

**Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Limestone District School Board**

January 15, 2019

A meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee was held in the Barry C. O'Connor Board Room at the Limestone Education Centre, 220 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston, Ontario on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Present

Members: Leslie Hanson, Loving Spoonful
Roger Healey, KCAT
Jim Barber, Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
Linda Malcolm, KFL&A Public Health
Zabe MacEachren, Faculty of Education, Queen's University
Kristin Mullin, Sustainable Kingston

Officials: Michele Babcock, Superintendent
Dave Fowler, Manager of Facility Services
Dan Hendry, Sustainable Initiatives Coordinator
Cedric Pepelea, Energy/Environmental Technologist
Robin Hutcheon, Trustee
Joy Morning, Trustee

Regrets: Brooke Gilmour, St. Lawrence College

Guests: Jan Samis, Community Member
Shanshan Tian, Queen's University Student

Recorder: Liz Strange, Records Management Coordinator

1. Welcome

Superintendent Babcock read the Indigenous Greeting:

"The Limestone District School Board is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee. We acknowledge their enduring presence on this land, as well as the presence of Métis, Inuit and other First Nations from across Turtle Island. We honour their cultures and celebrate their commitment to this land."

2. Approval of Agenda

The following item was added to Other Business:

Climate Change Action Plan

MOVED BY: R. Healy, that the agenda of January 15, 2019, as amended, be approved.

3. Business Arising From the Minutes

None at this time.

4. Marker Recycling Presentation

Jan Samis, a former supply teacher and current volunteer at Southview P.S. provided an overview of the Staples recycling program, which works with Terracycle (a U.S. based company) to recycle plastic writing items. Ms. Samis is leading the program at Southview and would like to see it extended to other LDSB schools.

J. Samis also suggested that LDSB could investigate better ways to recycle food and beverage containers, paper and cardboard, and other items. The board could also investigate alternative options to items such as plastic utensils, etc.

It was noted that at present some schools are involved with the Crayola recycling program.

D. Fowler asked what Staples does with the plastic that it recycles. J. Samis answered that it is used in new plastic items.

Z. MacEachren suggested that teachers be spoken to about eliminating as much use of laminating as possible, as it is extremely difficult to recycle these items.

The committee was supportive of this program being shared with the district.

5. Community Organization Updates

Queens University, Faculty of Education

Z. MacEachren shared that the current year education students organized a trip to the Kingston recycling centre. The group was interested in how to bring information to children, who can then bring it home to parents.

Z. MacEachren has been winter camping with a group of students, and has been working on the spring environmental course.

Shanshan Tian, Queen's Education student, shared information about the various initiatives currently underway in her program. She also suggested using the data from energy and environmental process in the classroom, such as the results of waste audits.

KFL&A Public Health

L. Malcolm shared that KFLA Public health has just submitted an application Green Communities Canada for developing Active Transportation plans. Mother Theresa and Lancaster schools will be a part of the project, and the team will work with them until 2020.

KCAT

R. Healy shared that KCAT is an organization involved in research and advocacy for active transportation, and is mainly focused on the City of Kingston.

The group assisted the City of Kingston with its Active Transportation Master Plan. The target to make 35% of trips involve active transportation. The City is currently at about 20%. There is a multiyear plan in place, with a focus on infrastructure for multi-use lanes for cycling, walking, etc.

R. Healy suggested that it is time for the board to build on its new busing partnership with the City of Kingston, making walking and cycling more convenient for students.

R. Hutcheon stated that she had suggested eliminating all school buses in the city.

The group had a discussion of electric school buses, including the high costs involved in purchasing the vehicles.

D. Fowler explained that Tri-Board student Transportation is a consortium, working by contracting bus services from various operators. There is at least one operator that had applied for an electric bus through a recent provincial grant.

Sustainable Kingston

K. Mullin shared that Sustainable Kingston conducted a recycling presentation blitz in November with K-8 students.

The annual Kingston Climate Change Symposium is happening on Thursday. This is a zero carbon footprint event.

A new initiative called Sustainably.eco will be launching shortly. This will focus on connecting people with businesses who care about environmental issues.

Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority

J. Barber shared that there are several events happening in the next few weeks, including the Owl Hoot and Coyote Howl hike, Maple Madness, Cross-country ski lessons, the Seminar and Snowshoe event, and PA day programs.

The Forest Therapy program continues to be a big hit. This is an immersive experience out in the forest, and the CCRA is the first conversation authority in the province to have one. There is one session a month for the public, and individuals can also book private sessions.

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Loving Spoonful

L. Hanson shared that Mara Shaw is conducting a series of 'Helping Happy Hour' events. She will be going to various places to talk about the GROW Gardens project, and looking for suggestions on how to continue the program after funding ends in 2020.

St. Lawrence College

Representative not present at meeting.

LDSB

D. Hendry shared that the Evergreen school yard naturalization guidelines are being drafted.

The Kingston Transit Partnership program is being embraced across the country, and many municipalities have reached out to D. Hendry for further information. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities is developing an official document about the project that will be shared with all members.

C. Pepelea shared that the battery recycling program is doing well. The Board uses its internal courier to bring them to the board office, and the board receives money for batteries that are recycled. He suggested that marker recycling could be added to this process.

D. Hendry and C. Pepelea have been accepted to the Climate Reality training program, which will take place this spring.

C. Pepelea shared information about the many processes the board has in place to reduce waste and conserve energy, including CO2 sensors, waste audits and more.

D. Fowler confirmed that new builds would have rooms with sensors. Energy efficiency is taken into consideration during the planning of all new builds.

The Board is purchasing new bins to help improve recycling levels at schools, and reduce contamination rates.

Twenty-two schools have signed up to become EcoSchools, a 450% increase from the previous school year.

There was a suggestion to share waste audit results with students to help them better understand the process.

LDSB is in the process of creating a dashboard system to show a school-by-school usage of electricity, heating, water and waste.

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5. Election of Community Co-Chair

L. Hanson was selected for the Community Co-Chair position. Trustee Hutcheon will co-chair.

6. Other Business

R. Hutcheon suggested that the Board should have a Climate Action Plan. She asked for suggestions and recommendations from member organizations.

D. Fowler stated that the Board monitors and reports greenhouse gas levels on an annual basis. It also has an Energy Reduction Plan that has to be submitted to the Ministry every five years. He cautioned that any plans have to account for the level of annual funding.

This item to be discussed at the next meeting.

7. Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.