



Austin Independent School District

**Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

May 23, 2018  
5:30 – 7:30 pm

Carruth Administration Center, 1111 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Board Auditorium

**Attendees**

Members in Attendance

Pamela Abee Taulli  
Aimee Aubin  
Karen Bishop  
Liz Cardinal  
Alecia Casper  
Laura Gass  
Charlie Gutierrez  
Kris Hafezizadeh  
Sarah Holland  
Sherry Lepine  
Lauren Maples  
Amanda Mortl  
Anne Muller  
Matthew Nelson\*  
Mary Priddy\*  
Abby Randall  
Lonnie Sclerandi  
Ilya Schmulenson  
Richard Shearman  
Dub Taylor  
Jeff Wacker  
Cynthia Wilcox

Visitors

Christopher Stanton  
Jake Carter

Staff Coordinators in Attendance

Darien Clary  
Paul Turner

Members Not in Attendance

Bianca Bidiuc Peterson  
Rob Borowski  
Sam DeSanto  
Amir Emamian  
Colleen Garland  
Cari Land  
Monica Lopez Magee\*  
Melina Martinez  
Vivian Perez  
Susan Peterson  
Justo Ramirez  
Cory Skuldt  
Ryan Spencer  
Chris Stewart  
Anneliese Tanner  
James Tosh  
Louis Zachary  
Jessica Wilson

Citizens Communication

Anne Muller

\* 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 5:32 pm. The ESAC member, Sherry Lepine, motioned to approve the January and March meeting minutes, seconded by Mary Priddy. The meeting minutes were approved with no modifications. Matthew Nelson also welcomed new member, Aimee Aubin.

### II. Citizens Communication & Announcements

There were no citizens communications.

### III. Elections

In advance of the elections, Matthew Nelson reminded the ESAC members that Tri-chair responsibilities included working with AISD staff to plan the direction and priorities of the ESAC; develop meeting agendas; establish subcommittees; lead meetings and enforce procedures; represent and sign on the behalf of the ESAC; perform other duties as requested by the Superintendent or staff coordinator. The nominees were announced in each category: Community Member Nominee, Mary Priddy, and AISD Employee Nominee, Dr. Sherry Lepine. Both candidates gave a few remarks regarding their candidacy. Mary Priddy noted that she had been a long-time ESAC member since 2010 and has enjoyed serving on the ESAC leadership as co-chair for the previous two years. She also served on the Transportation and Air Quality subcommittee and has previous experience as an AISD teacher. Dr. Sherry Lepine has also served the ESAC since 2010 and was the Green Tech Academy Director at Clint Small Middle School. She also serves on the board of the Central Texas Garden Network and is a firm believer in the power of public education to change the world. Voting then took place and both candidates were elected to serve May 2018- May 2020.

### IV. Remarks and Award Presentations

Austin ISD Executive Director of Facilities, Paul Turner, hosted the Awards presentations to the ESAC members. Members receiving recognition for perfect attendance included Lonnie Sclerandi, Richard Shearman, Dub Taylor, Jessica Wilson, Sherry Lepine, Matthew Nelson, and Mary Priddy. Subcommittees were then awarded for their efforts to implement the AUSD Sustainability community engagement series. The Energy and Water subcommittee received the “guinea Pig” award for their willingness to pioneer the engagement series. This team also had the most participants in a single event, for they engaged 145 community members at the Austin Energy Science Fest. The “Infiltration” award went to the Transportation and Air Quality subcommittee for their ability to infiltrate City of Austin events to collect public feedback. The Food and Nature subcommittee received the “Hyper-ventilation” award for implementing the community engagement activity at more events than any other subcommittee. They took the posters to 6 events and engaged over 250 people. The Waste and Procurement subcommittee received the “Procure my Heart” award for their engaging social media posts during their community engagement session at the Gus Garcia Family Info Night event.

AISD Sustainability Manager, Darien Clary, then gave special recognition to two outgoing members of the ESAC: Co-chair, Matthew Nelson, and AISD Executive Director of Facilities, Paul Turner. Matthew Nelson was awarded the “sustainability Super Hero” award and Paul Turner received the “king of Green” award. Darien Clary read remarks that ESAC members and

AISD employees had submitted about Paul Turner and Matthew Nelson in honor of the occasion. The ESAC took a group photo at the end of the awards.

#### V. AISD Sustainability Updates

AISD Sustainability Manager, Darien Clary announced that there would be a strategic planning meeting this summer for the new Tri-chairs and subcommittee leaders, date to be determined based on participants' availability. She then showed the green meme contest winner, a Widen elementary student. The winner won a visit from the Nacho Average Food Truck for their school. Darien Clary then discussed the status of the Sustainability Plan Draft, a complete copy of which was emailed to all ESAC members in advance of the meeting. The document includes the history and organizational structure of the ESAC and AISD sustainability, a description of how the sustainability strategies were developed, a summary of each action area, list of key strategies and actions for each action area, and appendices. Darien Clary thanked the subcommittee leaders for their work to develop the action area pages. The next steps for this summer include a written update to the AISD Board of Trustees with a request for feedback about the plan, and feedback from ESAC members. Edits will be incorporated over the summer and the final draft will be posted on the sustainability website.

Darien Clary also shared photos from the May 21, 2018 Board recognition of the ESAC and shared remarks from Trustee Ann Teich. An ESAC Member noted that the event was a career highlight for her and demonstrated Trustee support for all of our efforts.

#### VI. Action Area Updates

ESAC Member and AISD Energy and Water Manager, Richard Shearman, presented the Energy & Water Action Area Update. AISD installed its first real-time water monitoring system at Paredes Middle School. This will help decrease response time for leaks. Richard Shearman also shared that the AISD Performing Arts Center was awarded an Excellence in Water Conservation Award from Austin Water. Upcoming initiatives include: participation in the Austin Energy Load Coop program, summer efficiency schedules, pilot program for electric vehicle charging stations, and completion of solar arrays at Boone and Paredes.

The ESAC member and AISD Zero Waste Specialist, Amanda Mortl, provided the Waste and Procurement Update. She shared accomplishments since she began her position in November 201, including zero waste event guidelines, training custodians at the annual in-service day, completion of a waste optimization study, and distribution of bins that were awarded to AISD through a grant from the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG). She also shared findings for disposal costs for landfill, recycling, and composting waste, and updates regarding her communications with the AISD procurement department. Amanda Mortl also reported that lunch composting has been implemented in 103 of 116 sites, 5 have committed to Breakfast in the Classroom composting, and 1 school has implemented paper towel composting in the restrooms. Priorities for this summer include a Zero Waste Training for teachers in July and securing funding to continue her position with AISD.

The Transportation & Air Quality subcommittee had no updates.

The ESAC Member, Anne Muller, updated members about the Nature Action Area. The subcommittee has completed the database of nature learning features at schools. Anne Muller displayed a graph of AISD schoolyard habitat features that was generated from the data (see meeting materials for graph). The results showed that there are 17 different types of schoolyard habitat features, with 631 total at schools (some schools have more than one feature). She was

surprised to see that so many schools have ponds (n=77). This data helps AISD and community partners know what features are in use so they can develop support and professional development regarding maintenance and opportunities for curriculum and outdoor learning.

They implemented the community engagement activity at the Sustainable Food Center Family Night and have plan to implement at the Barrington Green School Park Opening, the AISD Outside Training, the Hope and Sunset Valley Farmers Markets, and the Boone Elementary PTA meeting. The staff trainings were already mentioned in the Energy and Water subcommittee updates. The Monarch Lab conducted a 2-day training for over 30 AISD teachers, and there are many existing and new schools that want to become Monarch Heroes.

The ESAC Member, Anneliese Tanner, provided the Food Action Area update. Recent activities include the Johnson's Backyard Garden radish sampling at all campuses for Earth Week. The grower's carrots will also be featured for Farm Fresh Fridays. The Harvest of the month for all Texas Farmers is leaf lettuce. AISD Nutrition and Food Services is continuing to phase-out Styrofoam trays, although the purchase of recyclable trays has been delayed because of production issues by the vendor. However, compostable trays are now being used in all middle and high schools.

AISD Sustainability Manager, Darien Clary, shared updates regarding community engagement. She briefly reviewed the purpose and methods for ESAC newcomers and shared the results of Series I that took place this year. The ESAC members implemented the activity at 9 separate events and had over 400 respondents. The types of events included Science Fest, Family Nights, PTA meetings, teacher trainings, public gatherings, and AISD's Superintendent Student Roundtable. Darien Clary then showed the number of responses for each question on the posters (see meeting materials).

Please see Meeting Materials for additional information regarding action area updates.

#### VII. Request for Information and Future Meetings

No requests were made.

The meeting officially adjourned at 7:35.