

2019-2020 VISION: To deepen the culture of sustainability within ORCSD

Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) Minutes (DRAFT)
Wednesday, November 6, 2019 - 5:00 to 6:30 pm
High School Conference Room

Meeting called to order: 5:00 p.m.

Attending: Maggie Morrison, Sue Caswell, Jim Rozycki, Cristina Dolcino, Sarah Larson-Dennen, Al Howland, Nell Neal, John Carroll, Jana Petrikova, Kendall Gray, Laura Slama.

Maggie welcomed Jana Petrikova who is serving as Lee's representative to the Committee.

Motion: Mary Ellen Webb motioned to accept 9/18/19 minutes; Sue Caswell seconded. Minutes unanimously approved with corrections

Fall Updates: Maggie has continued to meet with Todd Allen and 7 teachers who are working on Educating for Sustainability. Teachers have been coordinating the single waste audit project with the high school taking the lead. Todd is working with UNH lecturer, Tom Higginbotham from the UNH's Education Department on sustainability curriculum.

- Parent Task Force: The groups' focus is on in-school parent led family events. Their goal is to have one event per school as zero-waste. They intend to put together educational and resource lists for parents on how to reduce waste (ex. zero-waste lunch).
- Single Use Plastic Initiative: Maggie and Jon Bromley co-wrote a grant to Seacoast Peace Academy and were awarded \$500.00 to be used through a partnership with students attending the Youth Climate Leaders Academy (hosted by the Vermont Energy Education Program). Nine students will be attending this year along with two high school teachers, Jon Bromley and Sara Cathey. The group's focus during this 2-day retreat will be to further develop a waste audit and other social behavior initiatives.

Kendall consulted with UNH Sociology professor, Cliff Brown regarding the design of surveys for students, faculty and staff to determine behaviors and values around waste. Focus groups will be used after data is collected to further refine an approach on ways to change behavior. Surveys could hopefully be used yearly.

- General: The 4 kindergarten classes from Mast Way visited an indoor mini farmers market with 4 local farmers and a representative from Seacoast Eat Local. The market along with a visit to Tuckaway Farm coincided with the academic unit on food. An article about Mast Way's efforts was written by Maggie and posted on the Seacoast Eat Local blog and the NH Farm Bureau newsletter.

Maggie is meeting with representatives from Seacoast Eat Local who are interested in building stronger partnerships with schools through offering educational programs about food and local farming.

Policy and Procedure update: Cristina presented the sustainability policies from Boulder Valley School District, CO to use as a consideration for the changes to our sustainability policy in E-section. It was suggested that Cristina and Sue attend the next School Board Policy Committee to present the Boulder Valley policy as a starting point. Next steps will be taken once feedback is given by the Policy Committee.

Highlighting District sustainability heroes: Maggie has learned of efforts of two staff members who are doing great sustainability work. Could we recognize their efforts as an incentive to encourage others? AI suggested an accommodation at a School Board meeting. Maybe consider also recognizing a larger groups; classroom, club, etc. What will be our process to identify and recognize people? Coming up to the Board level is always nice to hear. Celebrate actions and not people? Showcase a life-hack that is related to sustainability and education in the classroom. Mary Ellen, Sarah, Nell, and Maggie will work to come up with a process.

Presentation of District Mandate proposal: John would like to propose a more global proposal and Kendall a more school-based proposal. Kendall shared a zero-waste resolution adopted by a large school district in California. Generally, it appears that these resolutions come as a result of a State resolution that then gets floated down to District resolution. Discussion; consider looking to a similar community (e.g., university) for what they have used. AI will find the resolution adopted by the Town of Durham related to climate change.

Next ORSC meeting: Different sustainability related committees from Lee, Madbury and Durham will be invited to start to identify partnership opportunities.

New Business: On behalf of Julie, Maggie encouraged anyone to host a house party for the new middle school. John is also hosting one of these gatherings.

Committee members living in Durham encouraged to support the Integrated Waste Management Committee's (IMAC) Pay As You Throw (PAYT) initiative through speaking during the Council's public comments session. PAYT is an incentive program to encourage resident to reduce their waste by charging for bags.

Maggie is exploring ways to increase the web presence of sustainability on the District's site.

Motion for adjournment by Mary Ellen Webb; seconded by Sue Caswell

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 5 (community partners meeting) *Snow Date: 2/19/20*

Respectfully submitted,

Cristina Dolcino