

ORSC Full Meeting Minutes- draft

May 10, 2017 at 5:45pm ORHS Conference Room 120

May 10, 2017 at 5:45pm (School Board meeting at 7pm) ORHS Conference Room 120

Present: Maggie Morrison, Damion Woodard, Nell Neal, Tracy Schroeder, Cristina Dolcino, MaryEllen Webb, Sarah Larson-Dennen, Jacqueline Bruhn, Dennis Harrington, Jim Rozycki, John Carroll, Shelley Mitchell, Dr. Morse (left by 6:30)

I. Call to Order 5:52 Motion: MaryEllen Second: Nell

II. Introductions-

III. Preliminary Actions

1. Approval of Agenda: Motion: Maggie Second: MaryEllen All Approved to change the agenda's order and first discuss initiatives/project for 2017-18 with Dr. Morse present

A. Approval of Minutes of March 22, 2017 motion: Maggie second: Jacqueline All Approved

B. Correspondence/Announcements- none

IV. Expenditures and request for purchases

A. Request for funds by Staff/Green Team leaders-

Jacqueline- To send the Custodian Manager (Jamie) and HS custodian (Mike) to attend the Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRRA) conference for the cost of \$35/person. Maybe they could learn how electronic wastes are being disposed? Network. All approved.

Jacqueline also proposed a request for Ron Christie to provide consultation knowledge for a "high tunnel" and drip watering system for schools. This would increase the length of the growing season for teaching and for potential production gardens.

Sarah- prefers to have students learn how to garden with the minimal things as possible so students get the sense that gardening can happen "anywhere" without things too fancy.

John- promoting this does send the message that the District is more serious about what it is growing and serving students

MaryEllen- we may want to wait to see how the partnership with Jonathan at UNH goes with the supplying of veggies to Doris' program before we get involved in another gardening project.

It was agreed that ORSC wait on beginning this initiative.

MaryEllen- Request \$100 for irrigation system at Mast Way to be used for the "freshening up" of the courtyard gardens. - All approved.

Maggie- Reminded us that each school has \$100 each year to use on garden related purchases (voted in fall) so these teachers wouldn't have to go through requesting process.

Cristina will contact the Middle School and HS teachers who garden and remind them of these funds.

V. Discussion/Updates

A. UNH Intern, Damian Woodard, presented his work in writing the 2015/2016 Ecological Footprint Amendment and Alternative Energy Feasibility Report for the OR High School

A new iteration (2016) was added to report. The report will be posted on the District's site and sent to ORSC members. Damian spent 50 hours inputting data, talking to experts about the results, analyzing the data, and writing the report.

MOH, MW, and MS have all reduced utilities over the past 4 years. HS has decreased 1% utilities - which may indicate the HS has reached its maximum efficiency with the systems currently in place (not including human habits/behaviors).

Work has been done with Froling Energy- biomass boiler system to consider using a biomass system instead of our current natural gas system. <http://www.frolingenergy.com/>

It would take 20 years for the biomass boiler system to "pay for itself." However, the Thermal REC's (renewable energy credit) incentives are "locked" in for 10 years which would be a way to have some revenue for the District - as long as the REC's are not taken away.

Transportation- Lisa H. worked with Damian to provide data points such as: fuel cost, gallons consumed, mileage.

Highlights: Increase miles/gallon due to the new buses running more efficiently, route consolidation has increased efficiency, emission standards have required an additional emission work which increased the cost for maintenance.

more compost being collected (or more waste food being produced by students/staff?)

Solid waste/recycling- seems to have been the same. Compost cost has increased due to the Transportation - slight decrease in miles driven. Miles/gallon has gone way up with efficiency

Middle School- 18% decrease in annual electricity and liquid propane,

Moharimet - 37% decrease in annual, electricity and liquid propane.

ORMS- 21% decrease in annual electricity and liquid propane,

HS- 35% decrease in electricity and 1% in liquid propane

The entire Ecological Footprint

John- There is a gain in not only saving money but also pleasantness with a reduction of light in a room.

Jim- we are trying to think of all our options for energy sources for the future.

The District has been working with Energy Stevens and energy audit documents that were completed 5 years ago. The District is almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of a way through their recommendations. Over the summer, another energy audit by Energy Stevens will take place to take a deeper look into where energy is getting lost or not used.

Jim- The energy decrease is probably due in large part to the HVAC computerized system which allows individual rooms or areas in buildings to be turned on/off as they are used.

B. Green Team Leaders Update (20 minutes)

1. New GT position - No applicants. Cristina will check with Sue about the next step.
2. "New" job responsibilities and delineations - no huge changes until GT position is discussed.
3. One highlight from this year- didn't discuss

C. 2016-17 Initiatives Update

1. Curriculum sub-committee: Survey to District's Staff will be discussed at meeting tomorrow and then presented at School Board meeting at end of year
2. NRRRA- Northeast Resource Recovery Association - Team Earth Award Prog. Audit Results - didn't discuss

<http://www.schoolrecycling.net/grant-fundraiser-contest/contests-challenges-awards/team-earth-awards-program/>

4. Summer HS "production" gardens - didn't discuss

5. ORSC e-Newsletter - didn't discuss
6. High School Track Waste Stream - didn't discuss

VI. District's Departments Leaders' Updates - didn't discuss

VII. New Business

- A. Review of ORSC charges outlined by the District- didn't discuss
- B. Brainstorm initiatives/project for 2017-18 with Dr. Morse present
 - Jacqueline- Upgrading of gardens at each school, develop a uniformed system, future plan (back plan)

Do we want the focus of school gardens to be work with classrooms? Gardening Club? Other? Ron Christie consultation ("high tunnels") possibility for school- pilot at certain schools
 - Support Jonathan's UNH T-School partnership with Doris to provide veggies for Schools
 - Maggie- develop a form that will include the identification of "sustainability" practices and make them into guidelines. There would then be followed in District by group/clubs, teams/organizations who use the schools for events. Only after the individual, who is requesting the space, shows understanding of the sustainability practices will a confirmation for the use of the space be sent by the SAU. Develop a system (e.g., dishes, silverware, ordering "green" supplies from Doris, IGOR, etc.) and identify a person to serve as the point person for this initiative and ongoing maintenance.

We want to shift to more institutional thinking... Develop a backplan for District? Doris's staff could develop all the systems in place so it will work? Who will be the "chief" organizer of the system?
 - Utilize NRRRA's school event- "Trash on the Lawn" - spend \$500 for HS and MS to have NRRRA facilitate this event during the school day. This event will reinforce why we separate waste, waste reduction, and bring awareness of how much trash is generated.

Maggie - This would be a great way to start the year. Enter data of the individual waste. Possibly have "field trip" by younger students to see the trash and learn about it.
 - Dr. Morse - Since we are no longer using Styrofoam and plastic utensils have been replaced by real flatware maybe now is the time to tackle the purchasing of plastic bottles - Doris generates \$50,000 from the selling of various drinks in the plastic bottles. The School Board heard the concern, but there just wasn't a plan decided upon during the budget season (Oct. - Dec.). This work may take more than one year.

Questions to consider: How do we encourage the reduction of plastic bottles? What could be our plan to get rid of the use of plastic bottles. What is the investment in more hydration stations? What kind of reusable bottles? Is finding a sponsoring organization to help purchase non-plastic bottles an option?

Green Team Leaders could work with Jim to identifying where in buildings more hydration stations would be beneficial. Involve students in their placement.

Fundraising is often done through the selling of drinks sold in plastic bottles.

Outdoor hydration station for "track" would have to be heated - more expensive.

Shelley- maybe there is funding available through Armark
 - Continue to work on the identification and supporting of sustainability topics throughout the K-12 District's Curricula. This would piggy-back the work being done this year by the ORSC sub-committee led by Todd Allen.

- Develop solar energy lessons connected with the solar panels that will be placed on the Facility building in August
- Organize "field trips" to the homes of local citizens who currently have solar panels
- To support the continuation of the solar array field trip to the Durham Array - This MW 4th grade 4th grade field trip was very successful in March 2017
- Brainstorm how to increase ORSC membership- educate teachers to hopefully encourage interest or involvement - think outside the box, offer short term involvement, host "get-togethers" at different schools, teachers attend over lunch with food being offered, being early in morning?
- Dr. Morse - we will need to make observations about the "fall out" from the change in the school start time for 2017-18 - A HS student sleep habits survey will be sent out this spring by the Wellness Committee
- Continue to support the Sustainability Scholarship offered at the HS to graduating seniors. Discuss how to promote and continue this tradition (this year's applicants total 7 students!)
- Recognition of Middle School students who are showing "green" practices or interests

C. UNH Intern Application Process for 2017-18

Shelley- possible student intern foci based on our brainstormed list of possible initiatives: school gardens, special events, removal of plastic bottle use across District, ecological footprint report

Maggie- plastic removal will be the majority of our work next year

Shelley- no interns applied last Fall (without stipend) so maybe we need to consider paying a stipend? The general range for UNH Interns is \$1200-1500/year. The intern proposal is submitted to UNH in the summer.

Jacqueline- This would be about \$10/hour and she has heard that internships that are not connected to a class is most desired.

Shelley- suggested having an intern for one year.... hopefully 2 years. It takes an intern one year to figure out ORSC and how/where help is needed.

Tracy- maybe we should determine the budget for 2017-18 and within the budget apply \$1,000-1,500 to allow for a ORSC UNH Intern.

Maggie and Jacqueline will work on a budget based on our typical expenses. It will be sent out to all ORSC for feedback.

Money is still available in the ORSC funds and it is not "rollover" to next year.

Maggie made the motion: To use whatever funds are still available (before the account is closed June 30) to purchase hydration stations for the HS in the location Jim R. thinks is best.

All approved.

D. School gardens

1. High Tunnels investigation- discussed under funds requesting
2. Gardens' Back plan- revive and review for future use? - not discussed

E. Determine Full meeting dates for 2017-18 - these dates will be reserved for meetings next year

Suggested dates:	Wed. September 27, 2017	Wed. March 28, 2018
	Wed. November 29, 2017	Wed. January 31, 2018
		Wed. May 23, 2018

VIII. Closing Actions

A. Next Steering Meeting date: Maggie, Jacqueline... will work on budget.

B. Agenda Items for next Full meeting

IX. Adjournment motion: Shelley second: Cristina All approved.