



Pullman School District

Minutes

Sustainability Committee Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday May 27, 2025 at 3:30 PM

Location

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

Committee Members Present

Bob Maxwell, Courtney Hodge, Debbie Crabtree, Geoff Reilly, Holly Steele, Juston Pollestad, Kimi Emerson, Matt Heiszler

Committee Members Absent

Cecilia Hellmann, Jessie Campbell

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Bob Maxwell called a meeting of the Sustainability Committee Committee of Pullman School District to order on Tuesday May 27, 2025 at 3:30 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

Bob Maxwell made a motion to approve the minutes from Sustainability Committee Meeting on 01-21-25.

Geoff Reilly seconded the motion.

The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Sustainability Committee

A. Committee Updates

- PHS Environmental Club:
 - Students are working on implementing a composting program at PHS.
- Open Student Representative Positions
 - The committee suggested getting additional student representatives by advertising for the open student positions on the Sustainability Committee at Greyhound Gear Up and Spartan Start Up.
- Pacific Education Institution (PEI)
 - Professional learning opportunities are shared with all staff in the Staff Weekly Report. It was noted that these opportunities often have additional STEM and equity clock hours available for participants.
- Update on Grant Submissions
 - Avista Chargers: In the process of submitting formal grant. The district was working to complete the steps required for the application process. The process is underway but with the ties to the federal funding, this project might be delayed.

B. Zero Emissions Northwest (ZEN) Community Solar Project Update

The committee reviewed the proposal outlining a community solar project that was presented at the April 30, 2025 Regular Board meeting. The presentation included an overview of the company and details of the proposed project, which would involve installing solar panels at Franklin, Jefferson, and Kamiak Elementary Schools, Lincoln Middle School, Pullman High School, and the Whitman County Transportation Cooperative. The proposal included a projected timeline and included the potential financial benefits for the district. Currently the district is in the pre-certification phase. The committee discussed the benefits of this project especially the funds that could be generated to help support programs and supports for low income students and families.

C. Washington State Budget - Outdoor Education Funding Update

- The Outdoor Education grant, a statewide initiative funded by OSPI, has been completely eliminated. For the past two years, this grant has supported the district's 5th Grade Outdoor Education Experience. In light of the cut, committee members emphasized the importance of evaluating the overall cost of camp and exploring fundraising strategies to help sustain the program in the coming year.

- The committee discussed the summer meal program and the funding challenges that the district has been working through to be able to operate a meal program this summer. Members noted that this program could potentially be supported through alternative funding sources, such as revenue generated from the solar project grant or the Avista EV chargers in the future.

D. 2025-2026 Committee Schedule Planning

The committee expressed support for holding future meetings at school buildings to increase opportunities for student engagement. Members agreed that connecting directly with students will help gather valuable feedback to inform the committee's ongoing goals and initiatives.

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,
Bob Maxwell