



**PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CLIMATE CRISIS RESPONSE COMMITTEE**

05/13/2026

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)
Shannon Adams
Barbi Alexander
Murtaza Balta
Jane Comeault
America Tirado
Alma Valls (student representative)
Leah Werner

Absent:

Leah Almeida (student representative)

Other Attendees

Kat Davis - Staff Liaison
Curtis Leonard - PPS Energy & Sustainability Senior Manager

Called to Order

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

I. Opening & Administrative Updates

- **Committee Transitions:** Acknowledged this session as the final CCRC meeting of the school year. Noted the upcoming departures of Kat Davis (Staff Liaison), Barbi Alexander, Jane Comeault, and student representative Alma Valls. Welcomed Curtis Leonard into his new role as Senior Manager of Energy and Sustainability.
- **Public Meeting Compliance:** Reminded members to strictly adhere to Board Public Meeting Rules regarding asynchronous communication (e.g., avoiding "Reply-All" email chains or offline multi-user document collaboration).
- **Reporting Roadmap:** Outlined upcoming targets leading to the final annual report presentation to the School Board.

II. Public Comment

No members of the public were present for comment.

III. Student & Annual Survey Updates

- **Survey Metrics:** The annual student survey closed with over 300 responses, marking a 10% year-over-year increase. Data analysis remains a heavy lift for student volunteers; a future collaborative data session will be arranged.

- **Operational Methodology:** Past survey data successfully targeted district outreach gaps regarding climate projects. To reduce scheduling conflicts with spring testing, the committee proposed moving the survey dissemination window from April to January/February.
- **Transition Planning:** Alma Valls updated a generalized "best practices for student surveys" guide to ensure a seamless workflow handoff to incoming student representatives.

IV. Board & Staff updates

- **Presentation Review:** Recapped the CCRC annual report presentation to the School Board on May 12th. Board directors expressed strong surprise and disappointment regarding upcoming budget reductions impacting the climate and sustainability team's staffing capacity.
- **Dashboard Transparency:** Clarified the statuses of the district's primary data tools: the active Utility Dashboard, the developing Decarbonization Roadmap Tool, the stalled Policy Objectives Dashboard, and the active Student Projects Dashboard.
- **Application Timeline:** CCRC recruitment applications planned to open May 18th to fill two adult terms and two rotating student representative seats. Final selections are targeted for late June to facilitate an earlier, stronger launch for the next academic year.

V. Strategic Framework & Next Steps (2026–2027 Priorities)

- **A. Board Coordination & AI Governance Recommendations**
 - **AI Policy Advocacy:** Evaluated the district's newly released AI Governance Guidebook. The committee strongly opposed background assumptions that external data center footprints are static regardless of district tech adoption, urging public accountability.
 - **Contract Scope:** Reviewed CCRC subcommittee recommendations to inject carbon-impact metrics into future district technology procurement contracts. Clarified that this language broadly encompasses major enterprise software platforms (e.g., Canvas, Zoom).
 - **Board Outreach Strategy:** CCRC representatives (Shannon Adams, America Tirado, and Alyssa Koomas) volunteered to present these technology recommendations at an upcoming School Board meeting. Chair Alyssa Koomas will coordinate with Board Liaison Eddie Wong to select a strategic date following the conclusion of America Tirado's academic program on June 15th.
- **B. 5-Year Policy Review & Institutional Reporting**
 - **Comprehensive Review Framework:** Noted that March 2027 marks the 5-year anniversary of the Climate Crisis Response Policy (CCRP). The committee will prioritize fall preparation to review the scope with staff, evaluate operational challenges (such as tracking fossil fuel restrictions against lab infrastructure like Bunsen burners), and host spring community feedback loops.
 - **Intermittent Reporting:** Approved a strategic pivot toward drafting a concise, single-paragraph update for the School Board immediately following every CCRC meeting to maintain visibility and minimize year-end reporting crunches.
 - **District Reorganization Alignment:** Highlighted the need for CCRC engagement with the district's "Growing Great Schools" right-sizing and enrollment restructuring process. The committee aims to secure presentations from project leaders to align building footprint reductions with equity and climate resiliency goals.
- **C. Leadership Elections & Tributes**
 - **Chair Retention:** Alyssa Koomas was unanimously supported to continue serving as CCRC Committee Chair for the 2026–2027 school year.
 - **Mentorship Pipeline:** Approved a motion to introduce a formal Vice Chair position in the fall to establish a clear leadership succession pathway.

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- **Tribute to Kat Davis:** The committee concluded with an official expression of gratitude honoring Staff Liaison Kat Davis for her four years of foundational leadership, systems change, and dedicated service to the district's climate goals.

Adjourn

Alyssa adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by:

Kat Davis
Climate Justice Advisor

Name of person submitting overview
Title