

ORCSD Full Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2013 at 7:00pm ORHS Library

Present: Nell Neal, Nancy Clavette, Jim Rozycki, Dorn Cox, Ed Charle, Griffin Sinclair-Wingate, Barry Kaplan, Cyd Scarano, Matt Lynch, Jennifer Wilhelm, Al Lofgren, MaryEllen Webb, Dennis Harrington, Katie Hanlon, Sarah Larsen-Dennen, Mary Caulfield, Chuck Cox, Emily Spongardi, Katie Hanlon, Shelley Mitchell (late),

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

II. Preliminary Actions (15 minutes)

- A. Approval of Agenda: motion: Barry second: MaryEllen All approved
- B. Approval of Minutes of May 8, 2013: motion: MaryEllen second: Barry All approved
- C. Approval of Minutes of September 25, 2013: Some changes were made in the order of topics.
motion: Cristina second: Nell All approved.

D. Correspondence/Announcements

- a. Ed- shared a letter sent to the OR School Board by a Durham Resident. The letter stated a request to the SB "encourage to limit its support of sustainability until there is evidence of student support in all aspects of it."
- b. Comment- wondered if the letter will be part of public record.
- c. Comments were given as to how students are involved in the sustainability efforts.

E. Introduction of Jim Rozycki, OR Facilities Director

Jim stated that being here is a breath of fresh air due to the efforts related to sustainability. He appreciates the work being done since arriving her 2 months here. He is recognizing the money being saved due to sustainability related efforts. Generally speaking he likes to start small with projects and collect data before moving into bigger efforts. All the custodial staff is using green products along with the following of hospital cleaning process. Auto scrubbers are used on tiles which is a waterless process. In 2 years the goal is to be "chemical less"..... reduction of carbon footprint.

Siemens- spent the summer adjusting the controls at the HS so as to customize the use of the building through computers. Hourly controls of the room building use to help reduce energy (heating).

F. Other- Dorn Biomass Plant visit

Town of Lee received a ECBG Block Grant to study the feasibility of a district-wide Biomass plant (woodchips). Efforts are initially looking into heating the MW school, church, Town facilities through insulated buried pipes.

Four tours have been scheduled.

Rockingham County Complex in Brentwood and the Continental Biomass Facility in Newton have been toured.

Pictures were shared of the Rockingham Complex.

Payback of Rockingham Country Complex is expecting 400,000 money for a 500 square feet. 4-6 year payback. Nursing the nursing home and the jail.

Very enthusiastic. No longer using the oil for heating just to make sure it will still work if needed. Daily/weekly delivery of wood chips. Takes a high quality that needs to be met.

Wood ash is the byproduct for agricultural amendment with similar purposes as lime.

Also visited CBI in Newtown NH which make chippers and uses wood chips to heat facility.

Boiler is able to handle higher moisture (60%) chips because it shires the wood into smaller pieces.

Individuals are going this Friday to facilities in Henniker and Merrimack Valley.

Meet on Friday, November 15 at 8:15am at the Lee Safety Complex to carpool.

III. Public Comments (5 minutes) -

Al Lofgren from the OR Middle School presented the idea of installing a "test" solar panel (6-8 panels) set-up. Discussion was initiated with Revision Energy by Al. Al is wondering if raising the money with public funds is the most viable plan to get the project started. A meter needs to be set up to start tracking wind speeds and is the first step in understanding the solar gains which could be obtained. Start collecting data on the possibilities. A ballpark figure of \$10,000 to install panels was given which could collect 1-2 kilowatts hours. Meters would be inside the school so students could observe/collect data. DC needs to be inverters and changed to AC. This power could then be used to light a room or simply for measuring and testing purposes.

Matt- The first step for implementing this project is to look at where you can reduce electricity usage. He advocated for using the audits that have been completed.

Kits can be purchased that can be installed by yourself.

Jim- Use these "test" solar panels for educational purposes. A change in behaviors to reduce energy use... in facilities is often a challenge from his experience.

Al- Wondering if the MS Green Team can be involved. Al will investigate solar panel kits to see if they can be installed.

Emily- Are there are teachers interested in using the solar panels for educational purposes?

Al- yes, teachers are interested to incorporate this info into STEM instruction.

Shelley- hearing the enthusiasm with this idea, how about engaging the students with the initiative of fundraising. Start a "drive"... Kickstarter suggested...

Mary- focus at the MS now is for the Power Down initiative. Students are looking at energy usage and compost now so not sure about how to fold in this project but will talk further about this possibility

IV. Discussion/Updates (25 minutes)

A. Green Teams Detailed Update:

a. High School- Karen reported that a Sustainability Club has been set up (currently called Green Team on the Facebook site). Meet every other week during block period. Notes are taken from student ideas and students run meeting. Collecting data for power down initiative, creating signs/painting bins for recycling, talked about creating a video for Power Down, currently there are "teens" students. There are more people who have joined the Facebook page. Fewer attend face-face meeting is fewer. Some conflicts exist with other Club meeting times. A newspaper article for Mouth of the River will be written.

Emily- working to have the HS student take the lead with the Sustainability Club and projects. The initial project is composting. UNH students (3-4 volunteers) came in to help follow the composting program. Talked with students in cafeteria to encourage student engagement in process. Using UNH students seemed to work well. Visited Environmental Science class (Jon Bromley) twice to talk with students. A lot of communication is online.

Emily- Using Facebook to "like" the page is not as pertinent as maybe the joining into projects will take place.

Katie- checklist on board identifying the project various students want to be involved with... comments...

Dennis- what are some examples of what students are doing?

Katie- *paint bins for recycling/compost/landfill.

* class project of designing new lids for bins to help identify what project goes where.

*Another student is interested in energy and could help with the Power Down Initiative

*Signs for bins for recycling-landfill- compost need to be made consistent and clearer.

*Erosion issues and gardens for the spring

Griffin- How would you say the HS composting is going?

Emily- composting is not as successful as the recycling. Hope to get students more involved

Matt- The audits that were completed by the HS stated that a significant e-waste drive could be completed but not sure the status of the e-waste stream in District right now.

b. Middle School - Maggie's report was presented by Cyd. No wipes are being used in the cafeteria (\$500 a year in cost reductions) instead a form of waterless soap, a lot of work for the Power Down for the District, a letter was submitted in the Durham Weekly Update regarding MS.

Emily- Maggie is working with the town's

- c. Mast School- Mary reported that the MS is a great place because of the "feeding" by the elementary schools and the involvement of the classrooms in various studies. Teachers are giving Mary ideas for future projects.
- The Fall initiative has been in the cafeteria with the composting-recycling project. Rian presented to students from Mr. Fox with a successful completion of the parent support (10 parents) of helping students learn the process. Students will mentor the transition after the parents finish
- 86 pounds of trash (landfill) from 5-8 grade lunch previously was going into landfill. 5 pounds of trash (landfill) from 5-8 grade lunch is now following the implemented of the recycling-composting system.
- The "landfill" terminology is not correct from the information given to Mary from the collector. The term used is rubbish because of all of it but 5% is burned for heat instead of being buried.
- One MS student, 4 teachers attended Green Team meeting. Green tips of the day are posted on the weekly emailed newsletter, students helped collect the number of recycling bins needed for classroom, different advisory groups will break down the garden bins, possibly begin winter gardens.
- Moving into improving recycling in the classroom with more education in the classroom about what is recyclable and what it means to be "single" stream.
- Start an inventory and checklist of what needs to be turned down in the MS kitchen.
- Future plans: solar panel campaign presented by Al tonight, starting to collect data related to the Power Down, interest in paper and electricity reduction, school gardens, 6th grade science yogurt-cheese making project.
- Thanks to Matt and Nell support, how can we get more students to buy school lunches which is more sustainability based.
- d. Moharimet- Cyd reported that the major project this fall is a uniform recycling-compost process of 4 waste streams (landfill, compost, paper towel compost, recycling). Signs have been created with pictures. Small container for landfill helps to deliver the message that what we put in the landfill should be to a minimal. The next focus will be in the classroom for educational programs.
- Matt- has there been a figure showing a savings
- What are the figures, the "public" consumption, of cost savings from each school's energy/sustainability work.
- Ask Jim to share out this information/communicate.
- Nell- From the letter sent to the School Board- now sure how this individual wants to have involvement of students. The ultimate goal is to make these activities as a "way of life" - it is the way students are learning to live.
- Dennis- he has noticed a shift 8 years.
- Griffin- Are you separating food and paper towel compost?

e. other

B. Subcommittees Update (25 minutes) - No time to discuss so no specific reports given.

- a. Food and Gardens:
- b. Transportation:
- c. Facilities:
- d. Educational Outreach:

C. Doris Demers, Child Nutrition Director (10 minutes)

- a. Harvest Community Dinner follow-up
Cristina gave a quick wrap up of the 2 dinners Doris hosted so far. Well received by families. Next dinner will probably be at Moharimet on Dec. 11
- b. Nell- Stated that Doris is being visited in December by nationally accredited and recognized individual Dayle Hayes. Highlighting OR Nutrition Program.
- c. Emily- Doris really wants to push the students to buy more school lunches to reduce the revenue source

D. Lee Biomass Project (5 minutes)

E. Other -

V. New Business

A. "Production" Garden Discussion (15 minutes)

It was agreed that a "letter of interest" from Dr. Morse would be sent out to the parents and then another letter will be sent out to Community/Organizations (email). If interest exists a meeting would be called for those interested and Dennis will lead the meeting (with John Carroll's assistance) to establish 2-3 key results identified. These would be worked on collaboratively over a predetermined amount of time.

9 voted yes, none in the negative to finalize letter and send letter

B. Sustainability Institute Idea (5 minutes)- not discussed

C. UNH Institute of Sustainability (5 minutes)- no one present

D. Jennifer Wilhelm- research presentation (10 minutes)

UNH PhD Candidate at UNH in Sustainability. Dissertation title: "Meeting the growing demand of Local Ag in New England: Implementation for production capacity, carbon stocks, and the maintenance of ecosystem services"

Global crop demand is expected to grow significantly

Support for local foods has grown significantly and food demands can be met through various ways...(e.g., tillage, fertilizer),

CO2 increase partially due to the large scale Agriculture.

Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture (UPA) - making use of fertile spaces in more urban areas

Final points:

*How and where we increase agricultural production will dictate the tradeoffs between food provisioning and regulating services.

*Increasing agricultural production in urban environments may enhance, rather than degrade ecosystem services.

Chuck- satisfaction received when food is grown locally

Comparison between growing locally with "people" power or growing on larger tracks of land with hired hands and machines is something that needs to be considered.

The new legislation now being proposed (Farm Bill) will make it impossible for local small farmers to follow the new food safety regulations.

Questions were asked and an interested discussion took place. Jennifer was invited to be a part of the OR Sustainability Committee.

E. Other

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, December 10, 5pm at OR High School (Rm. 120 most likely)

C. Agenda Items for next Full meeting on January 8, 2014

VI. Adjournment 9:29pm motion: Nell second: Cristina All approved.