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

**Meeting Date**: **February 7th, 2023, 6:30 pm**

## Attendance via Zoom:

Anne Keary (Community Co-Chair), Susan Bakshi (Parent), Valerie Endicott (Community Member), Hilary Inwood (OISE), Leslie Maxwell (Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region), Linda Naccarato (Community Member), Robin Richardson (Yonge4All), Nicole Roach (Green Communities Canada), Stefan Sommer (CUPE 4400), Bob Spencer (Community Member), Andrea Stephens (Parent), Sarah Urquhart (Doctoral Student, OISE), Monika Wlodarczyk (Parent), Michelle Aarts (Trustee, Ward 16), Richard Christie (TDSB), Alexis Dawson (Trustee, Ward 9), Matias de Dovitiis (Trustee, Ward 4), Kristen Evers (TDSB), David Hawker-Budlovsky (TDSB), Mary Kokinakis (TDSB), Dan MacLean (Trustee, Ward 2), Mahnaz Mirkhond-Chegini (TDSB), Gigi Shanks (TDSB), Craig Snider (TDSB), Jenn Vetter (TDSB).

**Regrets:** Alysse Kennedy (Natural Curiosity); Manna Wong (Co-Chair, Trustee Ward 20), Sunday Harrison (Green Thumbs Growing Kids).

| **ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **RECOMMENDATIONS / MOTIONS** |
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| Call to Order / Quorum | * Meeting called to order at 6:36 p.m.
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| Land Acknowledgment | * Land Acknowledgement
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| Approval of January 10, 2023 minutes | * Minutes approved, without comments
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| Introductions | * Co-Chair Anne Keary and Participants
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| TDSBs Strategic Budget Drivers (Presented by Craig Snider, Executive Officer, Business Services)  | C. Snider outlined the TDSB budget process and strategic budget drivers; he shared how budget drivers are updated and approved by the Board of Trustees on an annual basis to ensure they reflect the most current and up-to-date priorities. C. Snider touched upon Ministry funding and how monies are allocated, explaining the link to enrolment figures; he also provided an overview of budget process timelines. Members of TDSB Advisory Committees were invited to provide their input on the [Budget Strategic Drivers Feedback Form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdBnnB7loT62fnwvf81y8oAO8iXFdWnPhYPsETaR0gIuNc1Ig/viewform), due February 14, 2023. Responses gathered will guide and impact budget decisions. Useful links mentioned: The TDSB’s [public budget website](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Business-Services/Budgets-and-Financial-Statements) which houses all financial info and listings of all Advisory and Trustee committee meetings (in the [Boardroom](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Committees) section). | The Committee approved the following recommendation: The Environmental Sustainability Community Advisory Committee recommends:Whereas at its December 12, 2019 meeting, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) endorsed the City of Toronto’s climate emergency declaration; andWhereas the TDSB’s budget decisions must consider the worsening climate emergency;Therefore, be it resolved that the TDSB renew its commitment to responding to climate change by including climate action as a high priority budget driver in the 2023-24 budget. |
| Safe and Sustainable Transportation (presented by Trustee Michelle Aarts) | * Trustee Aarts outlined the Ontario Active School Travel program. She outlined advocacy work, shared school travel opportunity gaps, funding supports, and gave examples of the types of initiatives delivered (including the School Streets pilot project).
* It was noted that this topic could be put on the agenda of the next ESCAC meeting whereby staff could provide an update on what the TDSB is doing.
* Presentation sent by email to ESCAC Committee Members
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| Member Updates / Announcements | * Concerns were raised for current bulb usage and a need to move towards more LED bulbs as well as auto light shut offs.
* There was a suggestion that the TDSB’s Manager of Energy and Climate Action provide an update at a future ESCAC meeting on TDSB energy initiatives.
* Question asked about electric school buses; more information is available on this topic in the Climate Action Report.
* The 2022 Climate Action Report 2022 was circulated by email to the Committee.
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| Next Meeting Date | * April 4, 2023, 6:30 pm
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| **Adjournment** | * Feb 7, 2023 – 8:03 pm
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