APPROVED

Pullman School District

Minutes

Sustainability Committee Meeting

Date and Time
Tuesday January 21, 2025 at 3:30 PM

Location
Community Room
Pullman Public Schools District Office
240 SE Dexter St., Pullman, WA 99163

Committee Members Present
Courtney Hodge

Committee Members Absent
None

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- **Kimi Emerson**, *Sunnyside Elementary*
- **Holly Steele**, *Franklin Elementary*
- **Debbie Crabtree**, *Pullman High School*
- **Juston Pollestad**, *Executive Director of Operations*
- **Bob Maxwell**, *Superintendent*
- **Jessie Campbell,** *Nutrition Services Supervisor (REMOTE)*

- **Matt Heiszler**, ***District Office***
- **Courtney Hodge**, *Committee Secretary*

MEMBERS ABSENT:

- **Geoff Reilly**, *Lincoln Middle School*
- **Cecilia Hellmann,** *12th Grade Pullman High School Student Representative*
- **Lisa Waananen Jones**, *School Board Representative*

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Courtney Hodge called a meeting of the Sustainability Committee Committee of Pullman School District to order on Tuesday Jan 21, 2025 at 3:30 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from September 24, 2024.
The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
Motion to approve the minutes from October 22, 2024.
The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Sustainability Committee

A. Committee Updates

- **Pacific Education Institute**
  - Continuing to promote professional learning opportunities through the Staff Weekly Report.
- **Update on Grant Submissions**
  - **Grant-Funded Charging Ports:** A Washington State grant through Avista will fund the installation of Level 2 electric vehicle charging ports at all school locations, except Sunnyside Elementary, due to the building nearing the end of its usable lifespan.
  - **Electric Bus Charging:** The committee is exploring the addition of electric bus charging ports at Pullman High School.
  - **Car Charging Fees:** Existing free car charging ports will transition to a pay-to-use system.
- **Electric Bus Fleet:** The district will have **three electric buses**, all **funded through grants**.
- **Solar Panel Initiatives:** The district is actively pursuing solar panel grants. The Transportation Cooperative is already designed for solar panels, and there is interest in expanding solar to additional school and district facilities.
- **Energy Cost Increases:** A rate increase in December 2024 led to a $25,000 rise in energy costs. The district is committed to ongoing energy conservation efforts to manage expenses.

B.

Debrief: Committee Meeting with Pullman High Environmental Club - Next Steps

- **Composting System:** The Environmental Club and student ambassadors are working on a sustainable composting system that can adapt over time and with student turnover. They aim to align the system with Lincoln Middle School's model and potentially involve school kitchens.
- **Plant-Based Menu Options:** The district will explore expanding plant-based food options with the support of a grant.
- **Food Waste Study:** An intern will conduct another food waste study this school year to inform future sustainability efforts.
- **Cafeteria Supplies:**
  - The district is exploring the option of switching to metal trays.
  - Currently using disposable utensils due to frequent silverware loss; however, there's interest in moving away from disposables to more compostable options.
  - Magnet lids on trash cans were intended to recover silverware but have proven ineffective.
- **eWaste and Recyclable Equipment:**
  - The committee discussed expanding the current district eWaste system to include personal eWaste.
  - Interest in having environmental clubs run a "Spring Clean-Up" event around Earth Day for eWaste collection.
- **Earth Day Activities:**
  - Support for the "Pizza for the Planet" event by Phoenix Conservancy, which turns used pizza boxes into biochar.
  - The committee is interested in supporting the Environmental Club's Earth Day initiatives.
- **Rainwater Collection:** Students shared interest in collecting rainwater for summer field use to conserve water.

The committee expressed strong interest in supporting the composting plan and student-led sustainability efforts.

C. 2024-2025 Committee Schedule Planning

- Pullman High School: Environmental Club
  - Tuesdays, 3:10pm
- Lincoln Middle School: Spartan Sprouts, will meet again in Spring
- Elementary:
  - Franklin Garden Club, 2nd Wednesday of the month after school
    - Soil is a major expense for the club. Access to excess compost from other schools would greatly benefit the raised beds at Franklin.

D. Committee Resources

Reviewed a variety of resource links that might be helpful for the committee moving forward.

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Courtney Hodge

B. Open Committee Positions

Documents used during the meeting

- Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes 9.24.24.pdf
- Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes 10.22.24.pdf