

2019/20 ESCAC Self-Evaluation



General Comments

Membership Question # 15: Breakout Groups may help with better understanding what makes up this group. We are no longer sharing a meal together prior to the meetings, this was an important part of understanding each other's level of ability, skill and time.

The advisory committee has a great track record. However, it needs two more groups to be represented to improve its deliberations. First, TDSB Students must be included and actively encouraged to come to the meetings and participate in any subcommittees. Second, the Transform TO team should be asked to send a representative to each meeting to strengthen our cooperation with the city.

It would be beneficial if the Committee's Draft Terms of Reference were widely known by all committee members. The mandate of ESCAC is "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, nonprofit organizations, members of the general public, TDSB staff etc." At present I would say that efforts to engage students, parent groups, or community advocacy groups etc. and facilitate feedback from them are limited.

Great ESCAC!

Perhaps we could consider an adjustment of the length of the meetings now that they are on Zoom - for many, being on Zoom all day and another 2 hours in the evening is overwhelming. Could we consider moving to 90 min. online meetings during the pandemic (rather than 2 hours)?

I feel that there could have been a broader vision for ESCAC, although the presentations on community, and roof gardens were extremely good. The work of this committee could have been an opportunity to stress the importance of carbon audits at different schools, and the potential for carbon mitigation across the school board. Until very recently, there has been almost no mention of the climate emergency, a fact which I have found particularly worrisome.

I don't recollect seeing a report on COVID readiness, and how certain boards are coping. What are the costs associated with more hygienic practices? Reports on the climate emergency, and COVID could be anecdotal, and informal, as well as more heavily researched.

Finally, I think that there needs to be more acknowledgment of our connection to the outside world, perhaps by sending messages of hope, good cheer, and gratitude to teachers and staff, who are working with tremendously heavy work loads?