

Austin Independent School District  
**Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

March 28, 2019

5:30 7:30 pm

Carruth Administration Center, 1111 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Board Auditorium

**Attendees**

Members in Attendance

Aimee Aubin

Karen Bishop

Rob Borowski

Jake Carter

Alecia Casper

Irene Dooling

Colleen Garland

Sherry Lepine\*

Monica Lopez Mene Dooling

## Minutes

### I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

The ESAC Tri-chair Dr. Sherry Lepine facilitated the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Dr. Lepine reminded the committee of upcoming Tri-chair elections in May for a parent representative. She also shared that the Outdoor Learning Specialist position would be preserved and thanked the ESAC members for their advocacy. Dr. Lepine also thanked AISD Food and Nutrition Services for providing the delicious dinner at the ESAC meeting. Guests were welcomed and asked to introduce themselves. January meeting minutes were not approved as the group did not reach quorum.

### II. Public Comments & Announcements

Jessica Wilson spoke as an East Austin resident regarding Zavala, Metz, Sanchez. She announced pre-design meeting April 4th in the Sanchez library and encouraged ESAC members to attend. Air quality is a concern because of its proximity to I35, and there are discussions underway to support reforestation and transportation strategies to help mitigate air pollution around the school. Also, Metz and Zavala will co-locate while the new campus is being modernized.

Juliana Auckland, Blackshear 2nd grade student, shared her concerns that urban wildlife at her school are getting harmed. She reported that a fox den was filled in with concrete and that she has seen bats getting harmed when AISD teachers and staff try to remove them from the school. Ms. Auckland asked that AISD staff be more considerate of wildlife at our schools and consider the value they bring to the student experience.

Ilya Schmulenson shared that PEAS is in the process of building a dedicated kitchen space at Cunningham. The kitchen is funded by the Emeril Legasse Foundation and is expected to open this time next year. They will post a farm-to-table educator position so every K-5 student at Cunningham will go through the program.

Aimee Aubin announced that the City of Austin will be hosting a tree climbing course00912 0 61 150)565-7110)5r

reminder that AISD staff can access reuse materials from the UT JJ Pickle campus and from the AISD warehouse. Texas Disposal Systems (AISD waste services provider) has also hired a trainer to provide training for AISD custodial and food services staff. Trainings can be requested by contacting Gregory Behl [gbeh1@texasdisposal.com](mailto:gbeh1@texasdisposal.com). Dr. Lepine also highlighted the success

curriculum includes TEKS-aligned lessons, activities, and digital resources guided by six modern energy themes. All the lessons and activities are free and available to all schools. Mr. Garcia shared that Galveston was the first school district to use the program and saved \$25k in their first year. If every school in TX used it, it would save millions in the state. Cypress Fairbanks ISD is currently using the program. In 4 months, their savings was \$200k.

For additional information, see the presentation slides in the meeting materials.

V. Sustainability Manager Update

AISD Sustainability Manager, Darien Clary, announced the AISD and City Resolution to work collaboratively and how this could intersect with sustainability work, especially in th