

MEETING MINUTES

**Austin Independent School District
Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee**

Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, 2309 Panther Trail | Austin, TX 78704
September 14, 2022 | 5:30-7:30 pm

The AISD Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee met at the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders on September 14, 2022 to consider, discuss, and take action on the items listed in the agenda below. These meeting minutes are supplemented by the meeting materials, which can be accessed on the [ESAC website](#).

Attendees

Members in attendance

Amir Emamian
Ana Echeverria
Colleen Garland
Eileen McGinnis
Elizabeth Stephens
Hays Turner
Jacqui Willis
Jennifer Cregar*
Jennifer Evans
Lauren Maples
Melody Alcazar
Mike Rios
Noelle Bugaj
Rey Torres
Sean “Peppy” Meyer
Shaun Auckland
Sophie Sun

Visitors

Celine Rendon
Kindal Keen
Lauren Langford
Tamera Tate

Staff Coordinators in Attendance

Darien Clary
Lucia Sewing Cole

Members Not in Attendance

Larry Franklin*
Cristiano Monsalves
Jeff Wacker
Louis Zachary
Mia Burger
Diane Grodek
Nessa Higgins
Sheri Albin
Rob Borowski
Sahiti Karenpudi
Sharon Munroe**
Mary Priddy**
Paul Turner
Zane Wolf
Ashlee Bushee
Kristi Hibler-Luton
Brittany Morgan
Allyson Perez
Ashleigh Cibelli-Pettu
Aimee Aubin**

Citizens Communion

None

* Indicates Committee Co-Chair
** Indicates excused absence

Minutes

I. Welcome

The ESAC Co-Chair Jennifer Cregar called the meeting to order at 5:50 pm, welcomed attendees, and reviewed the ESAC General Meeting dates for FY23. Darien Clary, the AISD Sustainability Director shared some best practices for in-person meetings, including optional masking, arriving early, following sustainable practices, and using sound cues to stay on track, as well as reminders about the ESAC, such as the listserv, shared Google drive, and website available for members.

II. Public Comments and Announcements

There were no citizens communications. At 6:00 pm, attendees shared announcements. The AISD Sustainability Director Darien Clary notified attendees of the upcoming AISD Green Building Ceremony on October 18th from 10-11 am. Member Lauren Maples announced the PEAS Fall Fungi Farm Fest on September 17th from 9-12 pm.

III. Getting Reacquainted

Attendees participated in a brief icebreaker activity in which they paired up with people they did not know to answer questions about themselves.

IV. ESAC: A Brief History

The ESAC Co-Chair Jennifer Cregar reviewed the history of the ESAC, starting with the context that the ESAC is one of about 10 AISD standing advisory bodies, and explaining which advisory bodies the work of the ESAC most closely aligns with. Member Melody Alcazar requested that this information be emailed to ESAC members. Jennifer Cregar showed a timeline of the ESAC and sustainability work at AISD from 2004 through the present. Jennifer Cregar then reviewed the ESAC Subcommittee structure and explained how information and action flows from the ESAC members and subcommittee members through the ESAC Co-Chairs and Staff Coordinators, to the AISD Chief of Operations, and then to the AISD Superintendent and/or the Board of Trustees.

Please see Meeting Materials (slides 13-17) for additional information regarding AISD advisory bodies and ESAC history, structure, and flow of information and action.

V. Update: Purpose Statement and Bylaws

The Equity & Community Engagement subcommittee leader Noelle Bugaj and the AISD Sustainability Director Darien Clary shared the revised ESAC purpose statement. The new purpose statement reads, "The purpose of the ESAC is to engage AISD students, staff, parents, and community members in advancing environmental education and sustainable operations that enhance learning and support resilient, healthy, and equitable school communities." The previous purpose statement read, "The purpose of the ESAC is to assist the district in being a recognized example of environmental education, stewardship, and sustainability." Subcommittee leader Noelle Bugaj shared updates to the ESAC bylaws, including holding both in-person and virtual meetings, no more email voting, and no more than two unexcused absences per year given that there are only five total meetings. AISD Sustainability Director Darien Clary shared that members may only serve on one district advisory body at a time, not including short-term or ad-hoc committees such as the Long-Range Planning Committee. Darien Clary also shared that the ESAC membership categories are currently being revised and members may be asked to reapply at some point to realign themselves with the updated membership categories. Attendees were invited to attend an Equity & Community Engagement subcommittee meeting to learn more, as the Equity & Community Engagement subcommittee is guiding the transition process. This subcommittee meets biweekly on Tuesdays at 4:15, and the next

meeting on September 20, 2022.

Please see Meeting Materials (slides 19-22) for more information about updates to the ESAC purpose statement and bylaws.

VI. Action Area Updates

Energy & Water

Subcommittee co-leaders Ana Echeverria and Rey Torres, both from the AISD Energy & Water Management team, briefed attendees on the AISD Energy Heroes Challenge. This is a student contest to help celebrate Nationwide Energy Efficiency Day on October 5th. Students can win prizes by creating original drawings and videos showing how they save energy at school. The submissions will be posted on the @AISDGreen social media accounts. Subcommittee co-leaders Ana Echeverria and Rey Torres briefly showed the Building Automation System for AISD but did not go into detail due to time constraints.

Food & Nature

Subcommittee leader and Outdoor Learning Specialist at AISD, Colleen Garland, shared that the main “nature goal” is to update the Campus Outdoor Learning Features spreadsheet, which is intended to document all outdoor learning features across all AISD schools but is a few years out of date. Colleen Garland shared that she is committed to updating all of the middle schools and asked for help to update the high schools and elementary schools. Colleen Garland also provided an update on equity-based outreach to schools about visiting Discover Hill Learning Center. The Long-Range Planning Committee identified 25 schools as having average or worse facilities, a high proportion of underserved students, and high neighborhood social vulnerability. Colleen Garland explained that these same schools underutilize Discovery Hill Learning Center, which is a completely free field trip for AISD schools, so outreach about Discovery Hill Learning Center is being targeted to these schools. AISD Sustainability Director Darien Clary shared food updates on behalf of AISD Executive Chef Diane Grodek. A list of these updates can be found in the Meeting Materials.

Transportation & Air Quality

Subcommittee co-leader and Associate Director of Transportation, Mike Rios, shared that the main priority for this year is to have air conditioning in every bus. The Transportation Department is also in the process of procurement for piloting three electric buses, which should arrive by September 2023. The pilot program will include charging stations at the Southeast Bus Terminal, and AISD has applied for a rebate for the buses through the EPA, which will help mitigate the very high cost of the electric buses. Associate Director of Transportation Mike Rios also shared that members of the AISD Sustainability and Transportation teams hosted tables at each of the three AISD Bus Terminals on September 6-8 to share information about recycling, composting, energy conservation, the ESAC, and the 2022 Bond Program.

Waste & Procurement

AISD Sustainability Director Darien Clary introduced Ana Echeverria as the new AISD Energy Engagement Foreman & Zero Waste Lead. Ana Echeverria let attendees know that she would like to share the responsibilities of subcommittee leadership with a co-leader, and asked for a volunteer from that subcommittee to reach out to her.

Equity & Community Engagement

Equity & Community Engagement subcommittee updates were shared earlier in the meeting (updates to the ESAC purpose statement and bylaws).

Please see Meeting Materials (slides 23-38) for more information about action area updates.

VII. AISD “Big Things” for 2022-23

AISD Sustainability Director Darien Clary shared upcoming priorities for the district. These priorities include the 2022 Bond Program and Trustee elections, both of which are on the November 2022 ballot; the Interim Superintendent’s top priorities (Academic Excellence, Culture & Climate, Reflective & Inspirational Leadership); the search for a new superintendent and how the ESAC can help shape the selection for the new superintendent through a formal ESAC letter and citizen advocacy; facility repurposing; back to in-person learning; and filling staff vacancies, touching on how the ESAC should ensure that recommendations support teachers rather than adding more to their plate.

VIII. Subcommittee Breakout Groups

The ESAC Co-Chair Jennifer Cregar invited attendees to break into subcommittee groups for approximately 15 min, which was shortened from the allotted time on the agenda due to the thorough presentations.

The ESAC Co-Chair Jennifer Cregar adjourned the meeting at 7:31 pm.