

Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting DRAFT Minutes
Tuesday, May 8, 7:00pm
Oyster River High School Conference Room

In attendance: Maggie Morrison, Jacqueline Bruhn, Susan Caswell, Shelley Mitchell, John Carroll, Brian Cisneros, Sarah Larson-Denning, Mary Ellen Web, Barry Kaplan, Jim Roziki
Regrets: Tracy Schroeder, Cristina Dolcino, Doris Demers

Maggie Morrison calls meeting to order at 7:03

1. Maggie presents draft minutes from January 16 Meeting for review. Voted on and approved. Mary Ellen first, Sue second, passed.

2. Maggie and Jacqueline reviewed 2017 – 2018 school year accomplishments including:

Denver Conference: inspiring, great work being done by many schools and architects/builders all over the country. Maggie talked about meeting and connecting with many other people doing this work. Jacqueline talked about the much wider definition of sustainability some schools are working with. Over 1,000 attendees. Shelley pointed out it would be great to see Maggie and Jacqueline present at conferences and to think of opportunities to partner with teachers on this.

Earth Ambassadors: Program was held at Moharimet in the spring and will be held at Mast Way in fall. 11 children registered, 9 completed the program, upgraded cafeteria bins, wrote a letter for Moharimet community. Very positive family feedback on evaluations. Maggie noted the need to have an active teacher partner for this sort of program and the issues that arise without a sponsor. Significant behavior challenges that might have been avoided if there had been a teacher in the room.. Sara Larson Denning thanked for the use of her classroom for the 5 week program.

Field Experience: Approximately 300 students had field experiences focused on growing/plants (2nd graders), solar energy (4th graders), HS Sustainability club, MS STEC to Moharimet & Boston. Excellent great field experiences focused on solar and greenhouses at UNH. How to have teachers see these as different from field trips. Tying into the changes in how science is taught with NGSS. These experiences more in line with NGSS than some current classrooms practice. Discussion about how teachers can get professional development credits for field experiences. Can't get it during school day but after school possible. Discussion about how to incentivize teachers with stipend, training. Discussion about summer proposals - stipends to teachers in summer to come up with over summer and sustainability is not on that list. Maggie has met and will continue to meet with Todd on these various issues.

Sustainability Clubs: MS STEC (Save The Earth Club): Many students attending (12 to 15 every week). Raised funds for compost bin for garden. Held week worth of activities before break. 8 pound of landfill trash at one of lunches (over 600 students). HS struggling club is struggling. Maggie talked about fellowship model -how to build it. Also how do you evaluate HS Sus club? And how would we evaluate these advisory positions? Lots of bridges being built between schools. Jim R wants to help with HS students. Talked about what can be used to get HS students connected. Discussion about UNH sustainability institute, can we have HS or MS students working on True Zero program in Durham.

Advisory Recommendations: Maggie & Jacqueline presented Water Bottle & Propane Bus Advisory Recommendations to school board in March. Very positive feedback. Board requested 3 year plan for water bottle reduction and fleet (not bus) transition toward EVs.

Community Connections: Maggie and Jacqueline focused on connecting to more organizations and parts of UNH including Sustainability Institute, GSCCC, NH Food Alliance and more. Talk of how to have a field experience for every grade.

3. Review budget:

Mary Ellen requesting the \$100 for school garden supplies (principal sign off first). Needs a new shed. Mary Ellen loves the new garden beds at Mast Way.

All of budget will be spent this year.

4. Request for honorarium for MS STEC teacher:

Honorarium requested by Jacqueline for Sara O'Brien for running STEC this school year beginning in late September and meeting most weeks all school year. Stipends for teachers need to be submitted previous year so not available through MS budget. Sue will discuss this with Jay for next year. SAC approved \$400 honorarium by vote. Mary Ellen first, John Carroll Second.

5. 2018 – 2019 Planning

Maggie noted that we only have 15 minutes to end on time to discuss planning because of the time (8:00pm).

Strategic Planning: Extensive discussion about how to create a strategic plan for sustainability that can dovetail with the school wide strategic planning process happening this summer and fall. Also discussion on how to be part of the Middle School building project. What would it look like to get students involved. Maggie talked about finding our “true north” and sticking to it and not getting side tracked by shiny objects. Barry talked about how the SAC started as a community and school committee and now advisory committee to board and we are we are unique blend. How can we honor those roots? John talked about curricular side and how to ensuring students have exposure to sustainability education. Shelley said that 6 years ago they had talked about creating a position within the district. Shelley also said ideally sustainability is integrated into all district job descriptions including teachers, facilities, administrators and everyone should have a role in it. All bids should specific sustainability including facilities and school nutrition. If we do a strategic plan who can lead us? What local resources - possibly Charlie French. Smaller group will meet and continue to discuss. Possibly have a facilitator led meeting in September.

Attending regional conferences: Discussion that it is ideal if we could include teachers both as attending and possibly precasting with Maggie and/or Jacqueline.

Intern planning: Overall positive. Ideas for possibly splitting internship so intern per school semester. Intern on ORCSD email which has been very helpful. Ideas for next year include Earth Ambassadors, possibly ecological foot print. Maggie & Jacqueline planning to meet with Career Counseling staff at COLSA.

School Board charges: 3 year plans for EV Transportation Plan and Single Use Plastic Water Bottle Plan

6. Evaluation process

Shelley gave Sue evaluation tool. Maggie, Jacqueline and Sue all completing different parts. Sue will email group for feedback from committee and then will meet with Maggie & Jacqueline.

7. New Business

Tracy is retiring and is closing her service with this committee.

June 1 alternative vehicle event is being attended by Sue, Jim R and Maggie. Possibly Lisa H. Sue & Dr. Morse attending listening session for VW money in Portsmouth.

Discussion around creating sustainability hero award - maybe for Jim R for integrating it into culture - water/windows/lights. Possibly also one for students/staff/faculty. How can people be recognized?

8. Next meetings date/time discussion

General preference for 5:00pm or 5:30pm start. Wednesdays do not work (conflict with School Board). Should we serve dinner?

9. **Closing:** Mary Ellen make a motion to adjourn. Shelley second. Meeting ends at 8:38pm