ORCSD Full Meeting Minutes January 8, 2014 at 7:00pm ORHS Library

<u>Present</u>: Chuck Cox, Nell Neal, Dennis Harrington, Lisa Huppe, Joe Boucher, MaryEllen Webb, Barry Kaplan, Jennifer Wilhelm, Doris Demers, Jamie Pageau, Emily Spongnardi, Mary Caulfield, Shelley Mitchell, Cyd Scarno, Sarah Larson-Dennen, Maggie Morrison, Eliza Balch (ORHS Representative), Sue Caswell (late)

I. Call to Order 7:06pm Introductions all around.

- II. Preliminary Actions (15 minutes)
 - A. Approval of Agenda: motion: Barry second: Nell All approved
 - B. Approval of Minutes of November 13, 2013: motion: Shelley second: MaryEllen Corrections made. Then all approved.
 - C. Correspondence/Announcements: None
 - D. Other-None

III. Public Comments (5 minutes) - No public present

IV. Discussion/Updates (25 minutes)

A. Green Teams Detailed Update

Emily: Power Down took place over the December break in all the schools. Collaboration took place with the help of Jim Pageau, Joshua Olstad, and Jim Rozycki in order to learn how to collect data at each school. The goal was to have a 10% reduction of electricity.

Sarah: How will you meet together to understand the numbers? Emily: We are not exactly sure because we have not met to look at the numbers. Measures were taken before and after the break by the Green Team leaders. Mary: one teacher at the Middle School said that years ago weekly reports about school were made distributed and used by at least one teacher with students. Shelley: The OR Ecological Footprint report will give you information from the Schools about the data collected during the 2012-2013 school year.

- a. High School- First Sustainability Club meeting on 1-9-14. A big compost event will take place before February. "Roll Out Event" led by the students Eliza- It's a tough situation to deal with students not doing compost- not because they don't understand the importance... changing behaviors is hard.
- b. Middle School Mary: Putting recycling containers into every classroom and trying to clear up confusion with what goes into the recycling bins. Working with Nell and Jim to

get awareness to students and teachers. Learning about how EcoMaine ,Consello, MA or EcoMaine, ME manage recycling in order to get the highest price.

Power Down: Mary went into classrooms during advisory time to talk with students about recycling and Power Down initiative. She believed to have reached about half the student body. Students used watt meters to take measures and make calculations also talked about electricity usage. Posters were made by students to help teach about Green Teams work, Power Down, Reduce- recycle-reuse and the term "Precycle" (making purchasing decision so the item is as close to zero waste as possible) Mary will be getting in touch with Al Lofgren about the Solar Panel idea (presented at 11-13-13 meeting).

There's a box in office for teachers to put in items they are unsure of its waste stream and what is recyclable.

Sue Campbell, Middle Schooll Life Skills teacher, gave feedback to Mary that the students were thinking about sustainability while working on purchasing items ⁽²⁾ Mast School- Maggie: Power Down- students in 4th grade went class to class to complete an electronic inventory. Measuring how much each school is recycling and though it is not being place into the trash. how much is not being place into the "trash" Jim R. Maggie would like to present to the Green Team Leaders that this data is provided to the public to see the usage. Marine Docins are going in to school to talk about water. Thinking about usiong the "lake" in the parking lot as a teaching tool with the students.

Mast Way has a lot of parent-school events. It would be a good to help parents also make a cultural shift to sustainable practices. (e.g., hot paper cups instead of Styrofoam)

c. Moharimet- Cyd: Continuing to do a good job putting waste into proper stream. A lot of effort has been concentrated on the adults to adjust the system of increased recycling and reduced "landfill." Now that the school's recycling-compost system is under way, the shift will be to focus on the students' participation/learning. A skit will be performed by students to show how the recycling works and where the waste goes once it leaves the school. What happens to our compost, waste, recycling...? Goal is to get students to talk about the "end point" of each waste stream. To reflect on what an endpoint means in regard to carbon footprint.

Sarah- I wonder if Green Team leaders could think about the3 R's are important...

there is also "Refuse"... like refusing to use a bag when shopping and again precycle.

Nell- Just wanted to remind everyone what a wonderful resource EcoMaine is for learn about what really is recyclable or not.

- B. Subcommittees Update (25 minutes)
 - a. Food and Gardens: Doris- The next Community Dinner will be Thursday, Jan. 16th at Mohairmet School. Menu is Beef Stew with an Pizza option. Bus drivers willing to "busing" table. This dinner will highlight the lunch room construction proposed for Moharimet, Help from ORSC is welcome, dishes from HS will be brought over, \$15.00 for family dinners, \$7.00 for individual. It is anticipated to be a dinner each month. Sarah: Moharimet Gardens- 4 raised beds.Tunnel Hoops have been put up to extend season, Coordinate ordering seeds if others are interested.

Doris: Dayle Hayes- National Nutritional Consultant - She rites the site "School Meals That Rock", She visited ORCSD to gather information in preparation to write an article about school lunches. Dayle Hayes was very impressed with the nutrition work, salad bar, facility, and employees here, The lunch counts are up at Mohariimet by 25%.

- b. Transportation: Lisa: still moving along with conversion timeline. Biodiesel at UNH has been shut down due to something not working correctly. With the extreme cold recently everyone is using diesel. 20 buses have been switched over... 6 buses still to be switched over to biodiesel. Cost of running a biodiesel verses diesel bus is pretty much the same since the price goes up and down yet the release of dirty exhaust is much less with biodiesel. Still working on replacing 3 full buses each year with the flieet and hoping this will happen in budget for 2014-1015.
- c. Facilities: Nell: Subcommittee met and goals were discussed. The conversation shifted to the discussion of the overlap that seems to be happening with various initiatives.
 The thought is to look at how we are structured and to maybe consider one subcommittee to work on PR and marketing aspect.

Shelley: documenting our work is important for many reasons: Green teams initiatives validated, educate community/new members/parents, data collected for research/future grant writing etc...

Dennis: Short term: When Green Team meets you may want to send pictures and an article to Fosters for a publication. Dennis can make connection to a reporter

Long term: Green Team, administration, and an outside facilitator meets before school to set goals, expectations, principals present something to staff at each school, going into Community, TV,

Shelley- Sue Caswell informed Facilities "Green Ribbon School" Dept. of Education. Three Pillars of the Green Ribbon: 1. Reducing environment impact and cost, Improvement wellness students and staff, effective sustainability -S.T.E.M. instruction.

Cyd: has also researched this award and saw that Exeter has been awarded this... the award is very involved process. We have a solid foundation to work from and she believes we could qualify for a number of grants. Should one of Green Team jobs be a "grant writing position" next year?

Mary- I have heard of some school dedicating an entire day to sustainability Professional Development.

Jennifer- Has it ever been considered to include sustainability language into job descriptions?

Shelley-Yes, and also there is a requirement that bids, received by the District, include a sustainability agreement. It may be more of a long term goal to have individuals hired in the District to show he/she has sustainability knowledge. The SAU has sent letter to UNH to recruit interns for next semester.

Educational Outreach: Cristina: Visibility -is important to demonstrate the work being done but finding time is difficult. Button Up event, Thursday, Jan. 23 6-8:30 at the MPR at the ORHS. Energy home savings workshop, free. Publicity and planning is being worked on by Mary, Maggie, Cristina, and Maggie. Publicity is being covering from Portsmouth to Barrington to Dover to Exeter through emails, press releases, posters. ORSC, Durham Energy, and Durham Community Church are "hosting" the event. Shelley- Our visibility on the District's new website is low right now. ORSC is listed under School Board because ORSC is an appointed committee

C. Doris Demers, Child Nutrition Director (10 minutes) a. Community Dinners- see under Food and Gardens b. Local Food funds- \$15,000 funds and have spent. \$10,000 will be used by the beginning of April and for the rest of the school year, money in the Nutrition program will be used to continue buying local food until the end of the school year.

Doris has been nominated to be on a National Committee. She has not be told if she was selected but she has decided to pull out of this nomination so she can attend Product Safety University - a week long program that involves her receiving a scholarship" to attend for free by the USDA. She feels this will be very helpful and useable.

Congratulations!

Maggie spent a day with Doris delivering food, learning about each School's Nutrition program, and discussed the Farm to School Grant- deadline in April. To apply for this grant a writer is needed because the grant is very competitive and since it is a Federal Grant. One community member's name has been given to Doris.

D. "Production" Garden Letter (5 minutes)

Dennis read the "production" garden letter and shared that this letter will be sent out on $1/9^{th}$ or $1/10^{th}$ to the District's parents via an "email alert."

Process was presented by Dennis as Dr. Morse expressed would be taking place.

A meeting in March will hopefully take place after community members express interest in learning more. Dennis, Emily, Cyd, John will be involved in this data collection meeting to eventually develop a "back plan."

The next alert/ or mailing of the letter will be sent to people not directly involved with school but may be very interested in helping with the "production" gardens.

- E. School Board Update (10 minutes) Did not take place
- F. Other None

V. New Business

A. ORSC Membership and Composition (10 minutes)

Cristina: She expressed concern that we need to have a larger committee. The responsibilities in completing ORSC work seems to be done by a small group of members. For this reason do we need new members? Discussion needs to take place to see if a more efficient system can be considered.

Shelley- The School District is going through strategic plans so District is shifting to follow this plan.

Suggestions- List what job functions we need to consider. Then the decision can be made to adjust our subcommittees to the goals/initiatives we want to accomplish. This would hopefully lead to less overlap/more collaborative work/effectiveness

List of "Jobs" suggested: "Recorder" - minutes Chairperson Assistant Chairperson Steering committee Town reps from each Town Publicity / Marketing Grant writing Curriculum development- research what other schools are using for sustainability curriculums in schools

Sarah- If steering Committee discusses the composition..... then match the individuals who agree to step into these roles and the subcommittees work.

Consider maybe also a more "flexible" use of the GT positions.... the green teams get assigned to schools and maybe be involved in a subcommittee, maybe 2 teams work together, a leader takes one initiative for the entire year(curriculum),

Shelley- Some possible "jobs" - grant writing, marketing, curricular development,

Organization of Green Team leaders shift and maybe work with two teams and work in another more holistic initiative (i.e., curriculum worked on by only one green team member in all schools). This may make roles more efficient and long term.

Dennis- it is critical that the Green Team to make recommendations to ORSC their thoughts, what worked, what could be done to make changes,

Mary- is it viable to have us join forces with Town subcommittees (IWM, Energy)?

Nell- not sure we have enough people for ORSC let alone help with other projects.....

B. Public Relation Strategies- Cristina is

Dennis believes that after the March election we should present to the board our work and accomplishments

Kathleen Young- working on a video with students... DCAT short, skit at Moharimet? Eliza- journalism 1 class, interviews, Mouth of the River,

C. Spring Events:

School Tours for community members – student tour leaders. Tours could be offered during day. Emily will check with Jon the possibility of this being planned.

Environmental Science Class project tours- Emily will take the lead to see how/if we can be involved.

"Earth Day"-spring fling event with other groups? Bobcat Bolt participation?

D. Summer 2014 Events

Summer gardens- The involvement/intensity of the gardens will be dependent upon the involvement of the Community volunteers we glean from Dr. Morse's "production garden" email that will be sent out at the end of the week.

Barry - Summer Institute for professionals - It is believed that no work has been done on this idea.

E. Nell- Talked to Rian from Mr. Fox about the cubic yard of gardens. We need to ask for the compost each year. Emily will talk with Jon and Este about the date so Nell can request the compost be delivered. Jennifer- suggested that having a person be a time keeper during our meetings may help with

Jenniter- suggested that having a person be a time keeper during our meetings may help with facilitating efficiency and following the agenda time "limits"

Shelley- Antioch University is offering a May 21^{st} a Summit – S.T.E.M, student researchers, interaction of town and city

VI. Closing Actions (5 minutes)

A. Reminder for full ORSC meeting dates for 2013-2014 school year at ORHS Library

Wednesday, September 25, 2013 at 7pm Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at 7pm Wednesday, January 8, 2014 (snow date January 9) at 7pm Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 7pm Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at 7pm (meeting and potluck dinner)

- B. Next Steering Meeting: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 5pm at OR High School, Rm. 120
- C. Agenda Items for next Full meeting on March 12, 2014

VI. Adjournment 9:17

motion: Shelley

second: Barry All approved.