

Austin Independent School District

Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2020

5:30 7:30 pm

Zoom Meeting

Staff Coordinators in Attendance Darien Clary

Members Present Diane Grodek, Amanda Mortl Walker, Amir Emamian, Ana Echeverria, Anne Muller, Ashlee Bushee, Ashley Williams, Brittany Morgan, Cari Land, Cassidy Ellis, Christopher Stanton, Colleen Garland, Darcy Nuffer, Dub Taylor, Jake Carter, Jeffrey Wacker, Jennifer Evans, Jennifer Walker, Jessica Wilson, Justo Ramirez, Kate Martin, Kris Hafezizadeh, Kristi Hibler-Luton, Lauren Zappone Maples, Louis Zachary, Maite Saco, Matt Mears, Melody Alcazar, Mia Burger, Noelle Bugaj, Phoebe Romero, Mary Priddy, Rey Torres, Sahiti Karempudi

Members Absent John Hewlett, Cristiano Monsalves, Christine Mederos, Richard Shearman, Pamela Abee-Taulli, Anneliese Tanner, Rob Borowski, Mike Rios, Daniel Riegel, Paul Turner, Jennifer Cregar, Aimee Aubin, Irene Dooling

ESAC Support Staff in Attendance- Matias Segura, Karla Rivera-Figueroa, Joan Williams, Karen Reeder, Christian Clarke Casarez

Guests Sadie Bronk

I. Welcome and Announcements

Lauren Zappone Maples called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm. Lauren thanked Karla Rivera Figueroa for coordinating the Zoom Meeting and introduced Karen Reeder who will help with the meeting minutes. New members Diane Grodek, AISD Executive Chef and leader of the Food & Nature Subcommittee; Daniel Riegel, Community Member who is joining the Transportation & Air Quality Subcommittee; Brittany Morgan, Lively MS science teacher who is joining the Waste & Procurement Subcommittee; and Mike Rios, AISD Assistant Director of Transportation who is joining the Transportation & Air Quality Subcommittee were introduced and welcomed. Lauren read through the agenda and Darien discussed the Tech Tips. Lauren asked for a volunteer to fill the third chair position. The chair position helps plan, develop the agenda, establish subcommittees, and aids in enforcing parliamentary procedures. Any current voting member is encouraged to apply. She

stated that the committee would also like to have some student members. A Google ESAC Group for sharing has been formed. Darien conveyed that October 7, 2020 is Energy Efficiency Day per Texas Governor Greg Abbott. Dub Taylor stated that this began in 2016 and occurs on the first Wednesday of each October. The simple message is to save money, cut pollution and create jobs. Cassidy Ellis added that SPEER is very proud to be a partner in this effort. She also mentioned the Clean Energy City Scorecard that ranks 50 cities on their energy efficiency and sustainability goals. Austin is ranked 12.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Strategic Planning Update

Darien stated that the ESAC leaders met on September 18th and 19th to discuss Strategic Planning and prioritize goals. Darien shared the topics the leaders discussed as well as the results of the Member Satisfaction Survey on ESAC purpose and next steps and ESAC meeting time. Lauren presented the summary of the Community Engagement & Outreach Survey. Priorities and focus for 2020-2021 will be on equity, diversity, inclusion and updating the AISD Sustainability Plan. Leaders will each Survey.

- ◁ Ashley was excited to announce the Digital Field Trip LIVE from the Paramount. There will be a documentary screening and tour as well as a Q&A session with Michael Webber, Professor of Mechanical Engineering at UT and author of *Thirst for Power*.
- ◁ Four Energy Conservation Technician positions have been created. Offers have been extended to two applicants, two positions remain open.
- ◁ Audit work on all campuses will begin and follow-up will be done on any utility anomalies that are found.
- ◁ See meeting materials for additional information.

Nature – Report presented by Anne Muller

- ◁ Anne was very excited to announce that walking field trips to nearby parks and nature spaces have been approved by the district.
- ◁ Cities Connecting Children to Nature initiative includes many programs such as Nature Smart Libraries, Youth Leadership, OLE, Nature Play and Green School Parks. The Green School Parks subcommittee has been working with joint use sites to install Green Schools Parks at Barrington ES and Wooldridge ES. They are also mapping out five and 10 minute walks to nature spaces/parks that includes HOA spaces and churches. Collaboration continues with PARD on school use of park sites. Coordination continues with the Austin Parks Foundation on neighborhood grant support for six schools with little or no outdoor learning spaces.
- ◁ Tree stump delivery to enhance outdoor learning has begun. Trees are removed due to safety issues, because they are dead, etc. Some of the stumps are being used for seating at campuses without outdoor learning areas.
- ◁ Anne would like to celebrate Discovery Hill Ou

meal packs each Thursday, on-

a compost/collection bin/bucket for each classroom. Campus compost pick-up service resumes. The subcommittee is looking for a post-consumer source for buckets for classrooms.

- ◁ The committee will roll out a monthly Zero Waste Student Leadership Lunch Zoom. This will occur on the last Thursday of the month.
- ◁ Procurement will remain with Zero Waste as one subcommittee rather than becoming a separate subcommittee.
- ◁ See meeting materials for additional information.

Community Engagement & Outreach Update – Presented by Ashley Williams

- ◁ The spring 2020 CE+O Member Survey results were shared.
- ◁ The proposed steps forward will focus on aligning the AISD Sustainability Plan with the COA Climate Equity Plan. As the subcommittee updates their plan, they will do so through an equity lens. They will also look at their strategies using an equity tool to determine if they have a positive, negative or neutral effect on equity. The subcommittee hopes to develop talking points for members and broaden their membership.
- ◁ See meeting materials for additional information.

V. Subcommittees Meet in Breakout Rooms

VI. Requests for Future Meeting Topics

Lauren asked that suggestions for future meeting topics be entered in the chat so she can record them later.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.