PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CLIMATE CRISIS RESPONSE COMMITTEE

04/01/2026

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)
America Tirado
Jane Comeault
Leah Werner
Murtaza Balta
Shannon Adams
Alma Valls

Absent:
Leah Almeida
Barbi Alexander

Other Attendees
Kat Davis - Climate Justice Advisor, PPS

Called to Order

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

Topic 1: Welcome & Agenda Overview (Alyssa Koomas)

- Public Comment: Kat confirmed there were no requests for public comment for this session.
- Review of committee duties and policy objectives.
- AI Recommendations: Proactive discussion on aligning district AI recommendations with climate goals.
- Policy Review: Preparing for the upcoming PPS School Board policy review.
- Annual Report: Discussion on the upcoming deadline for the annual findings report.
- Upcoming Dates: * April 15th: Optional workgroup meeting time.
    - April 28th: Deadline for Board presentation materials.
    - May 12th: Rescheduled Board presentation (previously April 14th).

Topic 2: Student Report (Alma Valls, Leah Almeida)

- **Student Climate Survey:** The survey for high school students is live and closes at the end of April. It is being promoted via Trivory and high school PCEF groups.
- **Data Continuity:** Questions were kept largely the same as last year to allow for year-over-year data comparison.

- **Closing the Loop:** The committee discussed the importance of updating students on how their feedback is used. Kat noted that survey data informs staff planning and helps synthesize student voices for district leadership.
- **Expansion: T**here is interest in potentially creating a mirrored version of the survey for middle school students in the future.

Topic 3: Staff Report (Kat Davis)

- **Infrastructure & Decarbonization**
    - **High School Modernizations:** Jefferson, Cleveland, and Wells high schools will be fully electric. This commitment remains non-negotiable despite cost-saving trade-offs.
    - **2030 Goals:** With these modernizations scheduled to finish by Fall 2029, the district is on track to meet the goal of a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (from the 2019 baseline) by 2030.
    - **Staffing Vacancies:** The Energy & Sustainability Manager left in November; a replacement starts in May. Currently, the sustainability team has two vacancies, which may limit the availability of detailed emissions dashboards for the May 12th meeting.
- **Curriculum & Literacy**
    - **Social Studies Adoption:** PPS is adopting a new social studies curriculum for the first time in 20+ years.
    - **Climate Integration:** Staff are "crosswalking" state standards with PPS climate justice goals to identify gaps. The goal is to include supplemental materials that emphasize place-based and project-based learning.
    - **Partnerships:** PPS is collaborating with the Oregon Educators for Climate Education to avoid "reinventing the wheel."
- **Resilience & Air Quality**
    - **FIOC Meeting:** On April 21st, the Facilities Infrastructure and Operations Committee will discuss air quality, ventilation standards, and air purifier distribution.
    - **Policy Language:** A community group has proposed adding specific air quality metrics to the Climate Crisis Response policy.

Topic 4: Committee Discussion

- The committee discussed Working Groups to move forward recommendations to the AI Governance Committee and to compost a draft annual report for the committee to review at the April 15, 2026 meeting.

Adjourn

Alyssa Koomas adjourned the meeting at 7:03 pm.

Submitted by:

Kat Davis, Advisor for Climate Justice