



Community Advisory Committees

**Environment and Sustainability
Community Advisory Committee
2019-2020 Annual Report**





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Community Advisory Committees

Co-Chair Message

Greetings,

Despite the challenges that were faced on both a local and global level, 2019/20 was a productive school year for the TDSB's Environmental Sustainability Community Advisory Committee (ESCAC).

The committee heard from community partners about environmental projects underway at schools and made recommendations to the Board of Trustees to advocate for both a national school food program and initiatives to help reduce the TDSB's greenhouse gas emissions.

As we look ahead to the start of a new school year, while still navigating a global pandemic, it is ever more important that we find ways to bring hope and optimism to issues of environmental sustainability. In 2020/21, ESCAC will continue to focus its work on advocating for climate action at the TDSB, with an emphasis on reducing building-related greenhouse gas emissions and engaging communities.

Sincerely,

Sheila Cary-Meagher and Trustee Manna Wong

CAC Mandate/ Purpose

- a. To identify and discuss issues of environmental sustainability and climate change as they relate to the TDSB, by facilitating ongoing feedback from the community through the engagement of students, parents, and parent groups, community advocacy groups, non-profit organizations, members of the general public, TDSB staff, etc.
- b. To make recommendations to the TDSB regarding environmental concerns.





CAC Activities

1. An energy sub-committee was struck to discuss energy generation at the TDSB.
2. ESCAC members were invited to attend an evening session in October 2019 facilitated by Elin Kelsey, Ph.D., focused on finding ways bring hope and optimism to climate action.
3. The committee received a presentation on school garden projects that are underway at the TDSB through a partnership with Green Thumbs Growing Kids.
4. ESCAC discussed federal funding to support a national food program, and recommended to the Program and School Services Committee that:
 - The Board of Trustees adopt a version of a letter drafted by ESCAC 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.
5. ESCAC recommended to the Program and School Services Committee 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.
6. The committee received a presentation on Jackman PS's green roof project.
7. The committee received a presentation on proposed strategies to educate and engage youth and the community on the climate crisis, that included advocacy for the TDSB to take a greater role in supporting this work.





Community Advisory Committees

Committee Members

Community Co-Chair(s): Sheila Cary-Meagher

Trustee Co-Chair(s): Jennifer Story (up until December 2019) and Manna Wong

Michelle Aarts (Trustee)
Alexander Brown (Trustee)
Richard Christie (Staff)
Esther Collier (Staff)
Stephanie Donaldson (Trustee)
Trixie Doyle (Trustee)
Kristen Evers (Staff)
Sunday Harrison (Green Thumbs Growing Kids)
David Hawker-Budlovsky (Staff)
Hongliang Hu (Staff)
Hilary Inwood (OISE)
Anne Keary (Parent)
Lisa Milne (Parent)
Rosa Na (Natural Curiosity)
Linda Naccarato (Earth Day Canada)
Peter Odle (Parent)
Naomi Qarcoopome (Staff)
Jessie Sawyers (Community Member)
Gigi Shanks (Staff)
Brenda Simon (Natural Curiosity)
Stefan Sommer (CUPE 4400)
Bob Spencer (Parent)
Andrea Stephens (Parent)
Jenn Vetter (Staff)

