

Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC)

Minutes, October 5, 2021

L150 ORHS 5:30-7:00 pm

In person: Maggie Morrison, Jon Bromley, Sarah Larson-Dennen, Sue Caswell, Shelley Mitchell

Remote: Meg Malone, Suzanne Filippone, Sarah O'Brien, John Carroll, David McCormick, Doris Demers, Lisa Huppe, Jim Rozycki, Jana Petrikova

Meeting called to order at 5:04.

Maggie welcomed members in the room and those attending remotely. She explained that the Sustainability Management Plan prepared by Meg Malone is a plan to align with the District's Strategic Plan and help the district with next steps. This plan will help to work on a road map for the future. Maggie hopes this plan will help to form an agenda for us. There is a need for data before we develop the plan. Partnering with UNH and using the SIMAP tool has allowed us to make progress with our goals for the future.

Meg Malone explained the why for developing the plan and the different reasons for having a plan. The most important reason is to have an understanding and educate students about climate change. She started her work in June by reviewing other plans. She picked out things we liked and met with stakeholders to find areas to address. The draft report was then reviewed by a group of stakeholders.

She explained how she designed the plan to set up a framework tied to the Strategic Plan and included some global initiatives. She used focus areas where each of the focus areas fall into multiple goals. She also included strategies to tie to these goals. She came up with 75 sustainable strategies. Then she identified those we could achieve in 5 years. There are additional strategies in the appendix.

There are challenges with setting benchmarks. There is a lot of conversations around DEI and curriculum. DEI work and social justice is woven into this plan. You should be able to find ways to weave these together. The next steps include stakeholder engagement, developing an internal action plan, and doing an annual reporting. After the plan is approved you should establish the internal action plan. This will help to prepare for the next steps and set benchmarks to focus on.

Maggie explained how the external group was formed. She did not engage teachers because she knew they needed a break. She expanded the circle of people to review the plan.

Meg will be reporting this work to the School Board on October 20. The next step is for the committee to endorse this plan. Shelley asked what some of the scenarios other districts have used to implement their plan. Some districts hired consultants to do this for them. Meg explained the various ways plans have been implemented. Jon asked what extend the school is trying to get buy in from students. Maggie had hoped to have Meg speak to the student groups. Jon would be interested to know what John would hope to see. John felt the burden of all of this

would be on the students. Make the document easy to follow. Make it attractive. That is a good point and is important to make it user friendly. Students need to know how this will affect them. Jon Bromley only has a small number of students he can influence. It is not an issue of students not being vested and interested. We need a way to get it to students so they can be involved. Meg explained how it is difficult for students to see how this will impact them at a young age. Which steps are the most important to do first? It is important we have a pathway with steps for each year to work towards. Sarah asked if Meg could speak to the teacher part and how it could be accomplished. Meg explained how one district put teachers on special assignment reducing their teaching duties so they could work on this. Hiring a consultant to do this work is a good model. Maggie asked if the committee could endorse this plan. Sarah would like to have time to meet in small groups to have more teachers involved in the plan to move forward. She would also love to hear what it would look like to include DEI. Suzanne wondered if we should have more time to review the plan in more detail through focus groups. Pick several items to focus on. Curriculum, health and wellness, and transportation. Some areas overlap with DEI. Shelley thinks teachers really need the opportunity to go through this. We need more time. Need a deeper dive. Should DEI and sustainability be combined? Will it be too overwhelming. Just slowing down may be the answer. Sarah suggested using themes to identify what the focus will be. Suzanne can meet with teachers together to talk about how to bring all these things together without overwhelming them. This will take several years to work on this. We should look at this to align with the strategic plan.

Suzanne reviewed the focus in the Strategic Plan for curriculum. Teacher Leaders will need to dive deeper into how to incorporate sustainability into the curriculum.

What will happen to this committee when Maggie leaves? Is there a place to reconsider the model on how it could work? Is there a larger initiative to be a part of? There is no connection between the groups except for Suzanne. We should engage teachers to evaluate this work and create the solution. The strength of this plan is through the curriculum.

Meet once again in December. Maggie would like to see something in place before she leaves. We will meet again in November to develop a succession plan.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm

Respectfully submitted

Susan Caswell