



MINUTES

Thursday, March 12, 3:45pm - 5:00pm

VIRTUAL MEETING

<https://hangouts.google.com/group/vEeR8FRm7yPfRA6i8>

Attendance: Allison Kelley, Brid Martin, Elizabeth Heilig, Erwin Chuk, Heather Tausig, Kathryn Teissier du Cros, Marcia Cooper, Margaret Ford

1. Welcome and Introduction

2. Schools: Sharing Experiences

Mason-Rice Composting

The program at Mason-Rice started Feb 24th and is being implemented by DPW. Erica and Waneta set up 2 sets of four bins in the cafeteria (compostables, liquid, recycle and trash) and Erica and volunteers help children correctly dispose of lunch waste everyday for 3 weeks. Erwin, Elizabeth and I helped out a couple of days. It was pretty easy and the kids learn fast. We talked to the head custodian who was enthusiastic and on board. That is key for the program to work! For what I saw, this is easily implementable in other schools, as long as there is support from the Principal and from the custodian staff. The implementation part is done with lots of help from DPW and volunteers are needed for the first few weeks just to oversee.

Peirce

Pierce is focusing on waste in the Cafeteria. Elizabeth is Wellness and Sustainability lead with the PTO. Sorting recycling, liquids, waste- wrappers, composting. Waste management currently works pretty well in the classrooms. How to institutionalize in the schools- keep reaching out to PTO

Schools Sustainability Fairs

The good news is that more schools are contacting us to help out and/or participating in their school fairs. This year, six schools reached out:

North (11/26), South (02/12), Bowen (02/09), Peirce (03/18), Mason-Rice (05/01), Memorial Spaulding (05/17). I added all the fairs to our calendar for easy view, even if they are school only events:

<https://schools.greennewton.org/calendar/category/sustainability-science-fair/>

However, they have been cancelled due to Coronavirus. At Peirce, Becka and Jenn Martin (SRTS) had some ideas for an air pollution game similar to Red Light Green Light.

SGW went to Bowen and were planning to be at Mason-Rice and Memorial Spaulding.

Pine Village Preschool -

They have started a recycling program. Staff is excited. 11 teachers are being trained in Newton and 12 in Needham. They are meeting with parents to hear from them and give them ideas about lunch boxes and other suggestions, types of bags. Designed bilingual curriculum and delivered recycling supplies. Composting will come later. How can we share what we have done?



NNHS

North has just started a recycling program at the end of February. Waneta, Erica, Anndy met with all staff to bolster recycling. The Sustainability classes are involved. Kathryn and others trained students to visit all homerooms to answer questions and to hang DPW waste signs. Feb 28. Need to maintain signs. They did an audit of cafeteria waste. Will produce data on waste reduction in a few weeks. Students are pairing bins and putting up consistent signage in every room. Students are also talking to their peers and teachers at advisory. If everything goes as planned and the program is well implemented, the school will start commercial composting in September.

Need to work together to build goodwill with Custodians who are concerned about contamination. Could we hire students to help with recycling? We would need to raise funds. Or could we find volunteers? Is there an option to use technology- an app or video station? Most common question is about trash: coffee cups, sleeves (recyclable), straws.

NSHS

Students from Sustainability class (Professor Kozik's) contacted us regarding a project to reduce single-use plastic bottles at South. Their original plan was to ask for funding to buy and distribute 1500 new reusable water bottles to all students. I suggested they could focus on improving the infrastructure in the school, i.e. more water fountains and less vending machines, instead, as many students already have bottles and need to get into the habit of using. For those who do not have bottles, Marcia suggests a water bottle collection and swap campaign, like the pop up clothing drive and swap that the Climate Action club at North did in November. As an aside, Kozik is chairing the Boston Earth Day 2020

3. COVID 19 and schools:

- a. What we can do as a group and as a community in case schools have to close?
 - i. We can follow the lead of schools
 - ii. Canceling GN events
 - iii. All library programs cancelled thru April 11
- b. Food insecurity, child care...
 - i. Facebook is connecting people- contact Heather T

4. Climate Education in schools

The Climate Education group created a survey for teachers:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfA0dtxJHdEN2SloaxIkTUzD1OmqlKepVGUbyhI8uS4Vn2oAA/viewform>

Marcia Okun, South history teacher, went to a NTA meeting on March 4 and introduced us to the teachers. She asked them to: "complete the survey and join us, saying that we wanted to know what was already happening, so as not to duplicate efforts and build on what was there, and join us to help us be more



representative of the schools. I then asked the reps to take out the handout back to their schools and share. People listened and seemed fine with the asks."

A few teachers from Countryside have responded as for today. We are hoping to have teachers from all schools and all grades answer. Kathryn will share it with NNHS. We think NSHS has shared it

We are planning to meet with Ruth Goldman, School Committee Chair, to talk about what the SC can do. Our suggestions are to add Climate Education as a systemwide goal, support professional development and include budget for this.

5. Anti-idling campaign

Jenn Martin met with Regina Moody and David Koses on Monday and they found four places at the Ed Center to put up signs. Two in the front loop and two in the back parking lot.

Jenn Martin met the new director of Parks, Recreation and Culture at another event -- I had sent her the email about field permits on literally her second day on the job and had no idea about the nuances of the permits. We both agreed that I would follow up with her in a few weeks as well as the person who runs field permits to come up with a plan.

6. Newton Serves

Last Sunday of school break (April 26). Other days are open as well. Kathryn (NNHS) wants to paint the Sustainability Classrooms.

7. Open agenda

- a. Margaret Albright interested in a Dell waste event [E-waste](#)
- b. There is a computer fix it program at Rumford?
- c. [Juliana v. United States](#) Green Newton has supported them

Coming up:

[Free Webinar: The Art and Science of Teaching Climate Change](#) - Wed, Apr 1 @ 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm