

ORSC Steering Committee Minutes
December 10, 2013 at 5pm Room 120 ORHS

Present: Cyd Scarano, Emily Spongnardi, Sarah Larsen-Dennen, Nell Neal, Cristina Dolcino, John Carroll, Dennis Harrington, Doris Demers

I. Call to Order 5:08pm motion: Sarah second: Nell All Approved

II. Welcome/Introductions

III. Preliminary Actions

1. Approval of Agenda - motion: Sarah second: Nell Approved

2. Approval of Minutes: Nov. 12, 2013 meeting - motion: Nell second: John All approved

3. Correspondence/News- none

IV. Public Comments- None present

V. Old Business

1. Discussion Green Teams

a. Initiatives - ongoing

Emily- working on Power Down campaign for all Schools. Checklist has been made for each teacher in the District to "Power Down" the electrical devices in every classroom. Phantom power loss will be eliminated if power cords are unplugged from wall (whenever possible.)

The possibility that PSNH is going to help with data collection is not going to take place. Green Team leaders are collecting data/taking energy readings before break and then after break. Jim has been working to identify figures from DF Richard and Unitil companies to determine propane and natural gas readings.

Goals:

To be able to state: "This number of _____(electrical device) uses this number of _____ kilowatt hours.

To ascertain baseline numbers of when school is not in session (vacation) and when school is in session.

To identify the number of electrical devices used in classroom, rooms, and offices.

The Green Team Leaders are hoping to see a 10% reduction of kilowatt usage from when school is in session to when school is closed for a break.

The SAU, facility building, and school offices will not be "Power Downed" due to the return of some employees who will be working while the schools are closed.

Middle School- The Green Team leader, Mary, and a group of middle school students will be documenting the number of electrical devices in the school.

Nell- The Middle school recycling/composting project- this is the last week of parent volunteers helping/teaching/monitoring in the middle school cafeteria. Jay Richard has extended the invitation for the parent volunteers to continue coming in to help.

John- Are the middle school students who have recently left the elementary schools, continue to demonstrate appropriately the practice of recycling/composting in the cafeteria?

Nell- Yes, the majority of the MS students are engaged and dedicated to following the guidelines. There are some students who consciously choose not to follow the guidelines even when shown the recycling/composting process and/or throw away home lunches without even trying the food.

In all Schools - Jim Rozycki, ORCSD Facilities Director, has been researching the "landfill" waste (measured by weight) to determine if there has been a change in the weight paid for processing since the District wide recycling/composting program began. Exact numbers have not been determined yet, but there seems to be reduction in the weight paid processed by Torino (District's contracted waste management company).

- a. b. Initiatives - Possible future discussions of initiatives: "Earth Day Celebration", work to increase the number of school lunches, "No cook lunch" (no oven used in kitchens) offered in schools,

2. Sub-committee highlights- did not accomplish

3. Update on "Production Garden" letter from Dr. Morse

Things to follow-up with: date to be emailed?, additional emailings?, Newspaper? town updates?

4. Button Up Event Update - Thursday, January 23, 2014 6:30-8pm. ORHS Multipurpose room Maggie, Nell, and Mary have offered to help with the brainstorming and organizing. Paul gathered material used 2 years ago when another event was "hosted."

5. Nutrition Program

- a. Community dinners- Next dinner is on Thursday, Jan 16 at Moharimet. Beef stew in the bread bowls is the menu.

- b. Doris has been menu planning in 3rd-4th grader Moharimet classrooms. She will do the same at Mast Way in January, 2014.

- c. Dayle Hayes, National Nutritionist presenter, is coming on Thursday this week for a visit. She will be working in Moharimet and she will be writing an article called "School Lunch Heros" based on what she sees. New England Dairy council is also visiting.

- d. local foods being served currently in December is very limited, Doris is still working on finding a contact for greens "off season."

John suggested contacting Tendercrop Farm - a farm expanding to the Old Tuttle's Farm in Dover.

- e. Curriculum plans for nutrition/gardening - "Digging in" will be given to MOH and MW by Doris

6. Other

VI. New Business

1. Discussion promotion/media work for Green Teams work and initiatives -

Emily- asking for help from ORSC/Steering Committee in "advertising" the initiatives being worked on and accomplished in the District.

Maggie- having a PR person who could help spread the word to the general public and district.
Nell- more articles in the Durham Update, Town Crier, Madbury Musings, etc....

Durham Rep, Lee Reps, Madbury Representatives - could be asked to write announcements, updates, articles etc...

Dennis- the Green Team leader could attend the staff meeting to share work, information

Cyd will work on writing an update in January for dispersal to all three town's news sources

2. Potential Food Hub in Durham Status (Silva Foster)- committee in town active in developing a Food hub in the old Durham Town Hall, The Durham Parsonage, and big barn beside Red Towers, built in 1862 are the three locations being considered.

The food hub could receive and process a wide range of food (e. g., vegetables, meat, cheese etc...) before distributed.

Many different activities could be included at the Food Hub processing, culinary work, instruction, distribution, etc...

The "driver(s)" that still need to be found to provide the start-up money is still be investigated. -

The hub could include HS/ MS students and UNH students/staff participation (no paid jobs)

Food hub - typically food hubs are a community's center, nonprofit, following whatever operational model best suits the local needs and desires

USDA- food hub guide is available online

Local Food Hub: Eastern Corners, Kensington, NH- Processing plant is being built across the street.

3. Farm to School Grant- next step?

For a complete list of FY14 Farm to School grant recipients, please

see: http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/FY_2014_Grant_Award_Summaries.pdf

Doris- involves classroom, outdoor space, kitchen and other elements.

Portsmouth has been given a one year "planning" grant of a 3 year grant cycle.

Maggie will investigate the grant, contact interested individuals, and inform us of information and what will be taking place next.

4. Other-

Dennis- talked with Sue Caswell and suggested that the Green Teams be paid 1/3 of stipends before the December vacation. Documentation should be continued throughout the year so that criteria can be collected.

Motion by Sarah: "To pay the Green Team leaders 1/3 of their stipend before the December break with continued documentation of the leaders' work/hours."

motion: Sarah

second: Cristina

All approved

VII. Public Comments- none

VIII. Future Steering Meeting date

Next meeting January 14, 2014 at 5 pm the OR High School, Room 120 (most likely)

IX. Future Full ORSC Meetings at ORHS Library:

Wed. Jan. 8, 2014 7pm Snowdate Jan. 9th (Dennis facilitate)

Wed. March 12, 2014 7pm

Wed. May 14, 2014 7pm

X. Closing Actions (5 minutes)

- a. Agenda planning for next Steering Committee meeting review- Power Down, update on PR, response for production letter (John not be in area here until mid January)
- b. Agenda planning for Jan. 8th, 2014 Full ORSC meeting-none
- c. Other

XI. Adjournment 6:36pm