



Austin Independent School District

**Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

September 27, 2017

5:30 – 7:30 pm

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

Attendees

Members in Attendance

Bianca Bidiuc
Karen Bishop
Rob Borowski
Amir Emamian
Colleen Garland
Laura Gass
Charlie Gutierrez
Kris Hafezizadeh
Cari Land
Sherry Lepine
Monica Lopez Magee*
Anne Muller
Matthew Nelson*
Mary Priddy*
Abby Randall
Lonnie Sclerandi
Richard Shearman
Cory Skuldt
Ryan Spencer
Anneliese Tanner
Dub Taylor
James Tosh
Jeff Wacker
Cynthia Wilcox
Jessica Wilson
Louis Zachary

Staff Coordinators in Attendance

Darien Clary
Paul Turner

Members Not in Attendance

Liz Cardinal
Sam DeSanto
Cassidy Ellis
Sarah Holland
Melina Martinez
Amanda Mortl
Vivian Perez
Ilya Schmulenson
Chris Stewart

Citizens Communication

Karen Bishop
Ryan Spencer

Visitors

Justo Ramirez
Mallory Schillinger

* Indicates Committee Co-Chair

Minutes

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

The ESAC Co-chair Matthew Nelson facilitated the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

Approval of the May 24, 2017 meeting minutes occurred at 5:48pm. The ESAC member Cynthia Wilcox motioned to approve, seconded by Monica Lopez Magee. The May 24, 2017 meeting minutes were approved with no modifications. Matthew Nelson also welcomed the new member, Cari Land, to the ESAC. Executive Director of Facilities, Paul Turner announced the two new members of the AISD Sustainability team: Richard Shearman, Energy & Water Manager, and Cory Skuldt, part-time mobility & transportation intern. Matthew Nelson also announced the members with perfect meeting attendance from last year: Bianca Bidiuc, Lonnie Sclerandi, and Matthew Nelson.

II. Citizens Communications

The ESAC member, Karen Bishop, announced the upcoming pollinator Bioblitz that is sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife. The ESAC Member, Ryan Spencer, announced the October 19th Educator Celebration at the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, organized by the Children in Nature Collaborative of Austin.

III. Strategic Planning Meeting Updates

The ESAC Co-chair, Mary Priddy, shared highlights and action items from the September 7, 2017 strategic planning meeting with co-chairs and subcommittee leaders. Topics discussed in the strategic planning meeting included (1) Sustainability Plan Updates: board members will be asked to provide insight at an upcoming work session, and ESAC subcommittee leaders offered to be present during the work session to respond to questions relevant to their action area; (2) ESAC Priorities for the 2017-2018 School Year: sustainability plan implementation and how ESAC members can contribute to advancing their action areas, approaching sustainability and strategies through equity, community engagement regarding the Sustainability Plan/ESAC/school involvement; (3) Meeting Operations: time/location/duration, themed presentations that align with action areas, member satisfaction, membership gaps, and communications.

The following items were resolved during the strategic planning meeting:

- Each subcommittee will determine which parts of the plan they would like to work on and will set forth with action.
- Each subcommittee leader will be in charge of updating the master Sustainability Plan Action Areas (Google Spreadsheet) as their subcommittee makes progress.
- An equity statement will be included in the Sustainability Plan, based on the research completed by former ESAC Co-Chair, Paul McDermott.
- Each ESAC member should facilitate engagement at one or more events this fall. More would be appreciated, and buddies are encouraged.
- Engagement focus: schools and green team network.
- The September ESAC meeting will include a vote regarding a time change from 5:30-7:30 to 6:00-8:00, and will gauge if we need to consider child care options

- for members.
- AISD food services will be used to cater each meeting.
- Guest Speakers: 10 minutes each, 2 speakers max per meeting. 30 minutes total (5 mins each for Q & A)
- Designated Co-chair (meeting emcee, perhaps) keeps group to schedule and keeps conversation from going down rabbit holes. Enforces guest speaker time limits.
- Identified themes that align with our subcommittees to schedule guest speakers. Dates are:
 - Sep: Food & Nature
 - Nov: Waste & Procurement
 - Jan: Energy & Water
 - Mar: Transportation & Air Quality
 - May: no presenters (ESAC elections, etc.)
- Focus to recruit for-profit businesses in ESAC membership
- Recruitment and application acceptance to the ESAC will focus on those who will serve subcommittees in need of members.
- Recruit members so that at least one AISD District-level staff person is on each subcommittee.
- As Green Contact list is updated, consider “newsletter” or info dissemination on a regular basis to Green Teams and to ESAC.

Members voted to keep the meetings 5:30-7:30pm. Two ESAC members indicated that childcare may be nice but that they may not need it consistently. ESAC members requested the option of childcare be explored annually in case members’ circumstances have changed.

IV. AISD Sustainability Updates

Austin ISD Sustainability Manager, Darien Clary, provided information about the planning documents within AISD and highlighted opportunities to integrate sustainability into these documents and practices. The Project Development Manual for construction contains a section that details energy and sustainability procedures for projects. The Facilities Master Plan includes “Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability” as one of its seven guiding principles. The Educational Specifications (Ed Specs) that are currently under revision present another opportunity to integrate sustainability into the long-range planning of the district. The latest draft of the Ed Specs includes safe access to quality space that is connected to the outdoors through operable windows, access to views and natural daylight, and access to outdoor learning environments. Integration of sustainability into these documents and planning processes supports the AISD 2010 Resolution and 2011 Environmental Sustainability Policy, passed by the Board of Trustees. Please see the meeting materials for detailed descriptions and links to these documents. There was also discussion about a special bond presentation to the ESAC to address questions related to sustainability. It was resolved that members would submit sustainability-related questions to Darien, and she would ask for responses within AISD. The responses would then be shared with the ESAC members. This will allow for everyone to have the ability to participate and see the responses, regardless of whether they can attend a bond presentation meeting.

Additional updates included partnerships for materials reuse underway, which have resulted in diverting over 800 binders, 100 student desks, and 48 office chairs from the landfill. This has also saved AISD in avoided cost to procure these items new, and has saved partner agencies the cost in landfill fees to dispose of the materials. Eco Rise has partnered with AISD Career & Technical Education (CTE) to pilot a LEED Green Building Prep class during the 2017-2018 school year. AISD was ranked #1 in the nation by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for green power, and 25th in the nation among local governments. See Meeting Materials for additional information.

V. Sustainability Plan Updates

Austin ISD Sustainability Manager, Darien Clary, reiterated information that was mentioned earlier in the meeting during the September Strategic Planning Meeting updates. Please see above notes and meeting materials for details.

VI. Engagement

The ESAC Co-Chair, Monica Lopez Magee, provided an in-depth review of the discussion and outcomes from the September Strategic Planning Meeting. This year, engagement will focus on building the sustainability “green team” network within AISD to foster a sense of collaboration and to give schools a resource and pathway to engage students in sustainability activities and education. There was a discussion of the possibility to host sustainability-related “green team” professional development for teachers, perhaps paired with a resource fair.

Ms. Lopez Magee also updated the ESAC regarding the revisions that were made to the engagement posters, based on ESAC feedback from the May meeting and the trial-run at the AISD Science and Math conference. Members will be notified when the final posters are available for use at community events.

VII. Subcommittee Group Time

Subcommittees broke into groups to confirm subcommittee leadership for the 17-18 school year, determine subcommittee meeting dates, and to discuss initiatives/strategies underway and how members can each contribute.

VIII. City of Austin Urban Forest Grant

This presentation was postponed, date TBD.

IX. Austin Area School Garden Collaborative Website

ESAC Co-chair, Mary Priddy, unveiled the Austin Area School Garden Collaborative website: www.greeningyourschoolyard.com. The site is a resource for schools to start, maintain, and teach with wildlife habitat gardens, food gardens, outdoor classrooms and trails, domestic animals, pollinators, and water collection and rain gardens.

X. Requests for Future Meetings

There were no requests. The 2017-2018 ESAC meeting dates are as follows: September 27 and November 29, 2017 and January 24, March 21, and May 23, 2018. Meetings are set to occur 5:30-7:30pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm.