



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:

Board Chair Eddie Wang
Alyssa Koomas (Committee Chair)
America Tirado
Barbi Alexander
Murtaza Balta
Shannon Adams
Alma Valls
Leah Almeida

Absent:

Leah Werner

Other Attendees

Kat Davis - Climate Justice Advisor, PPS
Melissa Lim - PPS
Ryan Hoxie
Kristin Moon

Called to Order

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

Topic 1: Welcome & Agenda Overview (Alyssa Koomas)

- **Committee Duties:** The committee reaffirmed its role in receiving regular reports from district staff, determining if implementation aligns with policy goals, and sharing annual written findings with the Board.

Topic 2: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Governance & Climate Impact

The committee hosted members of the PPS AI Planning Team (Melissa Lim, Ryan Hawky, and Kristen Moon) to discuss the intersection of emerging technology and environmental goals.

- **AI Vision Statement Summary:** PPS aims to leverage AI as a "transformative, ethical, and human-centered tool" that strengthens but never replaces human relationships in education.
- **Climate Concerns:**
 - **Energy Consumption:** The committee discussed the "hidden" footprint of AI, noting that an AI-generated search can use up to 10x more electricity than a standard search.

- **Resource Metrics:** Student members requested a "Best Practices" guide for peers, detailing the water and electricity usage of different platforms (e.g., Gemini vs. ChatGPT).
- **Academic Integrity & "Productive Struggle":**
 - Student representatives reported a high prevalence of AI misuse in classrooms (e.g., submitting AI outputs without review).
 - The committee emphasized that while AI can assist with rote tasks (like bibliographies), it should not replace the "productive struggle" necessary to develop critical thinking skills.
- **Staffing & Privacy:** PPS utilizes Google Gemini for Education, which ensures data privacy for staff. Mandatory AI literacy training for all staff is planned for next school year.

Topic 3: Staff Report on Policy Progress (Kat Davis)

- **Decarbonization:** Jefferson, Cleveland, and Wells high schools are being designed as fully electric facilities. This is a critical step in reaching the 2030 emissions goal.
- **Curriculum:** PPS is undergoing its first social studies curriculum adoption in over 20 years. Staff are "crosswalking" state standards with PPS climate literacy goals to identify and fill gaps.
- **Staffing Challenges:** The district is currently managing several vacancies in the sustainability team, which may temporarily limit the availability of detailed greenhouse gas (GHG) emission dashboards.

Topic 4: Committee Discussion: Policy Review & Board Reporting

- **Board Presentation:** The annual committee report to the PPS Board is scheduled for May 12th (rescheduled from April).
- **Policy Review Process:** Director Eddie Wong noted that the climate policy is up for review. It is currently being discussed in the Facilities Committee before returning to the Policy Committee.
- **Potential Policy Updates:** The committee discussed strengthening language around:
 - **Indoor Air Quality:** Adding specific scientific metrics (e.g., filtration standards).
 - **Nature-Based Solutions:** Targets for increasing tree canopy and reducing impervious surfaces on school grounds.
 - **AI Externality:** Formally addressing the energy footprint of digital infrastructure within the climate policy.

Adjourn

Alyssa Koomas adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by:

Kat Davis, Advisor for Climate Justice