks (TDSB), Erin Wood (TDSB).

Regrets:

Kristen Evers (TDSB)

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS / MOTIONS
Call to Order / Quorum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. 	
Land Acknowledgment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting began with a Land Acknowledgement 	
Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-Chairs Anne Keary and Manna Wong and Participants. 	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS / MOTIONS
Approval of January 10, 2024 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes approved, without comments. 	
National School Program and Bill C-322.	<p>Debbie Field, National Coordinator for the Coalition for Healthy School Food, presented a historical and geographical overview of Canada’s federal/provincial/city programs and policies for School Food Programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bill C-322 was discussed, with participants encouraged to show their support by sending letters/ taking part in pre-budget consultations (closing February 9, 2024) to support a national framework to establish a school food program. The need for School Food Programming spans all income groups. The benefits of school food programs are many and tie closely with a valuable health promotion policy; a staggering \$15.8-\$26 billion / year annual economic burden of chronic diseases influenced by poor diet. In 2022, food literacy was added to the Ontario Science Curriculum in grades 3, and 5-9. Learning extends beyond textbooks to include school food gardens, farmer visits to schools, students partaking first-hand in food preparation, and more. Challenges of students nutrition programs include the impact of food price inflation, reduced food services and increased demand. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data was shared showing impressive return on investment in countries such as Sweden with universal school food programs. • Debbie Field provided suggested what can be done to address the food affordability crisis: from advocacy, to policy/funding/training, governance & collaboration – specific steps for action were discussed. • The Coalition For Healthy School Food written submission for the 2024 pre-budget consultations was circulated to ESCAC by email after the meeting. 	
<p>2023 Climate Action Report – Youth Version</p>	<p>A working draft of the Climate Action Annual Report 2023 – Youth edition was shared with ESCAC for feedback.</p> <p>Themes are the report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Out of Control • What is Your School Board Doing? • What is Your School Doing? • What are Your Teachers Doing? • What are Your Peers Doing? • Preparing for Extreme Heat <p>Comment was made that this report would be valuable beyond the student perspective, benefitting adults alike.</p>	

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	<p>Recommendation made to incorporate pieces of the Youth Climate Report into the TDSB Public Website.</p> <p>It was pointed out that age appropriateness will be a factor for the report content and messaging. A truthful, celebratory tone and creating awareness versus taking a discouraging / alarmist tone was favored by the group.</p> <p>It was recommended to keep in mind the power of graphics to tell the story.</p> <p>It was recommended to incorporate real quotes and success story initiatives from students and teachers, making sure to highlight the good work of Indigenous leaders.</p> <p>Some websites were shared that could be incorporated into the Youth Report.</p>	
2023 Climate Action Plan Updates	<p>Richard Christie, Senior Manager, Sustainability, provided updates on the following 2023 Climate Action Plan actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 22: Transition to EV vehicles • Action 1(a) Reduce energy use in LC1 by 10% • Action 35 Continue the transition to battery-operated outdoor tools <p>All initiatives moving along nicely, and particularly encouraging are the energy data results seen so far: energy savings are pointing to tremendous more opportunity.</p>	

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	Emphasis on BAS scheduling has proven to be extremely effective in reducing energy usage and costs.	
Member Updates/Announcements	Noise pollution to be a topic of discussion at next ESCAC meeting.	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting ended at 8:00 p.m. • Next meeting: April 2, 2024 	