

ORCSD Sustainability Committee Full Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2015 at 7:00pm ORHS Library

Present: Sarah Larson-Dennen, Brian Taetzsch, Maria Barth, Dr. Jim Morse, Tom Newkirk, Dennis Harrington, Maggie Morrison, Leticia Denoya, Cristina Dolcino, Sue Caswell, Tracy Schroeder, Barry Kaplan (left at 7:45), Cyd Scarano, Mark Milliken, Nell Neal, Mary Ellen Webb, Chuck Cox (arrived at 7:20) Doris Demers(arrived at 8:15). Mastway parents- Julia Rodriguez, Beth MacPherson, Kai Forcey, Lori Trauntrein and three Mastway students – Olivia, Emily and Aljia.

I. Call to Order at 7:10 Motion: Barry Second: Mary Ellen

II. Introductions -We had 8 Visitors

III. Preliminary Actions

A. Approval of Agenda – the group agreed to move the Public Comments up in order to hear from the Mastway students first.
 motion: Maggie second: Dennis

B. Approval of Minutes of November 12, 2014 motion: Maggie second: Dennis

(ORSC Full meeting originally scheduled for 1-12-15 and then 2-28-15 were both cancelled due to inclement weather/District closure. This meeting was not rescheduled a third time.)

C. Correspondence/Announcements: Via Cristina – John Carroll shared an article regarding Astro Turf Fields. Cristina also shared information regarding upcoming events provided by the NH Cooperative Extension.

D. Other – nothing

IV. Public Comments–

Special presentation from Mary Ellen Webb's third and fourth grade class regarding consumption of plastic bottles in the US, NH and at Mastway. MW recycles about 100 plastic bottles a week. Thank you to Emily, Olivia and Aljia for presenting and to the whole class for their hard work researching the topic. Maria Barth asked the group to add to future agendas a look at the use of pesticides on the athletic fields and how can we transition to integrate a field management system that is not bad for the health of the environment. Added to the May 13 agenda.

V. Discussion/Updates

A. Right to Know Information presentation – Superintendent, Dr. Morse and School Board Chair, Dr. Thomas Newkirk - They handed out Right-to-Know Law handout. The Sustainability Committee is subject to all the same Right-to-Know laws that the School Board follows. The agenda needs to be posted for the public five days before the meeting, reminder that the group cannot meet unless the agenda has been posted, cannot use email to sway people regarding topics to be discussed, members cannot use personal email accounts (Cristina will work to gather names of people who need them)
Maggie - Do Green Team members need to post notes or an agenda for their small group meetings? No.
Dennis – Can I call Mark and discuss an item regarding the sustainability committee? Not if it's on the Agenda, the Chair needs to monitor the discussion and the discussion should happen at the meeting.
A quorum for the Steering Committee is five members present. A topic can be added to the agenda if needed. The best approach is to push it off to the next meeting so the public is aware of the topic to be discussed and can attend. Listen to the public comments but you should not respond because you're not prepared to respond. Any materials to be discussed should be sent out with the agenda. Materials to go on the agenda should be sent to Cristina and not the whole group. Tom added that the spirit of the law is that you don't deliberate or coordinate in-between meetings. It's ok to share information and discuss with a peer, you just don't plan without the whole group. Materials sent via email can be shared with the group but it is advised to stay safe and not discuss the material. The key idea is to keep the public informed. Do not use the word "other" on the agenda; it's too vague.

B. Steering Committee Discussion

a. Foss Manufacturing "Plastic bottles collection project". Mark Milliken spoke to the benefits of Foss recycling the plastics and the need to move forward with the discussion and make a decision. Foss uses plastics to manufacture interior rugs for automobiles. Usually plastics are sent from the US to China and then sent back to the US to be made into their product. Foss is interested in having schools collect plastic bottles to send right to their Foss factory to be used in their product. Foss's hope is to eliminate the "buying from China" step. Foss needs a clean product that can be controlled at schools; the plastics from town dumps or

curbside pick-up is not clean enough. They need #1 products. For many weeks the group has struggled with this. Are we promoting plastic use? It is supported by the Administration at the High School. It was decided that Moharimet and OR High School are going to pilot the program. Mastway and the Middle School will not participate. Because we are piloting the program, the group decided there was no need to vote on this topic. We will vote on this topic when we would like to have it go District wide, if we decide to do that in the future.

C. UNH Interns Update

- a. UNH Intern, Letecia Denoya is looking at what schools are teaching about regarding sustainability in the classroom at the District, State and National level. Letecia has created a survey for teachers/ administrations to share their information. She is also working on the Maple Sugaring brochure. Our second UNH intern, Brian Taetzsch shared what the high school club is working on: solar panels at the high school, zero waste (monitoring compost and recycling bins), and creating a school-wide summit on sustainability (looking to share a movie and have a speaker for the event). This group is shooting for the event to happen in the spring. Nell Neal suggested Alex Fried as a speaker at the high school event. The high school is also interested in using more electronic interactions and less paper use. Mark shared that the amount of compost created at the High School has doubled. Interns are also available to work with classrooms regarding planting curriculum gardens. Teachers need to contact Sarah Larson-Dennen or MaryEllen Webb if they are interested in having interns help.

D. Updates of initiatives as chosen at the 11-12-14 meeting based on Dept. of Education: Green Ribbon School Pillars Green Schools Pillar 1 – Reduce Environmental impact and costs

- * Solar energy- lessening dependence on fossil fuels – maybe Fall 2015
- * reducing paper/ copier contract- (Green team members and Sue)- the group continues to work on this. The district continues to use recycled paper. The group is working on getting the district to use less paper. Signage on machines educating about the cost of each copy. The idea of a code to access to the copier was brought up. The group is looking at how green are the machines we're currently using.

Green Schools Pillar 2 – Improve the health and wellness of students and staff

- * Production garden (Dennis, Cyd, Chuck and Sarah LD) -
Spring 2015 planting, October 2015 harvest – Another meeting needs to happen when the snow melts! Soil needs to be examined. Sweet potatoes need to be bought. Dennis will show pictures of all the gardens to the group so all members are informed on the different gardens and how they are used. The group did not receive the USDA grant and will look into reapplying in the Fall. The group discussed putting sweet potatoes in the garden. Cristina will get a price on sweet potatoes.

Green Schools Pillar 3 – Provide effective environmental and sustainability education, incorporating Stem, civic skills, and green career paths.

- * Educational events – Community dinner/FED UP movie on 1-8-15 (Cristina and Nell), Winter Farmer's Market, displaying at the ORCSD Deliberative Session, three meetings were held at the Durham Library to educate the public about our work.
- * Sending kids to the Recycling conference in June. (Mary and Maggie)- nothing to update
- * Stewardship Projects- citizenship projects and education, trail maintenance, bridge building: Stohworthy, (MS and HS), Moharimet and The Lee Town Forest (MW) Maggie shared that John Bromley is working with his Env. Ed students to report to the Conservation Committee on their research.
- * Mast Way's rain garden – connecting teachers/students/ community/ (Jim Rozicki, Maggie, Letecia, MaryEllen and Annie Snelling.) Maggie shared that the trees have been cut, announcements posted in the community. MaryEllen is putting together curriculum. This is a two year project. 2014 – trees removed and in 2015 – construction will begin in June and be completed by the fall of 2015.

E. Green Teams Update

- a. MW – Maggie shared that the MW green team will do an Environmental Awareness week possibly April 20-24
- b. MOH – Cyd has visited each classroom for 45 minutes to teach about Carbon Footprint, Cyd's role on the Green Team, and how many plastic bottles are used at Moharimet. She found that Moh uses very little plastic bottles. Cyd is now leading the Maple Sugaring project at the school and the sap is finally running today. Cyd is also organizing MW visits to Moharimet. Six classes from MW will visit Moh to learn about the process.
- c. MS Green Club – See the report attached.
- d. HS - See the report attached and above report from Brian.
HS Sustainability ("Sus") Club

F. Child Nutrition:

- a. General update – Doris is working with 12 farms to buy local food for the schools. She has \$1,000 left of the \$15,000 to spend. High School and Middle School participation has gone down. This is because of new regulations requiring students to have a fruit or vegetable with their meal in order for it to be charged as a “meal”. Students are refusing to do this, so their meal is charged as an “entrée”. While the entrée makes more money for the food service program, the drop in student “meal” numbers makes it seem like there is less participation. MW, Moh and MS participation numbers are staying the same. Doris shared that the Federal Government, starting July 1, is requiring her to get three bids to purchase food from farms, which could complicate her process. Cristina suggested we have another farmers meeting to inform the farmers of these changes. Doris will pick a date to arrange the meeting. Chuck wondered if the Farm to School program is working on this. Maria suggested we ask for Jeanne Shaheen’s help.
- b. Community Dinner and Movie Update: *FED UP* on 1-8-2015 - High attendance - sixty to seventy people showed up for the movie and over 200 people attended the dinner.
- c. Next Community Dinner and Event Thursday, March 12

G. School Board Update - none

VI. New Business

- A. Thoughts to ponder and start working on for next year? Maggie would like the group to think about projects for next year that are District Wide.
The group will continue to focus on the three Pillars next year.
Cyd Scaranno will be not be a green team leader next year.

VII. Closing Actions

- A. Selection of full meeting dates for 2014-2015 school year at ORHS Library when available

~~Wednesday, September 24, 2014 at 7pm~~

~~Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 7pm~~

~~Monday, January 12, 2015 at 7pm cancelled due to District closure. Rescheduled to~~

~~Snowdate Thursday, January, 28, 2015~~

Monday, March 9, 2015 at 7pm

Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 7pm (6pm potluck dinner and meeting at Moharimet)

- B. Set next Steering Meeting date: Tuesday April 7, 2015 5-7 in the ORHS conference meeting.
- C. Agenda Items for next Full meeting on May 13, 2015 – how green are our athletic fields, finding a replacement for Cyd, what are looking forward to in the new year?

VII. Adjournment at 8:56 motion: Cristina second: Sue

Reference:

Green Ribbon Schools (US Dept. of Ed) Pillars as guiding principles
[schools/index.html](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/index.html)

[http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/index.html)

Submitted by Sarah Larson-Dennen
March 9, 2015

Foss Manufacturing 2/6/2015 meeting with representatives regarding the #1 plastic initiative.
Met with and submitted by Mark Milliken

Hope to start Pilot program around April 1st (snow gone)?

Pilot program in three schools, HS; MS, Mastway

Based on outside drop off by parents

Tall Kitchen (or larger) LDPE bags to be sent home with Students.

Ten bags per package with a flyer and instruction sheet educating parents and students on the goal

Assume one bag will hold 30 to 35 bottles or roughly 3 lbs. Assume this is average usage by a family in two weeks

Outside bins on site: assuming two at each facility. (Need to work out details for Mast Way and MS)

74 x 51 x 45”H (covered top) (should hold about 80 full bags each)

Assume at HS 350 students participate. Expect 175+ bags a week, need to be emptied at least once a week

If Foss pays 8 cents a lbs it is roughly \$50 a week in revenue

Could use proceeds toward providing a hydration station for the new proposed athletic facility. How much is a Hydration Station for the fields?

Foss to build or have built “shed” to cover top and three sides of outside bins

Foss needs size of footprint on location at each of the three schools.

Shed needs to be stationary with support in ground

Also recycling containers in the school. Shape of a bottle. Need at least three per school.

Educational approaches: (Mostly Foss Effort approved by school)

Electronically to Community in March, Need Media show

PTO Meeting in May (TBD)

Open House in Fall

Student Body assembly (2) in March/April, need presentation and literature to hand out.

Sustainability Club meeting, and their use of Social Media to Promote 2:30 to 3:30 (TBD)

Literature to send to homes with Bags. Need mock up letter

Don't emphasize plastic usage, deal with the problem at hand, plastic bottles going to landfill

Posters in school, educational and instructional

Need bags sent home by mid-March (Foss)

Other:

Will be meeting with Governor's council and Superintendents in some Districts in May. Would like OR support (Mark volunteered)

Foss will begin to design sheds, buy bags, buy dumpsters, by bottle recycling containers, draft up educational publications and media efforts, make signage for the sheds

Foss Initiative Presentation on 12-2-14 by David Rowell and Mark Gauthier, Foss employees

Plastic bottles... 2 million used in 5 minutes, 8 out of 10 bottles used end up in landfill, 700 years to decompose,

Foss uses #1 plastic bottles (resin) to make automotive interior trim fabrics, trunk lines, seat coverings, wall coverings, craft felt and indoor/outdoor carpeting, shoe uppers, respiratory masks.... Brand name Ecofi

Currently plastic resin is imported from Asia and S. America which is where plastics from US are sent to due to there not be as high a demand for plastic in US for it to stay here

12 bottles makes 1 pound of fiber

ORSC understandings regarding the Foss initiative gleaned from ORSC steering meetings: 12-2-14, 12-8-14, 1-22-15, 2-19-15

- This is a pilot study for Foss. Their overall goal is to implement a plastic collection system across state. This initiative would provide Foss with increased social capital and higher profitability since they will not have to pay for plastics to be "shipped" away and then bought back OR involvement is providing helpful information and it could also be a "gateway" for other schools/Districts.
- A home and school educational component by Foss is considered to be an extremely significant piece for Foss to accomplish. ORSC individuals do not want this initiative to be seen by the Community/students as "encouraging" the purchase of single use #1 bottles and other #1 containers when there are options to educate and promote re-useable and behavioral changes.
- The Foss initiative could be considered a "better" choice than bottles being place into recycling. Ideally a decrease in the use of petroleum products is desired, but if "you must" use #1 plastic then this initiative may be the "right" thing to participate in.
- Significant discussion took place regarding the philosophical conflict that families/children will interpret the Foss initiative as an excuse" to buy #1 plastic so plastic is made into something AND school receives money.
- ORSC should be educating citizens on how to take plastic out of our waste stream and not possibly increasing #1 plastic if the process is not understood.
- Bottles will be brought to schools (HS/MOH) by families individually (no children will bring bottles on buses). Foss will supply "special" plastic bags to families for collection and deposit in tastefully constructed "dumpster" in the Schools' parking lots.
- HS would also have a #1 plastic bottle containers beside the Igors in the cafeteria. Also discussion about collection of bottles at athletic events.
- Foss would award schools money for their collection efforts.
- ORSC needs to develop an evaluation tool so data can be collected for future discussions.

- Discussion took place about ORSCD maybe not being the "right" District for a pilot study due to our fairly strong sustainability efforts. This was discussed with Foss and they still encourage our involvement.

<http://www.fossmfg.com/>

DRAFT