

ORSC Steering Committee Minutes
October 11, 2013 at 4pm Breaking New Grounds, Durham

Present: Dennis Harrington, John Carroll, Griffin Sinclair-Wingate, Cristina Dolcino, Sarah Larson-Dennen, Nell Neal (a little late)

1. Call to Order 4:07pm
2. Welcome/Introductions (5 minutes)
 - a. Sarah mentioned what a wonderful evening took place at the Harvest Dinner on October 3. Doris and her chef staff did a terrific job.
3. Preliminary Actions (10 minutes)
 - a. Approval of Agenda - approved
4. Public Comments (5 minutes)- none present
5. Update of Green Teams -
 - a. MS composting/recycling training will begin Oct. 17th. Volunteers have been organized by the work of Mary Caulfield and Nell Neal. A Green Team of staff has been organized. A MS custodian will be weighing the compost to record data of landfill "savings."
 - b. Dennis will be contacting Emily to ask for a meeting to explain Dr. Morse's "nutrition garden" letter, Green Team hour recording form, and topics related to the team structures
 - c. No Green Team members could attend meeting so Emily Spognardi sent to Cristina as an email as an update on 10-10-13:

High School - Sustainability club has been formed. Both a facebook page and bi-weekly check-ins with Mr. Bromley have been established. Composting initiative starts off strong next week. UNH volunteers will be at each lunch encouraging students to compost more.

Middle School - Sustainability club in formation. Compost is the big focus right now. On October 17th Rian Bedard will be giving a quick assembly before each lunch about how to properly compost. Green team within the school (faculty) is still in formation. Nell Neil has been huge help with composting initiative!

Mast Way - 7 people on the green team. Working on getting composting in bathrooms and classrooms. Big project right now is reducing the large puddle in the parking lot that forms when it rains. In touch with Dave Cedarhome about options.

Moharimet - Classroom checklists are in the works (checklists for each teacher before they leave the classroom at night). Cyd and Jim Rocizki implemented a trial program for food and paper towel composting in individual classrooms. Cyd is also working on global warming curriculum specifically focused on issues in NH (mountain, moose, maples).

Team Projects - Jim Rocizki is looking into replacing all paper towel dispensers in major bathrooms with hand dryers (an option that makes more sense from an environmental standpoint and an economic standpoint). We going to do a power down in the schools over winter break and will compare electricity usage for each school to last years numbers. We recently just met with Dorris

Demers and her team and discussed the idea of a no cook lunch. We are also hoping to help the kitchen staff develop checklists as well for when they leave each night. A spring project will be improving the school gardens and developing a management plan for each.

6. Discussion of "Garden Letter"

-John shared his thoughts about the Nutrition garden letter... providing opportunities for gardens at each School to produce a significant amount of food for the food nutrition program. These gardens would hopefully include seasonal extending techniques with a range of tasks and roles for different interests and commitment levels by the volunteers. This letter was drafted by John with suggestions offered by Steering Committee Dr. Morse has agreed to send this letter out to the entire district parent email listing. John would like this to happen ASAP. Discussion took place to share the letter with the Green Team leaders. General points of the letter: Gardens focus is to produce food for school nutrition. It would be maintained by Community volunteers.

The Green Team Leaders would be involved in the initial start-up but not the "week-to-week" hands on work. Parents would have self-investment because the importance of highly nutritious, local food, opportunities to provide service, and include children, Dennis stated he see the Green teams as the conduit between the Schools and the 3 town Communities regarding. A structure needs to be developed at each school that will work effectively when considering each School's needs, volunteer abilities/availabilities.

Dennis sees the steps:

- *after letter is sent out the emails would be collected from the individuals interested (consider sending letter to 3 communities also so as to inform master gardeners, farmers, retirees)

- *a meeting would be scheduled to ask key questions, brainstorm, develop data for the writing of a Back-up plan.

- *write the back-up plan which would include the process for accomplishing various goals, resources, time line, individuals' tasks etc... Dennis offered to write the back-up plan using the data gathered from the meeting. Discussion as to when the gardens would begin would depend upon the outcome of the back-plan.

- *see this as a 6-8month "hands-on" project

Griffin will search for a gmail address that involves the words, OR, nutrition and gardens.

7. New Business (10 minutes)

- a. Check with SAU to see what is the latest regarding the change of the District's website "

8. Public Comments (5 minutes) - none present

9. Future Steering Meeting (5 minutes)

Monday, October 21, 4pm ORHS conference room 120

10. Future Full 2013-14 ORSC Meetings:

Wed. Nov. 13 7pm

Wed. Jan. 8, 2014 7pm

Wed. March 12, 2014 7pm

Wed. May 14, 2014 7pm

11. Closing Actions (5 minutes)

- a. Agenda planning for next meeting- Garden Letter update, Green Team updates, Button-Up Event,
- b. Other

12. Adjournment 6:10pm