**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Committee Name:** Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee

**Date:** February 7th, 2017

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

**Present:** Sheila Cary-Meagher (Trustee Co-Chair), Alice Cheng (TDSB student), Andrew Davies (No.9: Contemporary Art and the Environment), Paula Gallo (Evergreen), Pamela Gough (Trustee), Cindy MacMillan (Real Food for Real Kids), Lisa Milne (TDSB Parent), Jessie Sawyers (Teacher Candidate, OISE), Kristen Schaffer (Teacher Candidate, OISE), Kristin Schwartz CultureLink), Bob Spencer (Beach Community Energy Co-operative), Linda-Sue Thomas (Retired TDSB Principal), Emily Thompson (Real Food for Real Kids); Manna Wong (Trustee).

**TDSB:** Richard Christie (Senior Manager, Sustainability Office), Cynthia Chan (EcoSchools Specialist, Sustainability Office), Esther Collier (Teacher), Kristen Evers (Green Projects Team Leader, Sustainability Office), Peyton Leung (Teacher), Kathryn Winton (Teacher).

**Guests:** Linda Rothman (Senior Associate Researcher, SickKids).

**Recorder:** Cynthia Chan (EcoSchools Specialist, Sustainability Office).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ITEM** | **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION** | **ACTION/RECOMMENDATION/ MOTION** |
| Call to Order/Quorum | Meeting called to order at 6:33pm.  Welcome and introductions. |  |
| Approval of June 6th Minutes | The minutes of June 6th 2016 were approved. |  |
| Board Report - Environment Report | Richard Christie shared the *Environment Report* (see attached) that was received by the Program and School Services Committee in January.  The *Environment Report* provides an overview of the following:  **Part I** – Progress that has been made implementing EcoSchools, diverting waste, and addressing climate change  **Part II** – The role of incentives in increasing participation in EcoSchools  **Part III** – Plan for expanding TDSB’s collaboration with OISE in regards to Environmental Education  **Part IV** – Additional Measures that will bring more support to schools engaged in environmental initiatives  **Part V** – The important role system leaders can play in EcoSchools  A motion (see attached) was put forward by the Board for staff to present a new report by the June 2017 cycle of meetings. |  |
| Built for Walking: safe environments for active school transportation | Dr. Linda Rothman provided an overview of some of the research she and her colleagues at SickKids/York University have conducted regarding the built environment and active school transportation.  SickKids/ York University have conducted observational studies at TDSB JK-6 schools.    **Results**  A safer traffic environment is related to:   * Higher population/residential density * Low LOI scores * Fewer one way streets * Fewer traffic lights * More speed humps   Each additional risky driving behaviour was associated with a 45% increase in child pedestrian-motor vehicle collision (PMVC).  Traffic congestion is associated with more risky driving behaviours.  Designated drop off areas protected for some risky driving behaviours and dangerous mid-block crossings.  **Conclusions:**  Safety must be considered with the promotion of walking to school.  Built environment influence on PMVC is more important than walking rates.  To influence active transportation, route safety must be considered; in addition to school site safety. |  |
| Board Report – Improving School Traffic Management | Richard Christie shared the *Improving School Traffic Management report* with ESAC.  Report describes:   * Board initiatives and policies for Active, Safe and Sustainable Transportation * How ASST has been built into EcoSchools * Plans to expand partnership with Green Communities Canada * Upper Grand DSB’s approach to school traffic management   Selection criteria for identifying schools to be involved in pilot is still being determined. |  |
| Guide to Safer Streets Near Schools | Kristen Evers shared the new *Guide to Safer Streets Near Schools*, created by Green Communities Canada, York University and the University of Toronto, designed to assist residents in requesting street improvements within the City of Toronto that can assist in making school communities safer for student travel.  The guide accessibly explains City of Toronto policies that relate to street improvements and provides suggestions on which ones may be most relevant to a given community.  The guide also includes a toolkit with resources to help residents connect with their school councils and city Councillors.  Toronto Public Health has printed copies for all TDSB elementary schools and will soon be distributed to schools.  The guide is also available [online](http://www.tcat.ca/project/guide-to-safer-streets-near-schools/)    Members discussed Ottawa’s walking school buses idea and asked about some of the active transportation programs offered to TDSB schools.   * [Cycling Education Programs](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ecoschools/Home/EnrichyourProgram/CyclingSupports.aspx) available to elementary and secondary schools (delivered by CultureLink), application due February 28th * [EcoSchools Bike Rack program](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ecoschools/Home/EnrichyourProgram/CyclingSupports.aspx) provides bike racks to TDSB schools, free of charge. Applications due June 30th |  |
| Making Lunch a more “ecofriendly” experience | Cindy MacMillan and Emily Thompson from Real Food for Real Kids, shared details on their school lunch program  Currently operating in 23 TDSB schools, delivering family style service hot lunches  Advocates for longer lunches, fostering a healthier eating environment and “real food” (not prepackaged)  Aligns with EcoSchools litterless lunch goals - students may purchase a food container or bring use their own |  |
| ESAC Terms of Reference (draft) | Members reviewed the draft Terms of Reference and provided the following comments and suggestions.  **Mandate**   * Add “ to recommend, to identify, to discuss and to make recommendations to possible environmental and sustainable solutions” * “ ESAC takes action and provides advice on these issues”   **Terms of Membership**   * Part (a) to (e) – Approved * Part (f) – communication formats to include Systems Leader Bulletin, to reach out to student SuperCouncil, OISE partners, Toronto Youth Council (City of Toronto)   Discussion was paused at Terms of Membership Part (f) | ESAC Co-Chairs will work on refining Terms of Reference to share at next meeting. |
| ESAC Recommendations Report (draft) |  | Deferred until future meeting |
| Process for voting in a new Community Co-Chair | ESAC Terms of Reference indicate that If the Community Co-Chair is unable to fulfill a term, the ESAC can appoint a new community representative for the reminder of the one-year term. | Jessie Sawyers and Kristen Schaffer were appointed as ESAC’s Community Co-chairs for the remainder of the 2016/17 school year. |
| New and Other Business | ESAC suggested creating online forum for members.  Bob Spencer shared details on the Ontario Energy Association’s (OSEA) [Powering Prosperity Awards](http://www.poweringprosperity.ca) and encouraged others to apply. |  |
| Adjournment - Next Meeting Date | March 7, 2017 at 5050 Yonge St, Board Room |  |