

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee May 12, 2020
Meeting Minutes
Limestone District School Board

A meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee was held virtually on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 4:00 p.m., hosted by the Limestone District School Board.

Present

Members: Brooke Gilmour, St. Lawrence College
Roger Healey, KCAT
Sarah Keyes, Loving Spoonful
Zabe MacEachren, Faculty of Education, Queen's University
Jennifer Ruddy, Loving Spoonful

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
Linda Malcolm, KFL&A Public Health
Stana Luxford-Oddie, Cataraqui Conservation

Guests:

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

MOVED BY: Trustee Morning, that the agenda of May 12, 2020, as presented, be approved.

3. Business Arising From the Minutes

Superintendent Babcock reported that the outreach to possible new ESAC members has been deferred to the Fall due to the COVID 19 situation.

Suggestions for new members can be sent to Superintendent Babcock or D. Hendry.

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4. Community Organization Updates

Queens University, Faculty of Education

Z. MacEachren stated that she is delivering her spring courses through remote teaching. The Environmental Education course will be taught twice because of the large number of education students. She is working to make the virtual learning as engaging and experiential as possible.

Gardens at Faculty of Education will be maintained this summer by university staff.

Z. MacEachren has been applying for grants for studying the effectiveness of environmental education learning by secondary students.

The 72 hour concentration Environmental Education course will be running next year. A new teacher will lead that course.

KFL&A Public Health

Not present at meeting.

KCAT

R. Healy shared that KCAT has been working for last 6 weeks on assisting the City with the drastic reduction in transit riders. KCAT is looking at the process for adding more space for walking and cycling while car use is down.

Public Health has been promoting exercise for physical and mental health, which is not possible for many with the current situation.

Sustainable Kingston

Not present at meeting.

Cataraqui Conservation

Not present at meeting.

Loving Spoonful

S. Keyes reported that Loving Spoonful has been working with LDSB and KFLA Public Health on a process to grow food at school gardens for donation. Staff has also made an online version of Grow Garden workshops.

The Garden for Good campaign has started, with the intention to entice people to grow food for donations, which would then be shared with community partners and Fresh Food stands.

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Loving spoonful has partnered with the Kingston Community Health Centres and the Good Food Box program to get food out to people in need.

Loving Spoonful has advocated to open community gardens, and they have now Public Health and provincial approval to be open.

St. Lawrence College

B. Gilmour reported that Cycle Week is still going forward.

St. Lawrence donated a large amount of cleaning and PPE equipment to local organizations.

Construction has been delayed, but just recently got the approval to start up again.

B. Gilmour is working with academics to build sustainability in teaching.

Staff are working on plans for future renovation, which will include the organization's first net zero building.

LDSB

D. Hendry has an article in Green Teacher magazine called 'Youth Transforming Transit'. He will be doing a webinar for them as well.

D. Hendry developed a report for the Board of Trustees on the LDSB transportation, which will be presented tomorrow.

C. Pepelea shared that he has been in contact with EcoSchools, who is still engaging with students through online content. LDSB still has the potential to certify this year.

Many lighting projects are still moving forward. A solar system upgrade for the two portable classrooms at the Gould Lake Outdoor Education site is going ahead.

On April 17 C. Pepelea finished working with the four St. Lawrence College placement students.

Superintendent Babcock spoke to the outstanding work of educators who continue to encourage environmental lessons with students. Superintendent Babcock shared the example of an educator at LaSalle Secondary School who has produced a 'How to start a garden' video for his students in the School to Community program in lieu of the class being unable to do this at school during closure.

5. Other Business

None at this time.

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6. Next Meeting Date

October 13, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

7. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.