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

**Meeting Date**: **April 4, 2023, 6:30 pm**

## Attendance via Zoom:

Anne Keary (Community Co-Chair), Manna Wong (Co-Chair, Trustee Ward 20), Michelle Aarts (Trustee, Ward 16), Maurice Buonastella (TDSB), Richard Christie (TDSB), Esther Collier (Community member), Kristen Evers (TDSB), David Hawker-Budlovsky (TDSB), Mary Kokinakis (TDSB), Erinn Reesor (Parent), Linda Naccarato (Community Member), Andrea Stephens (Parent), Valerie Endicott (Community Member), Sarah Urquhart (Doctoral St, OISE), Bob Spencer (Community Member), Mieke Foster (Community Member).

**Regrets:** Matias de Dovitiis (Trustee, Ward 4), Robin Richardson (Yonge4All), Barbara Falby (For Our Grandchildren)

| **ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **RECOMMENDATIONS / MOTIONS** |
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| Call to Order / Quorum | * Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. |  |
| Land Acknowledgment | * Land Acknowledgement |  |
| Approval of Feb 7, 2023 minutes | * Minutes approved, without comments |  |
| Introductions | * Co-Chairs Anne Keary and Manna Wong and Participants |  |
| TDSB Strategic Budget Drivers Update (Kristen Evers, Green Projects Team Leader, TDSB) | * In response to ESCAC’s recommendation to the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee (FBEC) on February 15, climate action has been incorporated into the TDSB budget drivers. * FBEC extended its appreciation to ESCAC for raising this important issue. * ESCAC member called new Strategic Driver changes “groundbreaking” and general sense of encouragement around leadership messaging, cited as holding promise to influence change. | <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Agenda-Minutes/Type/M/Year/2023?Filename=230308+Summ.pdf>  [See Agenda Item 16.2 (5)] |
| TDSB’s Student Census (Kristen Evers, Green Projects Team Leader, TDSB) | * In 2021/22, staff from the TDSB’s Research department met with ESCAC to gather feedback on the student census. * Based on feedback from ESCAC and the Outdoor Learning department, a question about outdoor learning time at school was added due to its connection to student mental health and well-being has been added as a new addition to the student census. * Suggestion made to reach out to the Urban Indigenous Centre and Urban Indigenous Advisory Committee to collaborate on community messaging. How can this committee support their work? | <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/research/Research/Parent-and-Student-Census> |
| School Applications for Heat Pumps (Maurice Buonastella, Manager, Energy and Climate Action, TDSB) | * An overview of heat pump technology and how they apply to schools was provided. * In addition, an overview of air-to-air pumps for heating/cooling, VRF Systems, Water-Source Heat Pumps was provided. * ESCAC member shared they would like to see a move from reliance on volunteer actions (i.e. shutting off lights) from eco-conscious staff to having eco-consciousness actions being built in to job descriptions and formalized. * Committee members expressed the importance of sharing not only gas reductions data, but also cost saving data from all energy initiatives being undertaken. |  |
| Youth Climate Action Grants Update (Kristen Evers, Green Projects Team Leader, TDSB) | * For the fall 2022 Youth Climate Action Grant funding round, 38 applications were received. * Applications for the Spring 2023 Youth Climate Action Grant close on May 31, 2023; funding decisions will be announced in June 2023 | <https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/environmental-grants-incentives/youth-climate-action-grants/> |
| Member Updates/ Announcements | * The Ward 20 EcoFair 2023 will be happening on April 29 at L’Amoreaux CI. * Wilkinson Public School will be hosting a Climate Expo event on May 6. * Suggested agenda topic for future ESCAC meeting: water supply at schools in the summer months. | <https://mcusercontent.com/d7a181900c0e469f851617e71/files/ff91b2bf-e36d-7128-7bd8-7b9bad4153d6/Danforth_Nature_Climate_Expo_Poster.pdf> |
| **Adjournment** | * Meeting ended 8:04 pm * Next Meeting May 1, 6:30 pm (changed from May 2) |  |