



**PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CLIMATE CRISIS RESPONSE COMMITTEE**

11/19/2025

Meeting Minutes

Pursuant to notice made by posting on the Board's public notices webpage and emailed to persons on the mailing list, a meeting of the Climate Crisis Response Committee was held virtually and streamed live at: https://www.youtube.com/@pps_climatejustice

The materials for this meeting were posted on the [Committee's Webpage](#).

Attendance

Committee Members

Present:

Alyssa Koomas (Committee Chair)
Shannon Adams
Barbi Alexander
Leah Almeida (student representative)
Murtaza Balta
Jane Comeault
America Tirado
Alma Valls (student representative)
Leah Werner

Absent:

none

Other Attendees

Kat Davis - PPS Climate Justice Advisor
Director Eddie Wang - Board Liaison

Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Alyssa Koomas.

PPS' public meeting rules were shared in the meeting package. Major rules highlighted.

Minutes from previous meeting adopted. Motion by America, seconded by Alyssa and passed by the Committee

Public Comment

None

Topic 1: Student Update - Alma Valls and Leah Almeida

Student reps aim to bring student voices to the Committee.

- Students would like to do another student survey this year, building on last year and comparing data. Ideally would have district support for this to have a wider reach.
- Action: Kat to find out policy/ process for district-supported surveys with outreach staff.

Student reps plan to focus on the climate literacy pillar and encourage more progress in that area. Goal to make sure students are aware of the goals and of opportunities to engage.

- Kat shared that PPS has new adopted curricula and in process of comparing it to climate policy. Aligns well with HB on climate literacy
- Action: Kat to report back to committee after a December meeting.

Student reps are interested in the climate newsletter and potentially starting a student-focused climate newsletter.

- Action: Kat to follow up with students about student-centered climate newsletter.
- Committee members shared a few ideas for future newsletter content.

Topic 2: Board Update + Discussion - Director Eddie Wang

Updates from the School Board

- Received a grant from Metro for \$580,000 to improve Llewellyn school yard including climate resiliency benefits.
- One of the current School Board focus areas is seismic upgrades, some alignment with climate resilience.
- Continue to embed climate work in modernization.
- How best to work together? Early and often is great. Regular updates and/ or requests would be ideal - maybe quarterly 15 minute updates to Board throughout the year.
- Action: Kat to speak to Board Manager about agenda time for quarterly CCRC updates

Topic 3: Staff Update - Kat Davis

Follow up from 2025 CCRC Report. Communication and transparency of information as well as volunteer programs were identified by the Committee as priorities. Kat gave updates on these areas.

Communication and transparency

- The previous dashboard is no longer supported due to budget cuts to the software behind it. Staff rebuilt a dashboard using Google suite that they can manage in-house. Shared a draft of the new dashboard.
- Website revamp includes easier links to information and reports.
- Discussion about modes for communication about climate work going out to schools. School PTAs and Principal newsletters were recommended as other avenues.

Engaging with volunteers

- Working with Eco-School Network (community-based organization) to connect with parent volunteers in schools. It's been a very successful program.
- Goal to do another community care style day in April.

Topic 4: Committee Goals for the Year

- Reviewed Committee goals from last year.
- Regarding alignment with overall District goals, major focus areas include attendance and growing great schools goal (enrollment) which have overlap with climate policy actions.
 - How are schools prioritized for AC upgrades?
 - Action: Kat will share links to existing resources and Spring CCRC meeting where the roadmap was shared.
- April 14 is the potential date for the CCRC annual report to the Board.
- Committee goals/areas of interest:
 - Communication : PPS school board, student-centered climate newsletter, school PTAs
 - Student voice via survey
 - Thought partners (e.g. funding opportunities, alignment with PPS priorities, etc.)

Adjourn

Alyssa Koomas adjourned the meeting at 7:05 pm.

Submitted by:

Jane Comeault (note taker), submitted by Kat Davis, Advisor for Climate Justice