

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee January 14, 2020
Meeting Minutes
Limestone District School Board

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 14, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Present

Members: Brooke Gilmour, St. Lawrence College
Jim Barber, Cataraqui Conservation
Roger Healey, KCAT
Sarah Keyes, Loving Spoonful
Linda Malcolm, KFL&A Public Health

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

Regrets: Kristin Mullin, Sustainable Kingston
Zabe MacEachren, Faculty of Education, Queen's University

Guests: Matt Kussin, City of Kingston

Recorder: Liz Strange, Records Management Coordinator

1. Welcome

Trustee Hutcheon 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

MOVED BY: R. Healy, that the agenda of January 14, 2020, as presented, be approved.

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee January 14, 2020
Meeting Minutes
Limestone District School Board

3. Business Arising From the Minutes

None at this time.

4. Community Presentation – Matt Kussin, City of Kingston

Matt Kussin, City of Kingston, provided a presentation on 'Safe Routes to School', which is part of the City's Active Transportation Master Plan. This is a 20-year plan, adopted in 2018, to develop a comprehensive City-wide AT network, create neighbourhood transportation plans, and support programs, partnerships, and initiatives to create an AT culture.

This initiative is about making it easier for students to walk or bike to and from school. The program is based on the Green Communities model, which is a best-practice model for School Travel Planning that has been implemented across Canada.

Reducing vehicular traffic volumes creates safer school zones. Improving walking and cycling routes to school also enhances the safety and quality of life for the community as a whole.

Active school travel helps children meet the recommended 60 minutes per day of moderate to vigorous physical activity, which is linked with improved physical health. Active school travel is associated with mental health benefits including reduced stress, depression and anxiety, as well as increased happiness.

Reducing the number of children being driven to school reduces greenhouse gas emissions and particulate air pollution around the school; this improves air quality and reduces associated risks of lung and cardiovascular disease.

M. Kussin spoke about the area related to Mother Teresa Catholic School and Lancaster Drive Public School, which is one of three 'neighbourhood improvement' areas that the City will focus on during their capital improvement work. The City will work with the schools to develop 2-3 preferred routes to school, develop wayfinding signage, and maps. The City will also review needed improvements to crossings/intersections, sidewalks, cycling lanes, etc.

It was asked if the schools have a person who walks to school with students. L. Malcolm, KFLA Public Health, explained that they have a program called the Walking School Bus that trains senior students to walk with younger students. It is difficult to keep running year to year, but with the new focus on active transportation it could be picked up again.

L. Malcolm explained that KFLA Public Health is working with Patricia Collins around 'School Streets', a program to close streets to thru traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times. There has been success with this in other provinces and countries. In addition to supporting active transportation for students, it also lowers pollution levels in front of schools from idling cars.

It was confirmed that some monies associated with neighbourhood improvement will be dedicated to active travel routes.

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee January 14, 2020
Meeting Minutes
Limestone District School Board

It was asked what is happening with crossing guards. A report went to council in 2019 about this issue. Some areas have been prioritized for upgrades and the City is working to identify ways for school crossings to be safe during hours without crossing guards, as well as installing or upgrading pedestrian crossing equipment.

5. Community Presentation – Sarah Keyes, Loving Spoonful

Sarah Keyes, Food Education Manager at Loving Spoonful, provided a presentation on the GROW project.

The GROW project provides hands-on learning about good food, community, collaboration, and the environment. It provides 7 classroom and garden workshops to Limestone students and meets several curriculum expectations for grades 4-8 students. It also provides several field trips for students, to locations such as local farms and Little Cataraqui Creek Conservations Area.

The program has worked with LDSB Facility services staff to create accessible beds for students, staff and volunteers.

At present GROW gardens have been established in 19 LDSB schools, across both urban and rural sites.

6. Community Organization Updates

Queens University, Faculty of Education

Not present at meeting.

KFL&A Public Health

L. Malcolm reported that Patricia Collins is trying to get a grant for a 'School Streets' program in Kingston.

June 3-4 is the Easter Ontario Active Transportation Summit. D. Hendry will be a presenter. The event is limited to 80 participants. There will be a rural component.

KFLA Public health had an internal working group on road design and have developed recommendations to support active transportation.

KCAT

R. Healy reported that he is a member of the City of Kingston's Environmental Advisory Committee. This group will be developing a report card for the city on various topics, which should be ready for next fall.

The City is considering a 'Play Street' project, which involves closing off certain streets to encourage children to be outside playing.

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee January 14, 2020
Meeting Minutes
Limestone District School Board

Traffic cameras have been approved and will be installed in the next year. These will record cars that enter intersections when the light is red and will issue a \$350 ticket. Speed cameras will also be coming in the near future.

Sustainable Kingston

Not present at meeting.

Cataraqui Conservation

J. Barber reported that Cataraqui Conversation will be participating at the upcoming Sustainable Kingston summit.

Recent funding cuts have eliminated 2 full-time positions.

Cataraqui Conservation will still be doing a tree planting program, but it will be different than in past years.

The organization has a new General Manager.

Cataraqui Conservation has rebranded, including a name change. It will also be replacing signage for all properties.

Loving Spoonful

As per presentation.

St. Lawrence College

B. Gilmour reported that Ontario Commute app is free for community organizations until 2020. It includes active transportation, carpooling, emergency rides, etc.

The college will be participating in a WWF recycling mania, which aligns with current initiatives.

LDSB

C. Pepelea and D. Hendry shared information about a number of initiatives happening in the Board:

- Eco Schools – 20 schools have registered for this year
- Collaboration with St. Lawrence College – working with students to track energy consumption at LDSB sites
- Lighting Update – 4 new schools have been upgraded to 100% LED lighting
- Green Bin Program – Green Bins will be allowed at City Schools. Logistics are still being worked out.

It was asked if any LDSB schools are bullfrog powered. It was confirmed they are not. It was clarified that LDSB is part of a consortium for purchasing.

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee January 14, 2020
Meeting Minutes
Limestone District School Board

7. Brainstorm Potential New Members

Members were asked to reflect and send in recommendations to L. Strange. A list will be created for the next meeting.

8. Other Business

None at this time.

9. Next Meeting Date

March 10, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment

MOVED BY: R. Healy, that the meeting adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.