

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

**April 1, 2015**

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 Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

**Present**

**Members:** A. Mack, Co-chair of the School Council Liaison  
S. Luxford Oddie, Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority  
T. McKenzie, County of Lennox & Addington  
L. Malcolm, KFL&A Public Health  
T. Carpenter, SWITCH  
R. Healey, KCAT  
K. Pender, County of Frontenac  
V. Paquin, Sustainable Kingston  
M. Shaw, Loving Spoonful  
B. Stills, St. Lawrence College

**Officials:** A. Ross, Co-Chair  
D. Jackson, Trustee  
P. Murray, Trustee  
D. Hendry, Sustainable Initiatives Coordinator  
J. Hendry, Energy/Environmental Technologist  
D. Fowler, Manager of Facility Services  
S. Lehman, Supervising Principal

**Regrets:** M. Sewell, Program Leader, Skills Training & Technology  
K. Moulton, Hydro One  
Z. MacEachren, Faculty of Education, Queen's University

**Guests:**

**Recorder:** L. Strange, Records Management Coordinator

**1. Welcome**

Trustee Ross welcomed those in attendance to the meeting.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

*MOVED BY: Trustee Murray that the agenda, as distributed, be approved. Carried.*

**3. Approval of the Minutes – January 28, 2015**

*MOVED BY: R. Healy that the minutes of January 28, 2014, as distributed, be approved. Carried.*

**4. Business Arising From the Minutes**

None at this time.

**5. Community Food Gardens AP**

The members discussed the newly designed and approved Community Food Garden Administrative Procedure.

It was suggested that a celebration in connection with the opening of the new community food garden at Lord Strathcona Public School should be arranged for June 2015. This would be an ideal way to highlight the area of school gardens, as well as the many successful partnerships with community agencies, such as the Heart & Stroke Foundation, which make these projects possible. It was further suggested that representatives from all schools that have a community food garden should be invited to the celebration.

*ACTION: S. Lehman to connect with the LDSB Communications department around communication and organization of a celebration at Lord Strathcona Public School.*

**6. Community Organizations Updates**

County of Frontenac

The county of Frontenac has been busy with a two-day study of its economic development, in alignment with the 4 pillars of its sustainability plan. The municipality has also been working on its 'trips and trails' project and on Friday May 8 will host its annual sustainable breakfast at Grace Hall in Sydenham.

KCAT

On May 30<sup>th</sup> KCAT will be hosting an active transportation event at Henderson Public School, which will also involve the City of Kingston Police and Cycle Kingston.

May 31-June 6<sup>th</sup> is cycling week all across Canada, and there will be events all week. The Commuter Challenge will be taking place again, with Kingston having placed 1<sup>st</sup> for a city our size for last two years.

KFL&A Public Health

Clean Air Day – Leave the Car Behind is taking place in June in Kingston. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year the event has run in Kingston. The event has involved a poster challenge, with copies of the winner going out to Kingston schools.

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A Water Festival, a pilot project with community partners, will take place on June 4<sup>th</sup> at Lake Ontario Park for all grade 4 students. The event will have a series of learning stations, and is sponsored by the Children's Water Education Council.

The County of Lennox & Addington

The county is moving toward paperless meetings as a corporate initiative.

Sustainable Kingston

Sustainable Kingston has been working on developing its four-year strategic plan.

Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority

The last few months have been Sugar Bush season, and the conservation area has been visited by many LDSB students. The CRCA is encouraging teachers to extend what is learned at the conservation area in schools.

The CRCA is planning for tree planting, and many LDSB schools will be involved.

The CRCA will be hosting a fundraiser to help support Education Programs. It will take place on Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Zorba's with musical entertainment by Heat Wave.

Loving Spoonful

Grow Garden projects are underway at 7 LDSB schools. The program brings in local farmers to speak to students and help start the gardens.

Loving Spoonful is facilitating a number of cooking workshops with Partners to Education students at various Kingston Community Health Centres sites.

M. Shaw is also a member of the Food Policy Council and can be available to assist with research projects.

St. Lawrence College

St. Lawrence College is in the process of developing a Sustainability Plan and a Greenhouse Gas Action Plan.

On Earth Day St. Lawrence college students assisted with the concert that took place.

B. Stills is also a part of the team working on the Community Climate Action Plan.

LDSB

J. Hendry shared that the LDSB continues to install LED lighting with lower wattage use.

For the month of April an SLC Energy Systems student will be working with LDSB.

**7. Review 2013/14 Annual Report**

S. Lehman shared a copy of the 2013/14 LDSB Sustainability Report with the ESAC members for review and feedback.

Some suggestions for improvements/additions to the content were:

- Providing background on Eco-School Certification.
- Inclusion of projects with community partners.
- Have ESAC member organizations listed on a dedicated ESAC page on the LDSB website.
- Use social media to share information.
- Start with a strong statement to engage readers, i.e. "Why should I be reading this?"
- List focus for future work/projects, i.e. "What's happening next year?"
- Link to the City of Kingston's sustainability plan.
- Build a calendar of events with community partners and share through all systems.
- Be certain that all regions of the LDSB are represented.
- Highlight student driven initiatives such as the One earth, One chance conference or the Interschool Council's Environmental Ambassador.
- Put a survey out to the LDSB system to share projects/events happening in schools.
- Share guidelines of how to partner with the LDSB.

*ACTION: D. Hendry to list member organization of ESAC with links back to their websites on the LDSB website.*

*ACTION: D. Hendry to compile a calendar of events for the 2015-16 school year.*

For next meeting it was suggested to review the process for engaging in partnerships, both formal and informal, with other departments of LDSB.

*ACTION: J. Hendry to share the EcoSchools newsletter with ESAC members.*

**8. Follow-up Discussion on School Yard Naturalization**

S. Lehman reviewed the discussion at the previous ESAC meeting where concerns were raised that perhaps the focus of the committee was becoming too narrow. He clarified that the use of the term 'flag ship project' was not meant to indicate that one specific area/project would be the sole focus of the committee.

Manager Fowler shared information from a recent conversation with Evergreen and their possible assistance to the LDSB in a school yard naturalization project.

Evergreen is a not-for-profit organization that assists school boards and municipalities through various capacities; as a consulting firm, to guide in applying for funding for projects, etc. Evergreen has provided a quote of \$15,000 to assist in the development of board-wide policy, procedure and guidelines for the naturalization of school yards. Manager Fowler is working with the LDSB Finance department to see if this could proceed without having to go to tender as Evergreen is the sole organization that provides this type of service.

Manager Fowler clarified that the guidelines developed by Evergreen would incorporate practices/procedures already in place, such as tree planting, and would be for existing play grounds and new builds. The guidelines would provide options within different types of spaces and budgets to maximize natural environments for learning, and would apply to both rural and urban school sites.

Specific site plans would involve further costs.

Z. MacEachren was unable to attend the meeting, but provided a written statement of her support in engaging the services of Evergreen.

*MOTION: To endorse the engagement of Evergreen's services to develop school yard naturalization guidelines.*

*MOVED BY: Trustee Murray. Carried.*

**9. ESAC Supported Projects**

Members suggested looking at completed projects to see if they can be expanded, and/or replicated in other areas/schools/partnerships.

Members agreed to provide event information for the next year for D. Hendry to prepare a roadmap for the next school year. D. Hendry will send guidelines.

Members were in agreement that ESAC should focus on engaging students in the respect and appreciation of nature.

The committee agreed to review a few ideas/priorities, in addition to school yard naturalization, to consider as areas of focus for the next year, and would be open to the creation of sub-committees for more concrete work.

**10. Other Business**

Trustee Ross suggested the inclusion of an Aboriginal/Inuit/Metis representative on ESAC. S. Lehman will review the Terms of Reference for number of member organizations allowed on the committee and will report back at May meeting.

**11. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting of the ESAC is scheduled for May 6, 2015, at the Limestone Education Centre, 220 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston, at 6:00 p.m.

**12. Adjournment**

*MOVED BY: Trustee Jackson that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.