

APPROVED



## Elgin Math & Science Academy

### Minutes

#### Enviro Group December Meeting

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**Date and Time**

Friday December 3, 2021 at 8:30 AM

**Location**

Meet at the Dining Hall  
EMSA Campus  
1600 Dundee Ave  
Elgin

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**Committee Members Present**

C. Flaherty, D. Alexander, G. Swick, K. Kelly, R. Wilson, S. Bennett, S. Said

**Committee Members Absent**

*None*

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**I. Opening Items****A. Record Attendance****B. Call the Meeting to Order**

K. Kelly called a meeting of the Environmental Work Group--Subcommittee to Master Plan and Facilities Committee of Elgin Math & Science Academy to order on Friday Dec 3, 2021 at 8:30 AM.

**C. Approve Minutes**

S. Bennett made a motion to approve the minutes from In-person Enviro Work Group on 09-03-21.

G. Swick seconded the motion.

The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

#### **D. Enviro Work Group Items**

We will try a Friday afternoon meeting to see if teachers can attend, next meeting will be January 7, at 1:30 pm. We also can survey teachers/parents for interest and availability.

## **II. Environmental Work Group--Subcommittee to Master Plan and Facilities**

### **A. Water Runoff--Updates**

D Alexander and C Flaherty updated the committee on status of gutter improvements. Drainage system installed at swing set playground--improvement noted in that area is not as wet and not puddling but still problematic as a low area. Discussed next steps: mulch or turf for the swing set playground, for gym & primary school try gutter splashes that spread out & slow down the water with small rocks, use diversion on the two southernly (on west side) gutters to send water to existing swale/drain, at primary school playground--can we look at less expensive (than current bid) and more creative options?

To determine: can we get help/feedback/direction from students--as a Passion Project (due in May), as help installing gutter splashes, to suggest swing set playground mulching vs grassing areas, etc

### **B. Native Plantings--Grant Available, anyone interested?**

Did not have time to discuss.

### **C. Swing set update**

See above.

Student norms needed for this area (e.g., stay off the area if there is standing water).

### **D. Playgrounds & Natural Play Areas**

The group identified additional areas for students to play and/or passively enjoy: oak hillside for reading and passive play, the area next to the kinder playground (by the gym) for active play, the area behind the admin building for more passive-type of play, the area between the gym blacktop and admin building for active play, dorm field for active play.

To determine:

- can we remove bouncy playground piece at kinder area so that 5/6 can use the space (keep the dino and dome for now),

- can we consider longer gym time (allow access to dorm field),
- will students submit a passion project for play area?,
- can sport-stations be added around the campus?,
- signage recommended to i.d. passive play areas.

#### **E. Chimney Swifts and Other Bird Protections**

R Wilson will be present to learn how chimney cap is installed/uninstalled.

Gym building windows still need bird-strike prevention measures. EMSA has a quote for all of the windows but it is very expensive; R Wilson offered to install special strips on the lower windows.

To determine: is there a less expensive option to prevent bird strikes at the gym building?

#### **F. Ongoing Tree Care & Planned Landscaping**

D Alexander and R Wilson discussed ongoing tree care for this winter, including trimming branches.

To determine: can some of the trunks cut down this summer be dried for furniture?

#### **G. Trails and walkways**

The group visited the new permeable rock path that has been the subject of staff complaints. Discussed benefits and detriments vs asphalt.

The group would like to get a nature path started in the ravine. K Kelly & R Wilson can make recommendations to start work this winter.

To determine:

- how will rock path withstand winter, will it be more/less slippery than existing paths;
- can behavior norms be created that discourage picking up rocks?
- How do we get the nature path started?
- Will students pick this as a Passion Project?

#### **H. Ecosystem Education**

To determine:

- would students join an enviro club/crew to help advise and implement on eco improvements?
- how to communicate eco-info to staff/families/students,
- creation of campus map for display in common area,
- safety training

- can teacher planning time be used for staff eco ed? next steps?
- partnership with Friends of the Fox and/or Friday Field Studies could provide eco ed

### **III. Other Business**

#### **A. What else do we need to be thinking about?**

The group discussed adding two new safety horses at road by admin building, then eventually a gate. R Wilson to obtain the safety horses.

To determine: will students be responsible for placing safety horses? What are the costs/options for a gate?

#### **B. Goal setting/vision of work group**

### **IV. Closing Items**

#### **A. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
K. Kelly