

## ORSC Steering Committee Notes

Tuesday, October 28 2014 at 5pm ORHS Room 120

**Present:** Cristina Dolcino, Dennis Harrington, Sue Caswell, Sarah Larson-Dennen, Nell Neal, Cyd Scarano, Brian Taetzsch. Mark Milliken and Doris Demers arrived at 5:30. Brian left at 5:40.

I. Call to Order at 5:10 motion: Nell second: Cristina

II. Welcome/Introductions

III. Preliminary Actions

1. Approval of Agenda: motion: Cristina second: Sarah

3. Approval of Minutes: October 9, 2014. motion: Sue second: Sarah

4. Correspondence/News: Cristina is reporting for John Carroll to talk up the Fed Up movie. See the notes below regarding more movie information.

IV. Public Comments- none

V. New Business

1. Revision Energy meeting with faith community – two alumnus (Pat Jackson and Bobby Lambert) spoke with the Green Team about their work helping groups to acquire money for solar energy.
2. Other –
  - Community dinner/movie will be held January 22. The movie is Fed Up. Movie is 90 minutes long. Community dinner will run from 5-6:30 – Movie will begin at 6:30. Mary Caulfield purchased the movie for \$20 with Sust. Funds. Panel discussion afterwards would help clarify the one-sided view of the movie. Doris suggested two people to bring to the panel. Doris will organize the panel and secure the auditorium. The group discussed having childcare available. Dennis suggested sending an Alert Now to advertise to OR families.

Food Service discussion- (some discussion occurred before Doris arrived)

- Cristina spoke with Doris about the vending machines at the HS. Doris reported that they took in \$9,000 which is a 40% profit. She also shared that vending machines provide food to kids after hours. Sue mentioned she uses refrigerated machines, which is a great option for fresh food: cheese, yogurt, sandwiches. Vending machines will be linked to the student's meal accounts. Some sandwiches are made by Doris's crew and some made by Moe's Subs.
- Doris told Sue that the water bottles sold at lunch are a large revenue for her program.
- Sue reminded the group that Doris has been able to bring the \$95,000 cost that is usually covered by the school board (prior to Doris's arrival), down to around \$56,000. Sue mentioned that the only schools that break-even (cover all their costs) are schools that have a high population of free and reduced lunch.
- Nell wondered if we offered bottled drinks instead of bottled water it might help students change their habits of buying water and they would continue to use the water stations.
- (Doris arrives to the meetings). Doris shared that she can only sell 100% juice, milk and water to students at meal time.

- Doris mentioned that we need potable water available in the new cafeteria in Moharimet since the new construction moved the bubbler into the new gym. Dennis will get a portable cooler in the cafeteria. The group talked about using reusable cups for this.
- Doris said the HS numbers are up for breakfast - 57% of the HS are eating breakfast.
- The MS and HS students have a hard time complying with the rules to purchase vegetables and fruit with the meal. They also do not use the salad bar. The fifth graders *do* use the salad bar which is good news – they are used to it from elementary schools. Hoping this will change as the younger kids move up.

## VI. Old Business

### 1. Green Team Leaders Update –

- Cyd shared that the GT is working on reducing our paper use consumption. Sue shared that we already use an “environmental friendly” paper group. GT is considering educating the staff about this.
- Malin Clyde – UNH staff and OR parent – spoke with the GT about the Stewardship Network which is a networking group that organizes Green Initiatives happening throughout the state.  
www.Newengland.stewardshipnetwork.org They can be reached at [newengland@stewardshipnetwork.org](mailto:newengland@stewardshipnetwork.org). Malin suggested the district become stewards the Stahlworthy property (near the MS and HS) to help with curriculum. Malin’s group would help with connecting teachers to experts in the area.
- Cyd shared an article published in Fosters regarding the OR athletes taking on the sustainability challenge. Soccer teams helped monitor the compost stations.
- Maggie is putting the final touches on a grant to purchase the IGOR recycling bin. Cyd wondered if we should just purchase one and not ask the HS woodworking teacher (Mr. Troy) to build it? Mark reminded the group that Mr. Troy does have a curriculum to cover and we don’t want to interfere with his work covering this requirement. Moharimet had Jon Belcher build their IGOR container according to Dennis’s design. The group discussed offering the work to Jon Belcher, and if he is not able to meet the price, we would move forward with purchasing a pre-made container.

### 2. General School Updates

- High School - Brian shared that the HS is interested in starting a plastic bottle awareness day. Maybe selling Nalgene bottles. Brian mentioned that he noticed the group is very organized – thanks to Mr. Bromley. Composting is going well – HS members are monitoring at each lunch and they notice the compost needs to be monitored less. Mr. Fox is accepting it. HS group is also looking at solar for the HS and trying to make the school Zero Waste.

- Moharimet – Dennis shared that Moharimet has the go-ahead to build hoop-houses over two of the raised beds. Dennis has not met with the Production Garden group lately. Waiting to hear about the grant.
- 3. Finalize the process for next Full meeting using sorted list of brainstormed initiatives (see below)
  - Sue suggested members of the larger group decide which pillar they are interested in joining. Each pillar will be at a different corner of the library. People vote with their feet. Green team members will facilitate the discussion. Each member of the larger group will be expected to follow through on this work. Each group will discuss the goal or outcome that the group wants and then create a back plan – the groups will also discuss the amount of meetings and plan them out for the next few weeks/months.
- 4. Finalize agenda for large group meeting –
  - The group decided to invite a Wellness Committee member to our next Steering Committee meeting. This may be Carolyn Eastman.
- 5. Expenditures for Sustainability Club at the HS.
  - The group discussed how we're moving ahead to pay the UNH student helping the HS student group. The difference between the UNH student helping (Griffin) and the UNH intern (Brian) – intern is getting credit / UNH student is not. Intern attends meetings when he can fit it in/ UNH student is required to attend all meetings. The amount of money is \$225 for Oct through December and \$300 for a full semester. Mark Milliken will be supervising him. Mark spoke highly of Griffin's work so far – energetic, has great ideas, motivating and respected by the ORHS students.
- 6. Other –
  - Mark discussed an idea with the group about collecting bottles to be sold to Foss, a manufacturing company in Exeter. The company makes automobile carpets for trunks from recycled plastic bottles and he'd be willing to buy our bottles. Mark will connect Jim R. with this man. Nell will also contact him to discuss this issue with the Town of Durham's Integrated Waste Management Advisory group.

VII. Public Comments- none

- VIII. Future Full Meeting dates for 2014-2015 school year at ORHS Library  
~~Wednesday, September 24, 2014 at 7pm~~  
 Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 7pm  
 Thursday, January 8, 2015 (snow date Monday, January 12) at 7pm  
 Monday, March 9, 2015 at 7pm  
 Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 7pm (6pm dinner)

IX. Future Steering meeting ORSC Meetings for 2014-2015

X. Closing Actions

XII. Adjournment                      motion: Sarah              second: Cristina

## **ORSC Brainstorming Initiatives List –**

**Collected at the full mtg 9-24-2014**

**Sorted into 3 pillars at 10-9-14 Steering meeting**

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### **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:** this list will be used for the large group meeting 11/12

### **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
- 5<sup>th</sup> 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)