

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

March 20, 2018

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, March 20, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Present

Members: Logan Anderson, LDSB Student Council Representative
Brooke Gilmour, St. Lawrence College
Roger Healey, KCAT
Sarah Keyes, Loving Spoonful
Sam Laing, LDSB Student Council Representative
Stana Luxford Oddie, Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
Linda Malcolm, KFL&A Public Health
Zabe MacEachren, Faculty of Education, Queen's University

Officials: Michele Babcock, Superintendent
Dave Fowler, Manager of Facility Services
Dan Hendry, Sustainable Initiatives Coordinator
Joe Hendry, Energy/Environmental Technologist
David Jackson, Trustee

Regrets: Tracey McKenzie, County of Lennox & Addington
Pavel Graymason, Sustainable Kingston
Tom Carpenter, SWITCH
Robin Hutcheon, Parent Involvement Committee
Kelly Pender, County of Frontenac

Guests:

Recorder: Liz Strange, Records Management Coordinator

1. Welcome

Sarah Keyes welcomed those in attendance to the meeting.

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: Z. MacEachren, that the agenda of March 20, 2018 be approved.
Carried.*

3. Business Arising From the Minutes

None at this time.

4. United Way Food Access Presentation

Bhavana Varma, Executive Director of the KFLA United Way, provided a presentation on the new Food Access program.

As part of the ongoing work of the United Way on poverty reduction with the City the issue of food access keeps arising.

The Food Access Steering Committee developed guiding principles and focus areas. As part of this, two strategies emerged:

- Mobile Markets that provide affordable, fresh produce across the region
- Partnership with school boards and unions regarding the potential use of school properties for community use, including mobile markets and community meals/cooking.

The concept of mobile markets was introduced by Zach Deodato, based on a similar initiative in Hastings and Prince Edward, provided through Community Development Council, Belleville. To begin the project there will be five locations: Sydenham, Napanee and three in Kingston. The initiative is currently working with school unions and administration to explore the feasibility of using school premises for these pilot mobile markets.

The funding for the project will come from United Way, City of Kingston and the Community Fund.

S. Keyes asked how the locations were decided on. B. Varma answered that the committee wanted an east, west and central site in Kingston, and one in each of L&A and Frontenac. Hopefully, the project will be able to expand to Sharbot Lake in the future.

5. Evergreen Design Consultation Presentation

Terence Radford, Evergreen Design Consultant, attended the meeting to provide an overview of the work underway with the Limestone District School Board.

T. Radford explained that Urban Centres are growing at a faster rate than any other area. When looking at school yards in urban areas, it is not uncommon to find a space resembling a prison yard, as most are designed by adults with the primary goal of supervising and containing children. School yards can be rich environments for learning, play, social development and a valued resource for the community.

Evergreen was established as a not-for-profit in 1991 and is Canada's leading funder and facilitator of Greening Projects for schools, communities and Homes. Its Mission is to inspire and enable action to green cities in order to create Greener Cities and a Healthy Planet. The key program areas are greenspace, children, food, and CityWorks. As part of their work with Children, T. Radford will be working with the LDSB to create Guidelines and a Process for schools to engage in School Ground Greening Projects. Evergreen will also be assisting approved schools through the planning process and in the development of concept plans.

The goals For School Ground Greening are:

- To improve student health and well being
- To nurture child development
- To improve student achievement
- To improve ecological literacy
- To increase ecological diversity
- To increase educational use
- To improve energy and cost efficient design

School grounds, by their design and the way they are managed, convey messages and meanings to children, which influence their attitude and behaviour in a variety of ways.

Research shows that green school grounds address many of children's educational, developmental and social needs, and they influence kids' attitudes about the world around them. Further, green school grounds improve the quality of play. Their diversity encourages cooperation, as a living space, they are temporal and changing, and they can reduce anxiety and stress resulting in less aggressive behavior.

When designing outdoor spaces the key areas considered are: active spaces, ecological spaces, experimental spaces, gathering spaces and individual spaces.

The School Ground Greening 5 Step Process is:

1. Establish a team
2. Gather Information
3. Develop your plan
4. Implement your plan
5. Evaluate and Monitor

As part of Evergreen's work with LDSB they will support Team Building, Developing a Project Scope and Vision, Design and Implementation, Renovation or Rejuvenation of existing projects, Horticultural Issues, Determining who can do what, Supply funding resources, and assistance through the approvals process.

Z. MacEachren asked who does the actual work. T. Radford answered that Evergreen offers advice on who can do specific types of work, i.e items that need expertise, licensing, insurance, etc. He added that volunteers can also assist with planting and smaller areas of the project.

Manager Fowler stated how pleased he has been with the process so far, and looks forward to working with Evergreen on their first school-yard naturalization project. He shared how welcoming they have been, and how inspiring it was to visit their home office site (Brickworks) in Toronto. He noted that they also visited some TDSB sites that had completed school-yard naturalization projects.

Superintendent Babcock stated that she appreciated the wealth of knowledge of the Evergreen staff and the multitude of resources available.

S. Luxford Oddie thanked everyone for making the partnership happen.

6. Ministry of Education: Discussion paper: a new vision for student transportation

D. Hendry shared that the Ministry of Education is working on a new vision for student transportation. As part of this, they have reached out to LDSB specifically to discuss their successful partnership with Kingston Transit. Members were asked to review the initiative and provide feedback.

The link to find out more: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/consultation-new-vision-student-transportation#section-1>

L. Malcolm shared that KFLA Public Health has just finished writing a response for the consultation. She offered to share their response with ESAC.

7. Community Organization Update

Student Representatives

S. Laing reported that LCVI is working on the following items:

- o LCVI Eco Club
- o Trying to encourage more composting – three large bins from the culinary program
- o Smaller composting bins at the entrance and exit to cafeteria
- o Organizing a school yard and community clean-up
- o Community garden in the works – GROW project
- o Measuring power consumption

L. Anderson reported that Sydenham H.S. is working on the following:

- o Planning for future Eco work
- o Working in Inside Ride
- o Earth Day trash collection
- o Climate change video for school assembly

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Queens University, Faculty of Education

Z. MacEachren reported that the Environmental Education course is continuing, while the Spring course is being prepared.

It has been past practice to send Queen's students out to work on environmental projects in LDSB schools.

A recent Queen's survey asked how students how they feel about outdoor space at the university. Z. MacEachren hopes these answers will lead to some improvements in the space.

County of Frontenac

Representative not present at the meeting.

KFL&A Public Health

L. Malcolm reported the spring initiative 'Walk, cycle, bus, leave the car behind' starts soon. KFL&A Public Health is encouraging participants to create a banner and share through Twitter. The winner will receive money for a fruit and vegetable party.

KFL&A Public Health will be joining the commuter challenge, and are inviting high schools to take place.

KCAT

R. Healy stated that KCAT is still busy working on Active Transportation Master Plan with the City of Kingston. There was significant feedback on the first draft, and now the plan is being reworked.

KCAT will be involved in the Commuter Challenge.

The organization is looking at ways to have Kingston Transit expand beyond the City limits.

SWITCH

Representative not present at the meeting.

The County of Lennox & Addington

Representative not present at the meeting.

Sustainable Kingston

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Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority

S. Luxford-Oddie reported that it is Maple Madness time at the CRCA. There have been many students from LDSB attending.

There are still spaces for spring programs.

The CRCA will be running summer camps for kids 6-11.

Loving Spoonful

S. Keyes shared that Loving spoonful will be in the new Rideau Heights Community Centre three times a week, leading cooking classes .

New GROW projects will be happening at Cataraqui Woods P.S., GREC, Selby P.S., and Bayridge P.S.

Family engagement workshops will be happening in the near future.

Four GROW workshops will run between April and June.

Parent Involvement Committee

Representative not present at the meeting.

St. Lawrence College

B. Gilmour shared that the college is promoting online carpooling for all three campuses.

An e-waste drop off is happening at the Kingston campus on Saturday, March 24.

The college is working on its greenhouse gas inventory and a sustainability plan.

The Kingston Campus is in Stage 3 of its renovations and is targeting a LEAD 3 designation. The new space will include geothermal heating and natural lighting, a cistern and innovative gray water use. There will be also 2 EV charging stations.

One of the older buildings on the campus is also being renovated as it is looking to get a LEAD designation. When completed, it will house the Behavioural Sciences program.

LDSB

Manager Fowler shared that LDSB has received monies from the province to upgrade sites for better efficiency, accessibility and safety. As such, Facility Services will be replacing windows, heating systems, adding better insulation, etc.

There are many retrofits happening that will equal large cost savings at various sites.

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LDSB received Greenhouse Gas funding money in the amount of \$2 million dollars last year, which had to be implemented before the end of March 2018. This money was used to replace older roofs, windows, etc, which will result in efficiency and cost savings.

D. Hendry reported that for the 2017/2018 school year LDSB received the new Climate Change funding (\$9,250) provided by the Ontario Ministry of Education through CODE. This money will go to:

Environmental Stewardship: A Student's Lens

- Eco Schools (teacher release time)
- The Great Lake Water Festival (bussing)

The following events have recently occurred or will be happening in the near future:

- Jan. 26 Transit Presentation to Ontario Public School Boards' Association
- Feb. 6 Transit Presentation to Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Sustainable Communities Award
- Evergreen work
- Loving Spoonful work
- Earth Hour March 23 @ LDSB Schools
- Great Lakes Water Festival

J. Hendry reported that Facility Services had recently hosted an Eco Schools workshop for LDSB staff. The session included the Evergreen presentation, and presenting resources to help teachers with the Eco Schools program. Kits were given out to have staff do their own waste and energy consumption monitoring.

8. Other Business

Timing of ESAC meetings

Superintendent Babcock asked if the members would be interested in moving the start time of meeting from 6:00 to 5:30 p.m.

The members agreed to the time change by consensus.

Trustee Jackson shared that Wintergreen Renewable Energy Co-op is having an electric car event in May. Details are available on the website.

9. Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

10. Adjournment

MOTION: R. Healy, that the meeting adjourn. Carried

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.