

ORCSD Full Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2015 at 7:00pm Moharimet School
Potluck at 6pm

Present: Sarah Larson-Dennen, Brian Taetzsch, Dennis Harrington, Maggie Morrison, Leticia Denoya, Cristina Dolcino, Nell Neal, Mary Ellen Webb, Doris Demers, Shelley Mitchell, Jim Rozycki, Kristen Houle, Mary Caulfield

I. Call to Order 7:02 Motion: Cristina Second: Maggie

II. Introductions

III. Preliminary Actions

A. Approval of Agenda: motion: Maggie second: Maryellen

B. Approval of Minutes of March 9, 2015 motion: Maggie second: Mary

C. Correspondence/Announcements: Doris announced that the Mast Way and Moharimet the USDA Healthier US School: Bronze Level award. Both Mast Way and Moharimet received the award. Doris recognized members of the Sustainability Committee and the Wellness Committee who also helped with process.

IV. Public Comments – Shelley shared the article about the HS Sustainability Club which was written by high school student, Haley Mitchell, in the writing magazine, *Mouth of the River*, spring 2015 issue.

V. Discussion/Updates

A. Steering Committee Update

a. Foss Manufacturing "Plastic bottles collection project" – Cristina shared that Foss began collecting bottles after April vacation. Collecting bins are in the HS for students and there is a container in the back of the school for families to place their bottles. Foss will meet with the HS students on Monday May 18 to educate the high school students. Using the term "Eco-throw". Mary Ellen told us that MW has a receptacle to collect bottles. Moharimet will also have a receptacle. All of this is still in the process of being organized.

B. UNH Interns Update

a. UNH Intern, Leticia Denoya's shared her Semester Capstone Project looking at Sustainability in the Classroom. See attached Slide Show and Document.

C. Evaluation of our achievements for 2014-15 initiatives- based on Dept. of Education: Green Ribbon School Pillars (see reference on back). How did we do and what are our goals for the next school year? Goals for next year are *italicized* and bulleted.

Green Schools Pillar 1 – Reduce Environmental impact and costs

- Solar energy- lessening dependence on fossil fuels – maybe Fall 2015? – Jim shared information with Sun Rays Solar. Roof structure and material needs to be considered. Jim suggested using the OR service building for this. Jim will continue to communicate with them.
- *Next year - Investigations on the use of solar panels will be a continued goal for Jim next year.*

- *Next year - Shelley suggested we continue the Ecological Footprint work and that it will help with our cause and Jim's work.*
- reducing paper/ copier contract- (Green team members and Sue) Sue was absent and will share this information another time.

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- Cristina shared that we will start off with Sweet Potatoes that will be served in the lunch program.
 - *Next year - Maggie suggested we support Doris by helping organize a Farmers get together to see what they have to offer. The fall might be a good time for this to happen.*
 - *Next year - Doris suggested it would be great if we could get a farmer to plant a crop just for our district. This could be a good high school student project.*
 - *Next year - Work on educating younger students on riding the bus as they get older (high school age).*
 - *Next year - Working with the town to encourage "No Idling" at the MS. Might be a good Green Bean initiative. Biking to school. Or an incentive to ride the bus.*

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, ORCSD Deliberative Session,
 - *Next year - High school group is interested in having a movie shown to students for each semester.*
- Sending kids to the Recycling conference in June. (Mary and Maggie) This will not be happening since the offerings at the conference were not strong.
 - *Next year - Maggie suggested for next year we encourage the high school group to present at the conference.*
- Stewardship Projects- citizenship projects and education, trail maintenance, bridge building: Stohlworthy, (MS and HS), Moharimet and The Lee Town Forest (MW) –
 - *Next year - Jon Bromley had a great presentation with environmental experts. How can we help teachers? How can we bring in experts into the classroom?*
 - *Next year - Ellen Snyder is an environmental consultant for the town of Durham is creating an environmental notebook on Stolworthy habitats. How can we get this to the MS and HS?*
 - *Next year – how can help inform teachers about books, websites they could use in the classroom.*
- Mast Way's rain garden – connecting teachers/students/ community/ (Jim Rozycki, Maggie, Leticia, Mary Ellen and Annie Snelling.) Worked with the fourth grade classes on this.

D. Identify ORSC Initiatives for 2015-2016

- a. Resources to consider: ORCSD Sustainability Policy
OR School Board Charge
- b. Reflect upon brainstormed list of initiatives from September 2014

E. Green Teams and UNH Interns Support Highlights

- a. MW – had a great Earth Week with the school.
- b. MOH- Cyd was not here to report
- c. MS Green Club- Earth Day efforts were excellent.
 - Would like to be in the classroom more to support teachers' efforts to instruct sustainability related topics
 - *Next year – would like to work more with ORHS Sustainability Club.*
- d. HS Movie "Do The Math" on Earth Day went really well -- HS Sustainability ("Sus") Club organized and presented to about 100 students. Non-profit organizations poster boards in hallway
 - *Next year – plan a movie festival in late January. Friday to Sunday*
 - *Posting of Green Team Leader has been sent to SAU. Nell will check into them.*

F. Child Nutrition:

- a. Update and next year plans – Doris shared that she only needs three bids for foods acquired that go over \$3000. This will only be for purchasing apples and beef.
 - *Next year – Doris will continue community dinners. Perhaps we should invite the Farmers and have it be like a Farmers Market to sell their products. First Community Dinner as decided to be on Thursday, September 24, 2015.*

D. School Board Update – Dr. Morse will get back to the group about who is our new S B rep.

VI. New Business

A. Management practices of District's fields/land – Jim Rozycki presented information. (See attached Grounds Dept. Narrative)

- Next year/now- District is bridging to using an organic fertilizer on fields. No longer using Tru-Green and switching to Hillside Landscaping due to their use of more sustainable practices. In August, the custodians will be switching to a water-based cleaning process.

Maryellen asked about acquiring compost from Mr. Fox. Nell will look into this.

B. Recognition of our work this year – a huge thank you to Leticia and Brian our UNH interns.

- *Next year - Shelley suggested we have goals organized that we want the interns to work on for next year. Preferably by July in order for potential interns to be informed of the work required. Suggestions for intern work – Social media/ newsletter, teaching lessons, working with student clubs, Ecological Footprint research. Mary offered to be a contact person for the interns for next year. Jim R. as well if their interest of work matches what is available in the District.*

C. District of Distinction Recognition Award- we will know the results in July

VII. Closing Actions

- A. Approval of full meeting dates for 2015-2016 school year at ORHS Library (typically)

Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at 7pm

Monday, November 23, 2015 at 7pm

Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 7pm. Snow date: Wednesday, January 27 2016

Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 7pm

Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at 7pm (6pm potluck dinner and meeting)

B. Set next Steering Meeting date: will be determined later

C. Agenda Items for next Full meeting in Fall 2015

VII. Adjournment 8:59pm motion: Maryellen second: Maggie

Submitted by Sarah Larson-Dennen

Reference:

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

Submitted by Jim Rozycki, ORCSD Facilities Director, at the ORSC Full meeting on May 13, 2015 due to a request from a community member at ORSC Full meeting on March 9, 2015.

To really understand the Grounds dynamic of the facilities department, we need to consider all seasons. Where it's not just limited to mowing and landscaping in the spring, summer, and fall; there isn't much "sitting around" in the off months. Our team of 2 does all of the plowing at the high, middle schools, SAU and service buildings. They spend days cleaning up after wind / rain storms which leave debris and limbs scattered. They maintain all of the districts power equipment, fill sand buckets, school equipment moves, function set-ups, perform playground inspections and repairs, assist with HVAC filter changes, maintenance work orders, life safety inspections, repair and maintain athletic equipment, fleet vehicle maintenance and repairs, cover custodial outages, paint, weld furniture, to name a few.

As we look deeper at what shape our grounds are now, what would you think? Our view is really just "ok". We see areas that need improvement, color, and complete renovation. There has really been an emphasis on not just the how but on the why we want our grounds to look great and be safe for students, coaches, athletes, and spectators. Our ultimate goal is to stand out among other school districts. I realize this was once the case but not for some time. In my 1 ½ years here, sure I asked the questions of what was done different 10 years ago. Though most of my staff was not here to share with me many details, I can only speculate why there may have been a lapse of funds, energy, or attention. When I was in my last district, around the time when the economy was poor, our budgets, though did not decrease much, there was a tighter grip on absolutely necessary spending, and waiting to fill open positions. Again, I am not sure if this was even the case here. It could've even been just poor management. Our point is that we just want to move forward and take it a step above.

Immediate school grounds - They can definitely improve. There is a strong effort with some teachers that want to also see them improve which we are very much open to partner with and have been. Though we ultimately feel the overall appearance and maintenance belongs to us (facilities).

Mast Way - the PTO and volunteers really came through to beautify the front. It looks much better and the selection on plants/shrubs was perfect for low maintenance. The lawn area though has grubs, crab grass, and the pine trees that were just taken out created challenges for grass to grow. We have just started working with the lawns prepping them to get back to healthy status. It usually takes the season to attack the grubs and weeds to get a healthy turf. We also intend to plant ornamentals evenly spaced out in front, install a school sign, and plant flowers. The courtyard is also looking better and the gardens are producing better. Some additional tree removal and lawn care in the playground area are scheduled.

Moharimet - School volunteers also spend time on plant beds and vegetable gardens there. The front needs to be dressed up with new stone for the drip edge, edging, moss control, and lawn fertilizer. The open field next to the playground has been challenging given the high uses. We installed a retaining wall to help with erosion but also helped with aesthetics. New grass was planted around the addition which will help with appearance. We plan to continue to have some trees thinned out around the property. Poison ivy is a constant battle there also. The grounds crew spends a better part of the day performing playground inspections given the size and type it is.

Both Elementary school until about 8-9 years ago housed their own ride-on tractor where the grounds staff drove to each location and used on-site equipment due to not having a trailer. Once these machines died off, facilities purchased a trailer to move larger pieces around to be more efficient.

Middle school - The front of the school to the left is always a challenge to mow the hill. Leaves and debris are constantly attracted to that area. Many different plant species are in the main entrance beds offering a lot of color and fullness but will need to be divided. The Coe Drive side needs mulch - tree rings. The lawn on that side is a challenge also with the ledge, grubs, and crab grass. Trash from the apartment complexes litters that side frequently. School staff does a great job with the vegetable beds and the wood boxes really make things slot cleaner. The baseball field was renovated in about 12 years ago. It is in good shape minus fence and wood guardrail repairs needed. The field has irrigation which is a huge help to the turf and soil. No drainage issues. The field is fertilized and grub control is applied.

High School - The lawn areas around the school have strong turf roots and look decent most of the time. Irrigation would help more. Some challenges are along the edges that are damaged from foot traffic and winter salt/sand. There is some exposed ledge near the bus loop which makes mowing difficult in that area. The immediate front needs help. The birch trees and shrubs shouldn't have been placed there and need to be removed. They overgrown quickly from the heat of the building, damaged from snow loads, and collect trash and debris. There is no color to really beautify the front and accentuate the sign and flag pole. School staff does a great job maintaining veg and plant gardens and the front rain garden.

Fields - this has been a really sensitive subject but just want to state the facts from our perspective. The history with fertilizer is that it has been a contracted operation as far back as people can

remember. That outfit was Tru-green. As of now, we partnered with Hillside landscaping for our fertilizing, renovating, and seeding needs. One of the very first issues I dealt with when starting the job here was the call about pesticides and that Tru-green was applying fertilizer to the fields. Almost a week later coincidentally I received a call from the prior Durham town engineer wanting to discuss the Beards creek culvert project. We discussed our current fertilizer plan and the impact of Beards creek nitrogen levels and the testing that was being conducted by UNH. He instructed us to continue with what we were doing for the even the following (2015) season until the UNH data collection was completed. We did exactly that. Though the Durham Engineer position has changed, I have been in contact with the current person and received the green light to change the products. We really wanted to do move this portion of the program in a safer / sustainability minded direction incorporating organics. The soil really dictates next steps and products which is why we are doing soil samples and using Hillside. As of 2 years ago, we now have to prep and line Little River Park in Lee for ORCSD baseball. Athletics continue to grow.

One thing that must be understood is though the athletic fields are green, there are serious issues with drainage and field use at the most important times where turf can grow most effectively. We highly support any renovations to the high school fields. To not trail off on synthetic turf or natural, lights or no lights, and costs; the main driver of where our 2 grounds staff spend most of their time - is on the high school fields. Any change in game time, rain cancelations, or staff outages really put all of the above schools back, sometimes days.

Last season we budgeted for a Full time seasonal groundskeeper - April-October. This worked out well keeping up with MOH and MW but had to end in late August due to this person going back to school at UNH.

We posted this year in March/April but did not have much success. Our other maintenance staff is now helping out a few days per week just to keep up. Our intention is to closely consider possibly adding an additional staff member or contract out more.

NEPN/NSBA Code: ED

Sustainability Policy

The Oyster River Public Schools are committed to environmental leadership through the incorporation of sustainability principles and practices into our day to day operations. The School Board directs the Oyster River Public Schools to:

1. Use resources efficiently
2. Reduce waste
3. Consider environmental impact and societal costs in decision making
4. Encourage activities that will reduce pollution

Accordingly, the Superintendent or designee shall develop and revise as appropriate guidelines, procedures or strategies to:

1. Monitor and analyze energy consumption while continuing to invest in proven energy efficient technologies, manage building control systems and reward efforts to reduce consumption while maintaining a healthy learning and working environment
2. Minimize the amount of waste sent to landfills and maximize the amount of waste, including food waste, that gets recycled while striving for zero waste
3. Heighten awareness about the importance of environmental sustainability throughout the Public Schools through curriculum and the promotion of environmental programs and initiatives such as school gardens, buying local foods and the cafeteria food waste separation program
4. Reduce our carbon footprint by encouraging the use of public transportation, carpooling, biking and/or walking to school
5. Purchase fuel efficient vehicles, particularly buses, which have a reduced impact on the health of students and the environment while continuing to enforce no idling policy
6. Develop building facility and grounds maintenance plans that are committed to addressing indoor and outdoor environmental concerns in a proactive manner
7. Promote environmentally sustainable cleaning practices throughout the Public Schools
8. Purchase products with minimal packaging and products made of recycled, recyclable or compostable materials

The Sustainability Committee is the newest ORCSD School Board appointed committee. The purpose of the Sustainability Committee is to facilitate a sustainability forum by working and aligning with the five principles of sustainability in the areas of food, energy, transportation, school curriculum and community outreach. The Committee will demonstrate leadership and resolve to educate community members, and advocate for sustainable living. These recommendations will meet the needs of the students, taxpayers and be fiscally responsible.

Charge:

1. Will assist the Superintendent in development, formation and implementation of 'Green Teams.'
2. Will serve as a resource to the School Board, the Administration and various Departments to implement sustainable practices to improve environmental efficiencies and reduce ecological impact at each school building, according to school district policy.
3. May assist the Food Service in the implementation of the 'Kids Eat Local' program;
4. May research, collate, and report on curriculum lessons that compliment and integrate Science Common Core and District Standards.
5. Will work to integrate sustainability initiatives directly into the line items of the school district's budget.
6. Will provide periodic summations on projects/initiatives and provide a written report at end of the school year, including any process and/or reporting recommendations for future years.
7. This important committee advises on District policy, procedure and sustainability efforts.

2013-14 Members:

Dennis Harrington	OCSD Administrator
John Carroll	UNH Representative
Griffin Sinclair-Wingate	
Cristina Dolcino	Durham
Sarah Larson-Dennen	Moharimet Representative
Nell Neal	

Community members interested in serving on the Sustainability Committee should contact Wendy at the Superintendent's office at wdifruscio@orcsc.org

ONGOING WORK:

Pillar 1: Reduce environmental impact and costs

- Composting-recycling
- Reducing waste in kitchen and Schools: Stream line bulk condiments, no straws, compostable supplies
- Water filling stations
- Continue to use green products at the facility work.... Cleaning supplies, tiles and not carpets
- Friday Power Downs and Break/vacation Power Downs
- Car and bus decrease idling at the schools
- Bio diesel fuel for buses
- Bus routes efficiency
- Retrofit of lighting in District
- Digital communication verses paper
- Buy recycled paper for copiers
- Provide healthy and local foods for school meals (e.g., Farm to School, local farmers, fish)

Pillar 2: Improve the health and wellness of students and staff

- District Community Dinners serving local foods
- Ongoing financial support of local food purchases for School nutrition program
- Nutritious local foods-
- Bike to School program at MS

Pillar 3: Provide effective environmental and sustainability education, incorporating, STEM, civic skills and green career pathways

- Electricity awareness
- Sustainability Challenges
- Maple sugaring, pumpkins, vegies, herbs, flowers etc... in the schools
- Continue to support community gatherings that celebrate sustainable work
- Support instruction in the gardens
- Outdoor Education, trail use, environmental lessons, etc... by teachers and GT leaders
- Support ongoing themes of education/instruction by teachers and GT leaders

POTENTIALLY NEW WORK:

Pillar 1 Reduce environmental impact and costs

- Continually commission the Schools: Systems are checked regularly with Seimens
- Green the supply chain- service, products, or process for both inside and outside environments

- Water bottle free campus – add more stations
- If new field is approved at HS include hydration stations outside
- Reducing paper use... make all copiers default to duplex. Add this to the new contract in 2 years.
- Revision Energy... awnings on buildings that are not south facing
- Solar Carports
- Benchmarking what other schools are doing for practices of sustainability
- Research grant opportunities
- Reduce paper use

Pillar 2 Improve the health and wellness of students and staff

- Nutritious local foods- "improve" contracts with food providers
- Wellness Fair for Staff in District
- Develop a relationship with the District Wellness Committee
- Clarify cleaning policies that can be used in classrooms ... newsletter, signage?

Pillar 3: Provide effective environmental and sustainability education, incorporating, STEM, civic skills and green career pathways

- Educational events... movies, speakers, books,
- Continue our own professional development
- Developing a stronger connections with outdoor instruction, enjoyment, awareness, stewardship...
- Strong student Sustainability Clubs
- Have students from MOH and MW attend the Recycling Conference in June
- How many teachers are implementing sustainability topics? Survey?
- Provide support to these teachers teaching sustainability
- Atlas implementation may help share information of instructional areas across grade levels
- Gaining more connections with Community (attending farmer markets by students)
- Jim R continually working on the Rain Garden at MW – use for education
- Field Trip Education Guidebook... ETS, EcoMaine,
- Lessening our dependency to fossil fuels and increasing our educational awareness of alternative energy sources
- 5th Grade environment camp
- Field Trips for adults to schools, programs, businesses etc.. involved in sustainability work
- Continue to develop alliance with other Sustainability Organizations
- Events District policy – other schools,
- New employees and student orientation program regarding sustainability practices
- Winter gardening using tunnels
- Provide opportunities for student learning to be showcased to the larger Communities (like the UNH undergraduate model)
- Green-Sustainable School Activities (e.g., HS Green Careers Day)