



## Sustainability Advisory Committee

October 11, 2022

**Location:** Sunnyland Elementary School

**Time:** 4:00-5:30 p.m.

**Committee Co-Chairs:** Jessica Sankey, executive director of operations and Mark Peterson, director of facilities and sustainability

**Facilitator:** Rachel Myers, Peak Sustainability & RM + Company

**Project Manager:** Gretchen Pflueger, Grant Writer

**Members present:** Bill Palmer, director of teaching & learning; Margaret Gude, communications specialist; Amanda Ingram, human resources coordinator; Patrick Durgan, director of food services; Mike Copeland, deputy superintendent; Sam Stoner, middle school teacher; Curtis Lawyer, director of capital projects; Lindsay MacDonald, high school teacher; Kerry Hermann, elementary school teacher; Grace Schamber, student; Andrea Reiter, parent; Sam Humphreys, Peak Sustainability; Joshua Cloud, OAC; CJ Huxford, Northwest Rain Solutions; Zack Wopat, BPS alumni; Emily Larson-Kubiak, Sustainable Connections; Laura Johanson, community member; Charlie Barnhart, WWU; Grace Wang, WWU

### Welcome and land acknowledgement

Jessica welcomed the group and acknowledged that the land we are on is the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Lummi People.

### Warm up and connect

What do you hope to get from and give to this Advisory Committee? Members were given time to write down answers and share with table groups.

Get from this group:

- networking
- momentum in BSD
- different perspectives
- community with diverse voices and shared concern
- best practices
- common goals
- greater sense of direction

Give to this group:

- share practices
- support

- time/energy ideas
- provide expertise and lessons learned
- how to be “raggedy”
- ideas

### Updates and wins

The Sustainability Task Force recommended an update to the EL-9, the Executive Limitations to the school board. The board approved the following updated language:

3. The superintendent shall not fail to:
  - a) Reduce the environmental impacts and costs of asset maintenance and protection as it relates to energy, water, waste and transportation.
  - b) Align building design and construction with an elevated standard of sustainability practices.

Progress Report and Framework: The Sustainability Task Force provided a [progress report and framework](#) for future work in sustainability to Dr. Baker and the School Board at the June 8<sup>th</sup> school board meeting.

### Work ahead

1. Jessica shared with the group the plan and structure for the ongoing Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) and subcommittees.
2. 2022 US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Awardee
  - a. Gretchen received the award on behalf of the district. She learned that there are not good comparative districts (i.e. similar size, community support, etc.) working to integrate sustainability. She obtained examples from other districts of their sustainability work.
  - b. Gretchen is our representative to continue connecting with the Center for Green Schools.
3. Subcommittees will meet seven times a year to work in more detail and will report back to the SAC. The hope is that the subcommittee work will help the SAC prepare a Draft Climate Action plan.
4. Subcommittees include
  - a. Facilities and operations, Mark Peterson, chair
  - b. Habits and culture, Gretchen Pflueger, chair
  - c. Teaching and learning, Bill Palmer, chair
5. SAC June 2023 Deliverables:
  - Sustainability Progress Report
  - Updated Sustainability Framework
  - Updated Timeline(s)

### Group activity to identify next steps for collective work

Rachel led the group through a tabletop activity. Summary of results of group activity:

- What should we stop doing?
  - Focus on education and start in action
  - Feeling like this is too hard or too much
  - Putting up barriers for community partners to help/support/engage with the district
- , the group suggested keeping lights off during meeting times when possible.

- What should we start doing?
  - Keeping it simple
  - Find the bridge from year to year
  - Bring in community experts
  - Public relations: share success stories
  - Share student artwork or poetry
  - Demonstrate action
  - Increase focus on classroom instruction
  - Communication to the school board and executive team
  - The process for what we are doing is almost as important as the end result
- What should we continue doing?
  - Digging into details
  - Inviting experts to the conversation
  - Leveraging expertise
  - Keep momentum between meetings
  - Timeline

### Subcommittee Breakout Time

The subcommittees met for a few minutes to discuss the expectations and opportunities for their work together.

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 6, 2022, 4:00-5:30 p.m., District Office