

Sustainability Committee Minutes May 26, 2020

Tuesday – May 26, 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, Phil Parcak

- 1) Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve April 28, 2020 meeting minutes made by D. Linderman, 2nd by Heather Fried. No further comments.
- 2) New Business
 - a) Introductions, recap of May 6, 2020, BoE meeting.
 - b) K. Taylor – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (3R) workstream. 1. Meeting with the hauler went well (R. Turner, K. Taylor). The flow of waste and recycling from campus to end point is understood. Recycling is being recycled, not mixed with waste by vendor. Next steps are to look within schools to determine status and opportunities for improvement. Will meet with cafeteria and custodial staff to get their input. 2. Water bottle filling station retrofit of water fountains assessment has been done. Propose to BoE that 3 new fillers are installed over the summer. AGREED. 3. Branded water bottles. Confirmed they are not sold for a profit benefiting any part of school or PTO. Various vending machine products are sold for support of various class projects. 4. Additional workstream members confirmed and being considered.
 - c) R. Waldo – Renewables workstream. 1. Electric transportation. R. Waldo and R. Turner met with Bluebird Bus Company to discuss the options available in electric buses today. M&J has none currently. DERA and DEEP grants are available for electric buses. Farmington schools are also applying. Infrastructure for battery charging, sensors, etc., were discussed. P. Parcak noted that the Town facilities could not currently support the needs although solutions can be explored, which may also engage the Town in the effort overall. Passenger vans for smaller groups are owned by Region18, not the contractor, and will be an area to consider for electric. 2. Solar. Mile Creek school – grant is open

for applications. 3. Clean energy resolution draft discussed. Team AGREED to propose to BoE with edits to curriculum section so as not to imply this committee is directing curriculum but building awareness throughout Region18.

- i) Action: Workstream to prepare materials for BoE discussion June 3rd. Objective is to have BoE adopt a measurable resolution wrt “Commitment to 100%”.
 - ii) Action: R. Turner to update Region18 FY 19/20 energy usage summary in July. Workstream to enable links to monitoring energy on appropriate website for Region18 access.
- d) H. Fried, P. Gaudet, R. Carrion – Education workstream. Regular periodic team meetings established with additional faculty, parent, and student membership from each school being finalized. Rachel Carrion will move to the 3R workstream going forward. Workstream discussions have centered on learning about the process of becoming a Connecticut Outdoor & Environmental Education Green LEAF school district. The committee will help schools within the district complete the CT Green LEAF self-assessment which includes looking at current and future planning for each of the initiatives 3 goals; 1) Provide effective environmental and sustainability education, 2) Improve the health and wellness of students and staff, 3) Reduce environmental impact and cost. The committee will also investigate steps to have schools designated as National Green Ribbon Schools. Discussed need to ensure providing distinct goals to the Director of Region18 Curriculum, Michelle Dean, and the Coordinated School Health Council. The Education Workstream will wait for recommendations from the 3Rs Workstream regarding 3R education campaign needs starting in September. Education Workstream will have limited participation in June/July.
- 3) Actions:
- a) Prepare June 3rd BoE presentations – brief workstream updates, 100% clean energy proposal and resolution.
- 4) Old Business – Continue to contact potential participants.
- 5) Adjourned 5:00pm. Next Meeting Scheduled – June 23, 2020, 3pm