

Sustainability Committee Minutes April 28, 2020

Tuesday – April 28, 2020, 3:00 P.M.

Virtual

Attendees: Jennifer Miller, Karen Taylor, Heather Fried, Diane Linderman, Rebecca Waldo, Ian Neviaser, Ronald Turner, Rachel Carrion, Paula Gaudet, Connie Pan

Regrets: Phil Parcak

- 1) Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve March 10, 2020 meeting minutes made by Karen Taylor, 2nd by Heather Fried. No further comments.
- 2) New Business
 - a) Introductions, recap of April 1, 2020, BoE meeting. Positive feedback on forging ahead. Members proposed were approved with no objections.
 - b) Jennifer Miller - Program overview through June 2021. Committee will build upon and use to guide and align workstream deliverables and stay aligned with Region18 strategic goals.

Generic Planning



Each workstream will progress individually, coordinated by SC team, with approval from BoE & Administration

- c) Karen Taylor – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (3R) workstream. See supplemental DRAFT discussion document. Discussion of short term and long term draft objectives and opportunities identified to date. Examples included cafeteria modifications, elimination of plastic water bottles, water bottle refilling stations, and Greenleaf School Certification. For input on longer term objectives, workstream will conduct interviews with various vendors, external subject matter experts and stakeholders (students, administration, staff).
 - d) Rebecca Waldo – Renewables workstream. See supplemental PPT presentation. Discussion highlighted the numerous advances Region 18 has made in renewables and the numerous opportunities still available. Transportation, grants (need grant writer), collaborations with Community Solar were briefly discussed. It was agreed that a BoE resolution with respect to “Commitment to 100%” would be ideal.
 - i) Action: Workstream to prepare materials for BoE discussion ahead of BoE annual strategic planning session. Objective is to have BoE adopt a measurable goal/resolution with respect to “Commitment to 100%”.
 - ii) Action: Ron Turner to obtain ppt regarding Region18 energy usage. Workstream to enable links to monitoring energy on appropriate website for Region18 access.
 - e) Heather Fried, Paula Gaudet, Rachel Carrion – Education workstream. Distance learning in effect since our last meeting has brought many challenges. Going forward there is an opportunity, however, in the expanded use of district technology to encourage teachers to strive for reducing paper use in classrooms. Pros and cons would have to be explored as student learning modalities differ. While NGSS curriculum at 6-12 does include some limited related material, K-5 has less and overall NGSS focuses on the consequences of not following sustainable practices rather than tools for enabling. “Pursuits,” clubs and other existing mechanisms within the district could be leveraged for expanding student exposure.
- 3) Decisions: Workstream leads to consult with Ron Turner or Holly McCalla for applicable contracts, contacts at vendors, access to staff as needed.
- 4) Next steps:

- a) Recommendation for two additional students for core steering committee
 - b) Workstreams/Committee continue to pursue experts in fields for membership or ad hoc participation
 - c) Workstream deeper dive sessions to complete initiation work, draft time plans
- 5) Old Business – Continue to contact potential participants.
- 6) Adjourned 4:00 p.m. Next Meeting Scheduled – May 26, 2020, 3 p.m.

Sustainability Committee
3R Workstream Objectives
April 28, 2020

Short-term objectives (3-5 months, ideally before students return in the fall)

1. Cafeteria modifications
 - a. Commercial dishwashers in all kitchens (very short cycles, low water consumption)
 - b. Serve ware cost – Is this a question for Chartwells or Region 18 purchasing
 - c. Straws are need-based, not openly provided
 - d. “Only take what you need” student campaign
2. LOL branded single-use water bottles
 - a. Can we stop selling these? What is the history behind these? Do funds benefit students in any way? If so, can we find an alternative source of funding?
 - b. Question for Purchasing?
3. Water bottle filling stations
 - a. Install/retrofit water fountains with bottle fillers (middle school has this) in all cafeterias or as many locations as deemed appropriate
 - b. Complete this by the time students return and welcome back with reusable water bottles for students and staff
4. Green Leaf School Certification (CT DEEP)
 - a. Additional resources are available to schools who qualify
 - b. Need to complete more research on this program (5-7-month objective)

Long-term objectives (6-12 months, greater research required outside of Region 18)

1. Custodian consultations (Begin ASAP)
 - a. Walk-through with custodians/face-to-face discussion to get their perspective on recycling and waste management
 - b. What are their current practices/challenges?
 - c. What could make them more successful?
2. Hauler consultations (Begin ASAP)
 - a. Requesting permission to have direct conversations with vendor
 - b. What happens to our waste/recycling when it leaves campus?
 - c. What can we improve?
 - d. How is our waste/recycling monitored/recorded and what are those volumes?
 - e. Use current record-keeping as our baseline information for showing future improvements
 - f. Cost-saving opportunity if we reduce waste/recycling?
3. Student and Staff surveys
 - a. After first 30-60 days students back in session
 - b. Determine future improvements
 - c. If appropriate, campaign to get families to “commit to reduce/reuse” (the first two “R’s”)