

Sustainability Task Force

Introductory Meeting 7:00PM-7:50PM

ATTENDANCE:

Alain P Steven	Kate Graf
Andrea Toaso	Madison Roeger
David Mayan	Molly Thomas
Debra Euker	Nicole Berical
Douglas White	Rasika Sivakumar
Erin McCool	Ruth Walker
Jeremy Quinn	Sagar Pawar
Julia J Nakhleh	Sara Campbell-Szymanski
Karen Braun	Shab Maffei

NOTES:

Attendees introduced themselves and shared their intent/hope/rationale for volunteering to be on the task force.

Zerbe:

- Shared that role of task force (slide 4) and shared that he is not a sustainability expert and is seeking input from members on a path forward.
- Shared that historically schools have addressed sustainability via economic/social/environmental avenues through means listed on slide 5.
- Shared that he is recommending a simple framework forward focusing on culture/program/place (see slides 6-9)
- Shared that regardless of the path forward or strategies/actions, we need to start from a position of understanding/knowledge/data to drive action and measure that actions progress.
- Shared that in order to create this body of knowledge we need to audit: energy use/waste use/recycling efforts/practices and behaviors within the current school, home and community/curriculum/research best practices
- Asked for feedback on approach and framework

Group Feedback:

- We need to tie the information from the baseline data back into the framework to make it useful
- Districts are required to establish an environmental literacy plan (some funding coming to help develop those plans) there is a template we can use
- District needs to recognize and champion environmental literacy and prepare students for rapid growth of careers/jobs in sustainability fields
- New science standards should be part of academic curriculum- need to organize a path forward for incorporating these.
- Look at leveraging the MWEE tool (Erin)
- Should we consider utilizing a high school research class as part of the new standards to help regularly drive new ideas and keep the students/staff/community apprised of trends and new sustainability matters
- Can we leverage use of 3d printers or other technology to help reuse/recycle materials to make greater use
- Can we look to leverage our lawns for gardening or a food forest—creating ecological systems to be self-sustaining and incorporating native species of plants and creating habitats for wildlife

- We are missing key stakeholder from this group in our service partners-Aramark/First Student—how can we engage these companies to help support our future efforts
- Setting goals with timelines is important
- There should be a way that more students can be involved in supporting this effort-There are a number of other students that can help provide input and maybe it would be best to gather their feedback and get them involved in some manner. Zerbe stated that he would work with the student reps and Dr. Gravinese (Principal) to organize a meeting to gather feedback. Students could create an event for Earth Day as an example.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Zerbe shared that he welcomes communication from each of our task force members following this introductory session to hear other ideas so that he can consider this input in organizing our efforts forward.

If you are interested in scheduling a call/in person visit or otherwise – Please email Beth Rutledge brutledge@methacton.org to schedule time in the evening/day/weekend as best fits your schedule.

NEXT STEPS:

Not certain there is another meeting this school year (will update group)

Provide minutes of the introductory meeting

Establish the meeting schedule for next year

Consider feedback and follow-up conversations from one on one committee member discussions

Reorganize structure/framework/approach based on feedback (introductory meeting and one on one discussions) – Feed that back to committee.

LAST WORD:

Zerbe shared that he is looking to find an educational use of the soon to be leveled Audubon Elementary School and its entire property. He shared that one avenue aside from athletic fields or moving bus terminal to this property, is that we could leverage new Science, Technology & Engineering, and Environmental Literacy & Sustainability standards to provide a learning space for all levels inclusive of a pond, indoor outdoor garden, walking path, covered structure, small group spaces, information boards, solar/wind farm, and more. (see slide 12).

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS (not discussed or shared at meeting)

- District will create a web site presence to store and communicate Sustainability Task force efforts.