

WBOE Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee

February 1, 2019

Ms. Coleman, Chair called the meeting to order (7:32 AM)

1. Public Comment: None
2. Introductions: Claire Coleman (Chair, and Board of Education member), Robert Gilbert (Superintendent), Analisa Sherman (Assistant Principal), John Gorham (Town Sustainability Committee/Massaro Community Farm), BJ Ahern, Kris Hart-Rooney (BRS teachers), Hillary Drum (parent), Jane Roddy (Cafeteria Manager) and Vito Esparo (Facilities Manager).
3. Review of Committee Charge - the committee reviewed the charge provided by the WBOE.
4. Background on Town Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee
 - a. Handouts from John on Massaro Community Farm 2018 Accomplishments and Food and Sustainability
5. Background on 2018 School Composting Pilot
 - a. Parent volunteers attended the lunch waves on three days to help sort food into food scraps, recycle and trash. Learned that food scraps on the first day comprised 33% of the overall waste and on the second day it comprised 50% of the overall waste.
6. Discussion and Identification of Top Priorities and Timeline
 - a. Additional idea: focusing on free-cycle or donating furniture or bigger items from the school to other organizations. Future tasks may include generating a list of possible organizations that would take donated items (Some suggestions: Habitat for Humanity Re-store, IRIS and Free Cycle).
 - b. Discussion around the process to become a Green Leaf school- Claire will share information via email.
 - c. Kris Hart-Rooney shared information about the 8 R's -- beyond reduce, reuse and recycle.
 - d. Complete Streets: Betsy Yagla is working with a group of people within the town to designate a lane for bikers from Fitzgerald Walking trails to Beecher as well as more sidewalks near the High School.
 - e. Town book club on Northwest Earth Institute: Sustainable Actions. (Town library has a few copies of the book.) Perhaps include in the Principal's message?
 - f. Discussion around what is currently happening at Beecher. One suggestion was to incorporate the BRS News -- have them include a sustainability piece. Switch up the screens by the tech lab-- so that the one above the doors to the tech center shows the information on the solar panels.
 - g. Additional bins -- especially for bottles/cans. Need additional bins in the cafe. A need for educating the students.
 - h. Recycling of other items (chip bags, juice boxes, Crayola markers, glue sticks) One is Terra Cycle-- need further information.
 - i. Food scraps: need a place to give them. DEEP regulations impact what is possible for food scrap donations. Other options: Clovernuck Farm in Bethany is currently taking scraps from Bethany schools. Cost might be a concern. Blue Earth Compost. Common Ground. What is Amity High School currently doing?
 - j. Can the school do something for Earth Day? Learn what the town is doing. Rock to Rock: Earth Day ride. Massaro is looking for riders!
7. Next Steps and Meeting Schedule
 - a. See agenda items for next steps
 - b. Next meeting date: March 1 at 7:30 am
8. Adjourn: meeting adjourned at 8:44 am