

Austin Independent School District
Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2019

5:30 7:30 pm

Carruth Administration Center, 1111 W. 6th Street, Board Auditorium

Attendees

Members in Attendance

Aimee Aubin
Karen Bishop
Rob Borowski
Jake Carter
Alecia Casper
Irene Dooling
Colleen Garland
Sherry Lepine*
Monica Lopez Magee*
Anne Muller
Mary Priddy*
Richard Shearman
Ilya Schmulenson
Dub Taylor
Jeff Wacker
Jessica Wilson

Visitors

Shaun Auckland
Juliana Auckland
Cassidy Ellis
Sara Hildebrandt Gaspar
Amanda Frederick

Staff Coordinators in Attendance

Christian Casarez Clarke
Bob Cervi
Darien Clary

Members Not in Attendance

Pamela Abee Taulli
Bianca Bidiuc Peterson**
Liz Cardinal**
Sam DeSanto
Amir Emamian
Charlie Gutierrez
Kris Hafezizadeh
Kristi Hibler-Luton
Cari Land
Lauren Maples**
Kate Martin
Amanda Mortl Walker**
Susan Peterson
Justo Ramirez
Carrie Schreiber
Louis Zachary
Anneliese Tanner**

Citizens Communication

Jessica Wilson
Juliana Auckland
Ilya Schmulenson
Shaun Auckland

* Indicates Committee Tri-Chair

**Indicates excused absence

Minutes

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

The ESAC Tri-chair Dr. Sherry Lepine facilitated the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Dr. Lepine reminded the committee of upcoming Tri-chair elections in May for a parent representative. She also shared that the Outdoor Learning Specialist position would be preserved and thanked the ESAC members for their advocacy. Dr. Lepine also thanked AISD Food and Nutrition Services for providing the delicious dinner at the ESAC meeting. Guests were welcomed and asked to introduce themselves. January meeting minutes were not approved as the group did not reach quorum.

II. Public Comments & Announcements

Jessica Wilson spoke as an East Austin resident regarding Zavala, Metz, Sanchez. She announced pre-design meeting April 4th in the Sanchez library and encouraged ESAC members to attend. Air quality is a concern because of its proximity to I35, and there are discussions underway to support reforestation and transportation strategies to help mitigate air pollution around the school. Also, Metz and Zavala will co-locate while the new campus is being modernized.

Juliana Auckland, Blackshear 2nd grade student, shared her concerns that urban wildlife at her school are getting harmed. She reported that a fox den was filled in with concrete and that she has seen bats getting harmed when AISD teachers and staff try to remove them from the school. Ms. Auckland asked that AISD staff be more considerate of wildlife at our schools and consider the value they bring to the student experience.

Ilya Schmulenson shared that PEAS is in the process of building a dedicated kitchen space at Cunningham. The kitchen is funded by the Emeril Legasse Foundation and is expected to open this time next year. They will post a farm-to-table educator position so every K-5 student at Cunningham will go through the program.

Aimee Aubin announced that the City of Austin will be hosting a tree climbing course00912 0 61 150)565-7110)5r

reminder that AISD staff can access reuse materials from the UT JJ Pickle campus and from the AISD warehouse. Texas Disposal Systems (AISD waste services provider) has also hired a trainer to provide training for AISD custodial and food services staff. Trainings can be requested by contacting Gregory Behl gbeh1@texasdisposal.com. Dr. Lepine also highlighted the success of Burnet Middle School for their excellent teamwork to reduce landfill pick-ups from 5 to 2 times per week. This means more waste is getting recycled and also helps decrease haul costs. Blanton Elementary also started cafeteria compost, and Allison Elementary head custodian produced a teacher training to staff about composting for Breakfast in the Classroom.

AISD Sustainability Manager, Darien Clary, provid

curriculum includes TEKS-aligned lessons, activities, and digital resources guided by six modern energy themes. All the lessons and activities are free and available to all schools. Mr. Garcia shared that Galveston was the first school district to use the program and saved \$25k in their first year. If every school in TX used it, it would save millions in the state. Cypress Fairbanks ISD is currently using the program. In 4 months, their savings was \$200k.

For additional information, see the presentation slides in the meeting materials.

V. Sustainability Manager Update

AISD Sustainability Manager, Darien Clary, announced the AISD and City Resolution to work collaboratively and how this could intersect with sustainability work, especially in the areas of

Week celebration that includes student contests, daily PA announcements, activity ideas, and featured events. Ms. Clary received work from the AISD Campus and District Accountability