

RSU5 Sustainability Advisory Committee
October 1, 2019
Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Will Pidden, Sadie Southall, Maura Pillsbury, Steven Konstantino, Dennis Ouellette, Becky Foley, Marie Wendt, Bob Stevens, Kap Wallingford

Absent: Valy Steverlynck, Amanda Johnson, Charlotte Soule

Guest: Erin Dow

Dennis reviewed the results from the voting for what areas to prioritize first. The top two areas were to focus on alternative forms of energy and the second area was to see what can be improved around sustainability with the nutrition department.

Erin Dow, Nutrition Director, attended to let us know what the nutrition program is currently doing in the program. This includes:

- Reducing paper straws. At DCS, the program went to a different juice container. K-2 still has straws.
- Single sort recycling
- Composting – FHS & MLS
- Switched to bulk condiment dispensers
- Buying more bulk packaging
- Online menus versus paper
- Looking to purchase RSU5 cups/drink holders
- Have purchased metal silverware
- High School:
 - Using reusable drink straws, currently selling Halloween straws
 - Reusable soup/salad bowls

Erin is attending an upcoming procurement workshop, so we can buy more local products. Also, the department is doing more batch cooking to reduce waste. Trying to serve more vegetarian dishes.

Erin is reviewing the capital improvement plan and looking to replace some of the equipment. The focus will be on safety and function.

Currently, we do donate at times to food banks/pantries. Friday at PES, the cooks pack up the salad bar and give the leftovers to families.

The committee then brainstormed options to consider going forward:

Expand composting to other schools: will Garbage to Garden come to PES? Other options? Composting their own?

Replacing equipment to more energy efficient equipment
Transitioning to less packaged foods
Collecting baseline data, i.e Reduce packaging/composting by 10%.
Forks – pick up at yard sales – committee members

Next steps:

- Erin will look into ways to quantify some data that may allow us to have a district goal, i.e. reduce waste by 10%
- Kap will look for donations for silverware to minimize the use of plastic silverware in the schools
- Committee members should read the article that Becky distributed before the next meeting
- Kap and Maura will collaborate with Sadie on ways the adults could support the Earth Club at the high school
- Committee members will bring ideas for alternative energy savings to the next meeting

Agenda for the November 5, 2019 Meeting
7:00-8:00 a.m.

- Brainstorm alternative energy ideas