

MEETING MINUTES

**Austin Independent School District
Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee**
General Marshall Middle School
January 21, 2026 | 5:30-7:30 pm

The AISD Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee met at General Marshall Middle School on January 21, 2026 to consider, discuss, and take action on the items listed in the agenda. These meeting minutes are supplemented by the meeting materials, which can be accessed on the [ESAC website](#).

Attendees

Members in Attendance

Delaney Lavelle
Juan Gomez
Lavanya Selvam Alli*
Waliya Lari
Sara Montoya
Bobby Sandoval
Arianna Colasanti
Alicia Kim
Mandi Golman
Rey Torres
Catherine Martinez*
Jen Cregar
Aubrey Lethbridge
Selene Castillo
Gabiella Bermea
Carinne Maravilla
Jeff Wacker
Tamera Diggs-Tate
Ashleigh Pettus
Julie Gutierrez

Visitors in Attendance

Krysta Accardi
Lisa Richardson
Annie Vo
Claudia Rodriguez
Mia Bonuelos
Fernando Alvarez
Dolce Lugo
Octavius Wardes
Caroline Vazquez Saavedra
Jengo Wiley Russell

Maggie Malangalila
Anna Guerrero-Ruiz
Brian Pena
Colleen Garland
Amanda Braziel
Erica Sterling

Staff Coordinators in Attendance

Darien Clary
Carsen Daniel
Nia Nickens

Members Not in Attendance

Tomas Naranjo-Ceballos
Luca Sims**
Sahana Ranganathan
Danielle D'Cruz
Mary Petrovich**
Tracy Geraldez
Nicole Howard
Erin Lane
Azocena Salinas
Matthew Garland
Jim Stephens
Kevin Lanza
Bonita Gray
Mike Berryman
Melody Alcazar**
Kathleen Cane

Citizens Communion

None

* Indicates Committee Co-chair

** Indicates excused absence

Minutes

I. Welcome & Connect

Meeting attendees checked in and participated in an ice breaker activity upon arriving. Lavanya Selvam Alli, ESAC Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 5:37pm. Members connected with other members during the opening activity. ESAC Co-chair Catherine Martinez, Co-chair Lavanya Selvam Alli, AISD Director of Sustainability, Energy, and Environment, Darien Clary, and AISD Sustainability Coordinator, Carsen Daniel, introduced themselves and welcomed members to do the same. Lavanya Selvam Alli then reviewed the ESAC purpose, resources, shared reminders, and reviewed the meeting agenda. See meeting slides 1-8 for additional information.

II. Public Comments & Announcements

There were no public comments. Darien Clary shared the AISD 2024-25 Sustainability Annual Report and introduced new employees to the operations team including Mandi Golman, Chris Papick, Lace Senegal, and Nia Nickens. Carsen Daniel shared a brief overview of the Widén Elementary School 4th Grade Solar Summit in partnership with Austin ISD Sustainability, Energy & Environment, EcoRise, and Austin Energy. In addition, members were invited to the Harris Elementary grand opening and the Green Career Fest. ESAC Member Ashleigh Pettus introduced a Youth Forest Council Internship and Green Career Fest. Darien Clary shared about the Austin Ed Fund and Austin Chamber of Commerce Summer Internship. See meeting slides 9-16.

Lavanya Selvam Alli took a vote to November approve minutes from the previous meeting, Jeff Wacker motioned, Mandi seconded.

III. Student & Teacher Presentations

Navarro ECHS teachers, Arianna Colasanti and Alicia Kim, and their Green Teen students shared their experiences developing various sustainability projects and working with groups including EcoRise and Keep Austin Beautiful. Odom Elementary School teachers, Lisa Richardson and Krysta Accardi, spoke about their experience securing grants and increasing student engagement. Lastly, educators and students participated in a Q&A panel where they discussed how they became interested in sustainability and creating fellowship among students. See meeting slides 18-42.

IV: Working group breakouts

At 6:48 p.m, members assembled into their working groups to discuss topic areas such as Zero Waste, Energy and Water Conservation, ESAC Member Resource List, Construction/Demolition Materials Salvaging, Student Civic Engagement, and Walk/Bike to School.

V. Working Group Shareouts

At 7:07 p.m., working group leaders shared updates on their topic areas. Mandi Golman shared updates and ongoing progress of construction and demolition materials. An update about the Solar Summit with Austin Energy and EcoRise for Widen students was shared. Co-Chair Catherine Martinez shared an interest form for upcoming meetings and events and introduced Brian Pena, Legislative Director for Texas House of Representative Gina Hinajosa, who spoke with the working group earlier in the week. The Walk/Bike to work working group shared how they are partnering with the City of Austin to advance the Park and Walk to School initiative. Lastly, the timeline of the Golden Trash Can Awards was shared as well.

See slides 44-50

VI: Closing & Adjourn

At 7:20, ESAC Co-Chair Cate Matrinez wrapped up the meeting and announced the dates for the remaining meeting dates of the 2025-26 school year. See slides.

A motion to adjourn by Bobby Sandoval and seconded by Carinne Maravilla. The meeting was adjourned at 7:22pm.