



Community Advisory Committees

Name of Committee: Environmental Sustainability Community Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: February 4, 2020

A meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Community Advisory Committee convened on February 4, 2020 from 6:35 p.m. to 8:37 p.m. in 5050 Yonge St., Committee Room A, with Sheila Cary-Meagher and Trustee Manna Wong presiding.

Attendance: Sheila Cary-Meagher (Community Co-Chair); Manna Wong (Trustee Co-Chair); Michelle Aarts (Trustee, Ward 16); Chris Chandler (OSSTF); Sunday Harrison (Green Thumbs Growing Kids); Anne Keary (Parent); Rosa Na (Natural Curiosity); Linda Naccarato (OPAL); Peter Odle (Parent); Erin Pan (SustainED); Steve Shallhorn (Labour Education Centre); Brenda Simon (Natural Curiosity); Stefan Sommer (CUPE 4400); Bob Spencer (Parent); Andrea Stephens (Parent).

Also present were: Richard Christie (Senior Manager, Sustainability); Esther Collier (Teacher); Kristen Evers (Green Projects Team Leader); David Hawker-Budlovsky (Centrally Assigned Principal); Hongliang Hu (ECE); Naomi Quarcoopome (Teacher); Gigi Shanks (Teacher); Jenn Vetter (EcoSchools Certification Specialist).

Regrets: Andrew Davies (No. 9); Stephanie Donaldson (Trustee, Ward 9).

Part A: Recommendations

Regarding ESCAC's discussion on federal funding to support a national food program, the committee recommends that:

- The Board of Trustees adopt a version of the attached draft letter to encourage the Canadian federal government to follow through with its intention to work with provinces and territories to invest in a national school food program; and
- Trustees be encouraged to meet with local Members of Parliament to discuss the importance of a national school food program.

Regarding ESCAC's discussion on energy and climate change, the committee recommends that:

- Opportunities to work with the partners in the Green Will initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions be explored; and
- that in the report to the trustees in March 2020 the Director report on the update of the current 2019 Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan to include an action plan that requires the Board to develop interim targets to reduce GHGs with the goal of becoming net-zero by 2050. Further, that this report address not only the progress but also the gaps or lack of progress toward reducing emissions.

Part B: For Information Only

The TDSB's Youth Climate Summit and Climate Action Summit that were planned for February 2020 have been put on hold until current labour negotiations have been resolved.

The TDSB's ArtsJunktion is now operated by the Sustainability Office on Mondays from 1 to 5:30 p.m.

Part C: Ongoing Matters

No ongoing matters to report.

Report Submitted by: Richard Christie

Letter in Support of a National School Food Program

To Whom It May Concern:

In its 2019 budget, the Canadian Liberal government announced its intention to work with provinces and territories to [develop a national school food program](#). As the only G7 nation without a national school food program, the TDSB urges the federal government to follow through with the implementation of this pledge.

With 27% of children living in poverty as of 2017, Toronto is the child poverty capital of Canada (TDSB, [Enhancing Equity Task Force Report and Recommendations](#), 2017). It is imperative that the inequities of food security that exist in this city be addressed; the development of a national school food program would be a step in the right direction.

As the consequences of climate change are becoming more widely known and understood, a national school food program would also provide an opportunity to deepen our educators' and students' understanding of environmental sustainability as it relates to a healthy diet and a sustainable food system. Students not only learn from explicit curriculum, but also learn through the "hidden" curriculum (the actual practices and school cultures in which they learn by example and through activity).

This letter was set in motion following a recommendation from the TDSB's Environmental Sustainability Community Advisory Committee (ESCAC). ESCAC was established in 2010 to help inform the TDSB's environmental policies and programming, and is a committee comprised of parents, community partners, Trustees and TDSB staff. The TDSB would support the implementation of a national school food program and encourages the Canadian federal government to develop a program that adheres to the guiding principles of the [Coalition for Healthy School Food](#) and considers environmental sustainability.

Sincerely,

Trustee Robin Pilkey

Chair of the Board, Toronto District School Board

c.c.:

- City of Toronto Members of Parliament
- Minister of Finance, The Hon. Bill Morneau
- Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, The Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau
- Minister of Health, The Hon. Patty Hajdu

- Minister of Children, Families and Social Development, The Hon. Ahmed Hassan
- Minister of Women, Gender Equality and Rural Development, The Hon. Maryam Monsef
- All relevant opposition critics