

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

May 15, 2017

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, May 15, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Present

Members: Tom Carpenter, SWITCH
Roger Healy, KCAT
Robin Hutcheon, Parent Involvement Committee
Mara Shaw, Loving Spoonful
Stana Luxford Oddie, Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
Linda Malcolm, KFL&A Public Health
Zabe MacEachren, Faculty of Education, Queen's University
Kathy Moulton, Hydro One
Kelly Pender, County of Frontenac

Officials: Michele Babcock, Supervising Principal
Dave Fowler, Manager of Facility Services - regrets
Dan Hendry, Sustainable Initiatives Coordinator
Joe Hendry, Energy/Environmental Technologist
David Jackson, Trustee
Tom Mahoney, Trustee
Paula Murray, Trustee

Regrets: Tracey McKenzie, County of Lennox & Addington
William Sanderson, Student Trustee
Iain Munroe, Sustainable Kingston
Beth Sills, St. Lawrence College

Guests:

Recorder: Liz Strange, Records Management Coordinator

1. Welcome

Trustee Jackson welcomed those in attendance to the meeting.

Trustee Jackson shared a draft membership letter with the committee for renewing membership for the upcoming 2017-1018 year. A final copy will be sent to members for them to renew and identify an alternate in case of absence.

2. Approval of Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda:

- ESAC focus & potential membership

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- Sustainable Kingston membership
- Carbon footprint of LDSB
- Federal Active Transportation Strategy

MOVED BY: L. Malcolm, that the agenda of May 15, 2017 be approved. Carried.

3. Business Arising From the Minutes

Role of Committee & Membership

Trustee Jackson stated that as the committee had been in existence for many years, it may be time to revisit ~~the~~ its format, focus and membership. He suggested that at least, the agenda format should be reviewed and revised.

Trustee Jackson further suggested that the committee may wish to change its focus to exploring potential projects for sites within the Board, and to make formal recommendations to the Board on these matters.

M. Shaw stated she found it to be a useful approach to have one area to focus on. With the committee only meeting 4 times per year it's difficult to focus/advise on several items/issues.

Trustee Mahoney stated his support for one item of focus per school year.

M. Babcock reminded the members that any changes to format or focus would require a policy change.

R. Healy stated that what is learned during the meetings' round table is a valuable. He further stated that he enjoyed learning about what's happening in the Board, and shares this information through his work. He feels the Board has been doing good work on Food Security and School Yard Naturalization, but would like to see more attention to the area of Transportation.

D. Jackson suggested setting up a sub-committee to gather suggestions for a focus for the 2017-18 school year. The members felt that a sub-committee was not necessary, and that this could be addressed at the first meeting of the 2017-2018 school year.

P. Murray stated she would like a 'Call for membership' to go out, and hoped to attract a youth group of some kind to participate.

M. Shaw stated that the first meeting of the new school year would be the ideal time to break into small groups and discuss the focus for the year.

K. Pender stated that other ESACs in the province are more project based, and work within a framework.

D. Fowler suggested that Facility Services share what projects are occurring in LDSB that could use advice/assistance from the community.

Sustainable Kingston - Green Economy Kingston

At the last meeting, Sustainable Kingston representatives provided a presentation on their Green Economy Kingston initiative, and invited the LDSB to become a formal member.

D. Hendry reminded the members that the Green Economy Kingston initiative provides member organizations with a team of experts to measure greenhouse gases, and help design ways for organizations to become more environmentally friendly.

D. Hendry shared that Sustainable Kingston is hosting an 'Evening of Recognition' on May 24, 2017 at the Residence Inn by Marriott.

M. Shaw stated that she felt the membership was a steep fee, and that the LDSB has in-house expertise that could accomplish the same thing.

R. Healy stated he felt it would be beneficial for an organization like the LDSB.

Trustee Mahoney stated that other organizations like Hydro One offer similar services for free. He suggested investigating alternative options before making a decision about joining.

Z. MacEachren suggested that if the LDSB does join that the savings be put toward programming that gets kids outside.

S. Luxford-Oddie stated that there is also a need to get teachers engaged in outdoor education, as their commitment will spill over to students.

L. Malcolm suggested that the Board work on getting students outside during inclement weather (rain and snow).

D. Jackson suggested joining Sustainable Kingston would be a way to engage with community expertise.

P. Murray stated that the Board needs to find internal efficiencies before bringing a request to the Board.

ACTION: Defer the matter until the Fall.

4. Community Organizations Updates

Queens University, Faculty of Education

Z. MacEachren shared that Queen's Concurrent students have just graduated and that Consecutives students are in their final practicums.

This year's Outdoor Education class will take place at Little Cataraqui Conservation Area.

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Z. MacEachren is looking to Link Education Students with the Indigenous Community for Canada 150 celebration, possibly with a canoe trip.

Hydro One

K. Moulton reported that the 'Move to Mobile' initiative (tablets in vehicles) has saved over a million dollars in fuel in first quarter, mostly through reducing incidents of speeding and harsh breaking.

The program has a 7-year pay back term.

4700 vehicles now have telematics.

County of Frontenac

K. Pender stated the County of Frontenac has become the first county in Ontario to be given a Community Improvement Plan grant for the whole county. The council's direction has been to put these funds toward energy projects within the county. There will be community input meetings in the fall.

North Frontenac and South Frontenac Community services have partnered to review rural transportation to urban areas. \$100,000 has been dedicated to study and implement a plan to improve ride-share and access.

KFL&A Public Health

L. Malcolm shared that the school team has 20 schools signed up for the Walk, Cycle, Bus (Leave the car behind) day.

June 1 is the date for this year's Great Lake Water Festival, and there are 300 students participating. The spots filled in up in two days, with many on a waiting list. The program is looking to expand for the next year so more students can participate.

6000 kids participated in this year's Celebration of Dance.

May 31-June 1 is the Eastern Ontario Active Transportation meeting.

KCAT

R. Healy shared that the week June 3-10 is Cycling week, and is also the Commuter Challenge Week.

The grand opening of the K&P Trail from Downtown Kingston to Binnington Court area is happening on June 10.

The City's Active Transportation Master Plan final Open House is happening Wednesday, June 7 at City Hall.

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SWITCH

Representative not present at the meeting.

The County of Lennox & Addington

Representative not present at the meeting.

Sustainable Kingston

Representative not present at the meeting.

Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority

S. Luxford-Oddie shared that the CRCA has been busy with flooding issues.

Information about the upcoming Lake Event was shared with the members. This event is open to the public.

The CRCA has received a TD Friends of the Environment grant for an Indigenous Knowledge garden.

Loving Spoonful

M. Shaw stated that Loving Spoonful received a one-year grant to work with the YCMA on the 'Get fresh, Get Going' project, aimed at physical activity and healthy food. This is a 6-week program going to 8 schools this year.

In the Fall Loving Spoonful will be receiving funding from the Trillium Foundation: \$500,000 to expand the school gardens programs. Over three years Loving Spoonful will be adding 5 schools per year. Salt of the Earth farm will become an educational area for students to see urban farming.

Loving Spoonful also received a Canada 150 grant to work with the Katarokwi Learning Centre for the 'Cook, Camera, Action' program. Participants will learn cooking skills and make films about the experience. The program will also have local Indigenous knowledge holders participate.

Parent Involvement Committee

R. Hutcheon shared the PIC focus is on parental issues, mainly student well-being and resources.

St. Lawrence College

Representative not present at the meeting.

LDSB

D. Hendry shared that since the last meeting the LDSB has be involved with or will be participating in:

- Grade 8 bus passes, planning on High School Orientation for the fall
- Earth Hour, March 24
- The Great Lake Water Festival, June 1
- Continued work with Evergreen
- Green Economy Kingston

5. Review of 2017/2018 Organization ESAC Confirmation Letter

A draft copy of the letter was shared with the members. Feedback can be directed to Dan Hendry.

ACTION: Circulate ESAC meeting dates for the next year.

6. Election of Community Co-Chair

This item was deferred to the October meeting.

7. Other Business

LDSB Carbon Footprint

J. Hendry stated that every year the Board's energy consumption is reported to the Ministry on July 1. Annually the LDSB uses 10,000,000 kg of greenhouse gases for its utilities for buildings. The Board does not report on buses or its maintenance fleet.

D. Jackson requested that Facility Services share a summary on energy consumption for the Fall.

Z. MacEachren stated that she wished the Ministry tracked the number of hours kids spend in outdoor education, like they do energy consumption.

M. Shaw suggested ESAC could send a Letter to the Ministry requesting they record this information.

Federal Active Transportation Strategy

L. Malcolm shared that Canada's Minister of Environment recently shared information about the new Federal Active Transportation Strategy. The federal government is looking for organizations' support, and have requested that support be provided in the form of an email.

MOTION: L. Malcom, that the LDSB write an email of support for the Federal Active Transportation Strategy. Carried.

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8. Next Meeting Date

Fall 2017 - TBA.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: M. Shaw, that the meeting adjourn. Carried

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.