

## 5/30/18 Meeting Notes

4pm at City Hall

Waneta Trabert (City), Caitlyn McCormick (Oak Hill), Allison Kelley (Franklin/Burr), Becka Smillie (Peirce), Anndy Dannenberg (NNHS), Kathryn Teissier (NNHS/Wms), Marcia Cooper (GN), Mindy Gomes Casseres (Zervas), Andy Gluck (Underwood), Heather Friedman (Mason Rice), Claire Nivola (Mason Rice), Carolyn Lattin (GN)

### TOP TAKEAWAYS

- Peirce's excellent 4th and 5th grade Green Team video is available for viewing if other schools would like inspiration about what your student Green Teams can undertake. Underwood's Green Team students also made a video of their work. Hopefully we can share their video in the fall.
- 7 surveys had been submitted as of 5/30. 5 more are in the works.
- **STILL NEED:** We are still looking for volunteers at **Angier, Bowen, Countryside, Franklin, Horace-Mann, Mem Spaulding, Ward.** (We have a volunteer who is willing to assist at Franklin, but does not yet have a school-aged child.) **If you have connections there, please reach out to them and share my contact info!**
- Final Product: Waneta will create "sustainability report cards" for each school. These report cards will be posted on the website and shared with school admins, the School Committee, and NPS Facilities (D. Stickney), with the goal of prompting the development and implementation of improved, uniform sustainability practices throughout NPS. Waneta noted that the School Committee is forming a recycling subcommittee for the first time ever!
- **GREAT IDEA:** Build relationships and buy-in with custodians by asking how we can help them. How can improved sustainability practices make their work more efficient, not more burdensome? **One thought: Increase student engagement by having a team of students at each school video an interview with a custodian asking how students can help with recycling, food waste, overall waste reduction. Video can be shown in homerooms or advisories to educate student body.** Video might emphasize keeping food out of recycling. Video also needs to teach teachers how to use recycling bins correctly.
- **NEXT STEPS:** Would you like to pilot a new sustainability practice at your school? If so, Waneta would like to work with you this summer to plan a project that is right for your school! Please contact her directly: Waneta Trabert, Sustainable Materials Management Director, City of Newton ([wtrabert@newtonma.gov](mailto:wtrabert@newtonma.gov)). Waneta also mentioned that she might have a small amount of funding to respond to tangible, specific asks, if people come to her with requests.

### OTHER NEWS

**Custodians** have a good relationship with David Stickney, Dir. of Facilities, NPS. As the city moves forward with their contract negotiations with custodians, is there a way to ensure that language about

sustainable materials management is inserted in to their contracts? If not, new efforts might remain hard to implement.

At **NNHS**, Anndy will be teaching a sustainability course next year. Kathryn will run a maker space around sustainability, as well as tackling recycling and gardening (2 classes). Students implemented large parts of the survey, so data may have holes. Also, some offices are inaccessible.

**NSHS** has piloted a student-driven organics program in their caf.

At **Oak Hill**, Caitlyn described student efforts to have recycling bins made available in the cafeteria. She is also working on fundraising for new water stations for refillable bottles. She's been frustrated with efforts to sell reusable bottles, given that single-use plastic bottles are available in the caf. The Oak Hill Recycling Committee (students) took on the survey. They especially loved "dumpster diving". Admin and cust staff seem positive about the work.

At **Mason Rice**, Heather is a "visible parent" -- at school often. She emailed the principal before beginning the survey and emphasized its informal nature. Custodians were most helpful ("a font of info"). Heather discovered some challenging politics about where bins are placed, their usage rate, etc. Heather also noted that **weekend schools and afterschool programs will also need to be educated about sustainability programs.**

At **Underwood**, Andy emphasized the challenges of helping the custodial staff to understand procedures and implement them correctly. He reinforced the importance of contractual language.

General thought for **NEW GREEN TEAMS**: New Green Teams should aim for low-hanging fruit. Year 1: focus on RECYCLE. Year 2: broaden to include REDUCE. Year 3: tackle REUSE. Your thoughts?

**Clarification:** if recycling is in clear plastic bags, the MRF will open those bags to recycle. If recycling is in opaque bags, MRF will place those, unopened, in trash.

**Opportunity:** Burlington VT is a leader in sustainable materials management. Mindy may be able to arrange a phone call with them for us to learn more about their process. They have the lowest contamination rate in the US.

**NEXT MEETING:** Doodle Poll coming soon!

**Corrections:** Let me know if I've misrepresented something or left out something important. Thanks.