

MEETING MINUTES

**Austin Independent School District
Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee**
Govalle Elementary | 3601 Govalle Ave. | Austin, TX 78702
May 10, 2023 | 5:30-7:30 pm

The AISD Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee met at Govalle Elementary on May 10, 2023 to consider, discuss, and take action on the items listed in the agenda below. These meeting minutes are supplemented by the meeting materials, which can be accessed on the [ESAC website](#).

Attendees

Members in Attendance

Catherine Bergman
Colleen Garland
Diane Grodek
Elizabeth Harper
Hays Turner
Jacqui Willis
Jeff Wacker
Jennifer Cregar*
Jennifer Evans
Lauren Maples
Laurren Langford
Melody Alcazar
Noelle Bugaj
Rey Torres
Sean "Peppy" Meyer
Sharon Munroe
Shaun Auckland (virtual)
Sophie Sun

Visitors in Attendance

Yasmine Anderson
Rica Sunga-Kwan
Chelsea Burkett
Mary Petrovich
Tracy Geraldez
Tamera Tate

Staff Coordinators in Attendance

Darien Clary

Members Not in Attendance

Aimee Aubin**
Amir Emamian
Ana Echeverria**
Ashlee Bushee
Ashleigh Cibelli-Pettus
Cristiano Monsalves
Eileen McGinnis**
Karen Bishop**
Kindal Keen
Larry Franklin
Louis Zachary
Mary Priddy**
Mike Rios**
Nessa Higgins
Paul Turner
Rob Borowski

Citizens Communion

None

* Indicates Committee Co-Chair

** Indicates excused absence

Lucia Sewing Cole

Minutes

I. Welcome & Announcements

Jen Cregar, the ESAC Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:47 pm. Darien Clary, the AISD Director of Sustainability, started announcements by thanking ESAC members for attending the ESAC Social in March, reminding members to reapply for the ESAC and use the recruitment toolkit, and sharing the 2022 Bond Schedule. Lauren Maples, ESAC member, shared that PEAS summer camp registration is open, and Elizabeth Harper, ESAC member, shared that the EcoRise showcase is coming up May 11th and that T. A. Brown Elementary received their shed and may need volunteer support to build the shed.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Icebreaker: ESAC Awards

At 5:55 pm, attendees participated in a brief icebreaker activity in which they nominated other attendees for silly awards. ESAC staff coordinator Lucia Sewing Cole read off the names with the most votes, as well as the names of ESAC members with perfect attendance of ESAC meetings during the 2022-2023 school year.

IV: Air Quality: Letter & ESAC/AISD Conversation

At 6:09 pm, Jen Cregar, the ESAC Co-Chair, introduced ESAC member Sharon Munroe. Sharon provided an update on the conversation between ESAC members and AISD staff about indoor air quality in school buildings. Please see the Meeting Materials (slides 16-24) for these updates. A few ESAC members asked questions, including Rey Torres, who asked about other districts that are doing a good job, and Colleen Garland, who asked if ventilation and offgassing from laminating machines in workrooms are being discussed.

At 6:25 pm, Jen Cregar, the ESAC Co-Chair, introduced a letter drafted by a group of ESAC members about the impact of the proposed I-35 expansion on air quality and student health. Jen Cregar shared that at the last ESAC general meeting, ESAC member Eileen McGinnis shared her concerns about the impact of the I-35 expansion on air quality and student health, and invited ESAC members to form a working group to draft a letter to Interim Superintendent Segura and the AISD Board of Trustees. The working group found that 10 schools fall within 2,000 feet of I-35, and that the I-35 expansion would push another two schools within 2,000 feet of the highway. There are health risks for children and adults exposed to high levels of traffic pollution, and the schools located closer to highways disproportionately serve students of color. Jen distributed copies of the drafted letter, which asks the AISD Board of Trustees to take a formal stance on the expansion of I-35. ESAC member Sophie Sun asked to amend the letter to say, "commit to not build new schools or school-related facilities within 500 feet of highways and arterials" "no new facilities within 2,000 feet" (instead of 500 feet). ESAC members Colleen Garland and Sean "Peppy" Meyer suggested adding a tree barrier where existing schools are less than 2,000 feet from the highway. With the understanding that these changes would be made to the letter, ESAC member Jeff Wacker motioned to approve ESAC support for the letter, ESAC member Lauren Maples seconded the motion, and a majority of ESAC members passed the motion at 6:59 pm. Jen Cregar then asked whether the letter should be sent to Interim Superintendent Segura and the AISD Board of Trustees right away, or if the ESAC should wait until the fall to collaborate with the School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) on the letter before sending it. ESAC

member Sharon Munroe motioned to send it to Interim Superintendent Segura and the AISD Board of Trustees right away, ESAC member Lauren Maples seconded the motion, and a majority of ESAC members passed the motion at 7:01. For more details on the proposed letter and next steps, please see the Meeting Materials (slides 25-29).

V: Elections

At 7:02 pm, Jen Cregar, the ESAC Co-Chair, explained that she will be stepping into former ESAC Co-Chair Larry Franklin's position to fulfill the remaining one year of his term. ESAC members therefore needed to vote for a second Co-Chair to serve a 2-year term. Shaun Aukland, Melody Alcazar, and Jeff Wacker were running for the second ESAC Co-Chair position. Jen Cregar read Shaun Aukland's bio because Shaun was participating in the meeting by phone, and Melody Alcazar and Jeff Wacker each read their own bios. There were no questions so members took a vote by show of hands, and Jeff Wacker was elected as the new ESAC Co-Chair at 7:17 pm.

VI: What's Next?

Jen Cregar, the ESAC Co-Chair, shared what is coming next for the ESAC. All ESAC members are asked to reapply for their positions by June 30th. Darien Clary, the AISD Director of Sustainability, will bring up the possibility of having three ESAC Co-Chairs and the ESAC Sunset Review (if three Co-Chairs are permitted, the runner-up from tonight's election would be the third Co-Chair). An invitation will be sent out to participate in ESAC Strategic Planning for the 2023-24 year.

VII: Closing & Adjourn

ESAC member Lauren Maples motioned to adjourn the meeting and ESAC member Colleen Garland seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm.