

UPDATE: January 24, 2024

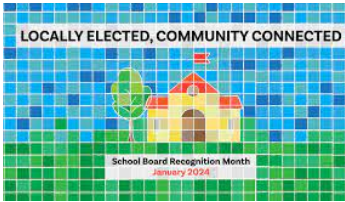
Greetings, ESAC members and friends of AISD Sustainability,

We look forward to seeing you at our **virtual ESAC meeting on January 24th!** In advance of our meeting, please review the latest sustainability news and info from our AISD staff and ESAC subcommittee and working group leaders.



Matias Segura named as lone finalist for AISD's superintendent position!

- The Austin ISD Board of Trustees chose Matias Segura as the lone finalist for Austin ISD's superintendent position. The decision was made unanimously during the December 14 meeting. [Please sign our e-card](#) from the ESAC to congratulate him!



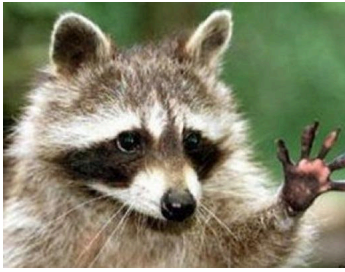
January is National School Board Appreciation Month

- Our elected Trustees play a crucial role in our schools and communities. Help us say thank you by signing the ESAC's [e-card for the AISD Board of Trustees](#).



AISD is hiring positions that support AISD sustainability and ESAC goals. Please share widely with your networks!

- **AISD Urban Forester.** This position is being funded by the City of Austin's Planning and Development Services Department and will report to the AISD Director of Architecture in Construction Management. Links: [Application link](#) | [Job Description](#)
 - **Building and Environmental Scientist Foreman.** The position will report to the Director of Facilities Maintenance. Links: [Application link](#) | [Job Description](#)
 - **Building and Environmental Scientist Specialist.** The position will report to the Building and Environmental Scientist Foreman in the Facilities Maintenance Department. Links: [Application link](#) | [Job Description](#)
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AISD Staffing Updates

- **Lucia is on the move!** Lucia Sewing Cole is going back to her farming roots and has accepted a position at Steelbow Farm, a certified organic vegetable farm in Austin. You can also catch her at her small business, Rooted Floral Design. Her last day with us will be February 2nd. We will update the ESAC when her position is posted and would love help spreading the word!
- **Kudos to Amanda Braziel!** P/T Outdoor Learning Specialist position will be opening for AISD soon, as Amanda Braziel has been promoted to a Conservation Program Coordinator (a full time role) for the City of Austin's Watershed Protection Department. She will continue to work closely with Colleen Garland on the Metz Outdoor Wonder & Learning Center, though, and will serve as a liaison between AISD and WPD.



Energy & Water (AISD Staff Updates)

- Davis ES is moving forward with the Meadow project, with the support of the Energy & Water Department. E&W helped the logistics to remove an out of service pole mount solar system (+20 years old), to give room for this project that will benefit the Davis ES community. The grounds have been seeded with 5 million seeds and 100 trees have been planted. These actions will help to provide a great outdoor area for students to learn, will help to beautify the facility, and cool it off when high temperatures hit (Energy conservation!). The Meadow is a great example of what communities can achieve in their schools when they work together, and commit to their environmental goals.



US Department of Energy Renew America's Schools Grant (AISD Staff Updates)

- AISD's proposed project: ~\$15M for rooftop solar and/or building automation controls at 16 schools. Please take a peek for [more info about the Department of Energy's Renew America's Schools Grant at AISD](#) for the latest updates and timeline.
- This has been a multi-departmental initiative and we are so grateful to AISD's Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) team, Construction Management, Energy & Water Management, Operations Chief, Network Security, Procurement, Innovation & Development, and others for their hard work with us on this project so far!



Sustainable Food (AISD Staff Updates)

- We are featuring new Winter menu items including chicken and waffles for lunch (Middle School), curry chicken and chana masala with roasted cauliflower (High School), Pear Crisp (all levels), and our Walking Frito Pie!
- Design for zero waste kitchens being built with 2022 Bond funds are underway and will feature new dishwashers, efficient serving lines, and improved cooking equipment.
- We are looking forward to celebrating our staff for Food Service and Warehouse Workers Appreciation Week from February 26 - March 1.



Nature (AISD Staff Updates)

- **Joint Use Properties in 2022 Bond Program:** AISD, in collaboration with PARD, created a [webpage](#) and shared a [letter to the community](#) about bond program impacts at Joint Use sites. We're hopeful this will help answer many of the questions about this process.
- **AISD's reforestation initiative continues!** Last week, Kealing Middle School received 67 new trees as part of AISD's reforestation initiative. The program is in its 3rd year, and is funded by the City of Austin Urban Forest Grant program. So far, AISD has planted over 1,000 trees at 21 schools. This spring, we will add approximately 200 more trees at 5 schools. Thanks to AISD's Construction Management Department for making it happen!
- **Girls+ Outside** expanded this year to include more girls and at a new selection of schools and pairings. After a round of field trips to beautiful Shield Ranch, we are now visiting the LBJ Wildflower Center, with three additional spaces to visit in spring!
- AISD just had its grant Kickoff meeting for the **US Dept. of Education Outdoor Learning Grant** which will create outdoor learning spaces at ~25 campuses, as well as help to develop the Outdoor Wonder and Learning Center at Metz.



Transportation (AISD Staff Updates)



- **Electric buses have arrived!** AISD's first three electric buses arrived in December. Transportation staff are receiving training in the maintenance and operations of the new technology.
- **AISD selected for additional Electric Bus Funding:** The EPA has selected Austin ISD to receive \$6.25M through the Clean School Bus cost-share grant program (see [news story](#)). Once awarded, this will add 25 more electric school buses (and charging infrastructure) that will target the longest bus routes in order to have the greatest environmental and health impacts. The program will significantly decrease student and staff exposure to toxic diesel emissions, eliminate approximately 1 million pounds CO2 emissions annually, and jumpstart AISD's transition to an all-electric bus fleet.
- **Join the press conference on Thursday, 1/25!** A press conference will be held on 1/25 at 10am at the Southeast Bus Terminal (7200 Bluff Springs Rd. 78744) to commemorate the arrival of our first three electric school buses. In attendance will be Superintendent Matias Segura, Congressman Lloyd Doggett, Mayor Kirk Watson, and AISD Board President Arati Singh. The Transportation team invites you to join us for this event. Bus tours will be available at the end of the press conference.

Air Quality (AISD Staff Updates)



- **Outdoor Particulate Matter sensors:** The Purple Air Sensor "[Be Air Smart](#)" program is being rejuvenated, and AISD staff, City of Austin staff, and the Clean Air Force of Central Texas now have monthly project coordination meetings. The team is currently locating existing sensors at schools and troubleshooting network connections. Once all existing sensors are up and running, we hope to install them at additional schools.

ESAC Working Group: Air Quality Outreach



- Group leader: Eileen McGinnis
 - We are getting started on planning a district-wide air-quality webinar this Spring. This is also an opportunity to promote the ESAC.
 - Plan to invite an AQ and health expert along with an AISD representative.
 - Offering a mix of AQ awareness and action items, plus an interactive, Q&A format with questions in advance from students.
 - Intended for a wide audience, including students, staff, and parents/guardians.
 - Next meeting Tuesday, 1/23 at 10 am: <https://zoom.us/j/93406739636>
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ESAC Working Group: Zero Waste

- Group leader: Amanda Braziel
- Zero Waste Subcommittee set the goal of facilitating the use of recycling and compost bins at the three major AISD stadiums (Nelson, House Park, & Burger) by the beginning of the fall athletic season.
- Kealing Middle School was spotted using Zero Waste Stations in the cafeteria courtyard. Hooray!

Resources: [ESAC Google Drive](#) | [ESAC Website](#) | [ESAC Subcommittees and Working Groups \(padlet\)](#) | [ESAC Working Group Notes Folders](#) | ESAC listserv: aisd_esac@googlegroups.com | [AISD Advisory Bodies Bulletin](#)

(If you need access to the ESAC Google Drive or listserv, please contact sustainability@austinisd.org.)

Kind regards,

Darien Clary & Lucia Sewing Cole