

**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 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 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 meet again on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Another focus will be to support the subcommittees as they plan their updates. The plan is two years old and will be updated this year. The City of Austin has just completed an update of their sustainability plan. AISD's ESAC is divided into three organizational areas which are Teaching & Learning, Infrastructure & Operations, and Community Engagement. These three organizational areas then have four action areas (aligned with the ESAC subcommittees) which are Energy & Water, Waste & Procurement, Transportation & Air Quality, and Food & Nature. Darien shared the AISD Sustainability Tracker and the AISD Sustainability Plan Narrative. The Tracker is a living document and is actively updated. The Narrative is the public facing document that can be used by administration, staff, schools and the community. She explained that the Tracker feeds the Narrative. The proposed timeline for the update is December 18<sup>th</sup>. The Tracker is updated using input from the subcommittees, AISD departments, staff and key stakeholders. The final public facing version is targeted for completion by May 20, 2021. See meeting materials for additional information.

## **IV. Action Area Update**

Energy & Water – Report presented by Ashley Williams and Rey Torres

- Four Energy Champions Newsletters will be published. Our first Champion is Rhonda Barton, teacher at Eastside International HS.
- Solar Classroom Surveys continue.

- 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 Outdoor Learning Center, the district's demonstration habitat garden. She also shared a link to the YouTube video.
- The Outdoor Learning Ed Specs, the Project Development Manual, the Facility Master Plan, and the Educational Suitability Assessment & Facility Condition Assessment are being updated to include outdoor learning in anticipation of the next bond.
- See meeting materials for additional information.

Food – Report presented by Diane Grodek

- 1.6 million meals were served from March through August.
- AISD teamed up with Austin restaurants to provide adult meals in addition to the free meal service for students. Meal service will continue through December with whatever delivery system works best for the campus including off-campus pick-up, remote, curbside (once a week) and 7-day

meal packs each Thursday, on-campus, in-person, meals in classroom or a socially distant café.

- Support is needed for the 7-day meal packs. These meal packs are available to everyone and the district is reimbursed by the federal government for every meal they sell. Again, all are welcome. You will not be taking a meal away from someone else.
- The free Texas grown produce box program has been extended through December. This program is made possible by a donation from Dell.
- The district continues to source as much local products as possible.
- See meeting materials for additional information.

#### Transportation & Air Quality – Report presented by Kris Hafezizadeh

- There will be a free webinar on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-2:00 on electric school buses. Kris will be part of the panel discussion. Everyone is welcome to join, Kris provided the link. AISD did not qualify for any grants for electric buses.
- The Transportation Department began to use school buses for other purposes due to COVID. The buses were used as mobile Wi-Fi Hot Spots, to help deliver meals and Chromebooks. Some transportation employees helped the IT department clean the Chromebooks and get them out of storage.
- Ridership is low now that in-person learning has begun again. Students are getting their temperatures checked at the bus stop.
- Sahiti Karempudi and Amir Emamian presented on Safe Routes to Schools. We are almost completely digital. Non-digital areas are crossing guards and staff to help with traffic observation if requested by the school. Lessons for elementary students are available on the website. “SRTS 101” and “Traffic Safety 101” PowerPoint presentations will be available in both English and Spanish on the website as well. Walk to School Day will be fully online this year.
- Christopher Stanton spoke on Biketober. Ghisallo Cycling Initiative is providing its AISD Bike Rodeo online with a Bicycle Skills Challenge at Home program.
- See meeting materials for additional information.

#### Zero Waste & Procurement – Report presented by Amanda Mortl Walker

- To promote zero waste education this subcommittee is providing a Zero Waste Online Toolkit and a Zero Waster Blend class. Greg Behl with Texas Disposal Systems is available for live, online sorting training for staff and students as w person learning resuming, supplies will be provided. Supplies include compostable liner bags, signs (which can be printed from the toolkit), compost bins for hallway zero waste stations and

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.