



PGCPS Board of Education Climate Change Action Plan Focus Work Group

December 15, 2021 3:30pm-5:00pm

Topic: Subworkgroup Updates

Draft Narrative Summary

Board Member Boozer-Strother called the meeting to order. She thanked David Smith, Joseph Jakuta, Valeri Ervin and Kate Culzoni for their work every week on the logistics for each meeting and noted that today is a date to report out from subworkgroups. Board Member Boozer-Strother then called for adoption of the meeting agenda. Joseph Jakuta made a motion and Mr. David Hill seconded it. The agenda was approved without objections. Board Member Boozer-Strother then called for adoption of the December 1, 2021 meeting minutes. Jamee Alston made a motion and Donald Belle seconded it. The minutes were approved without objections.

Board Member Boozer-Strother then reported on the work to align our work with the Prince George's County Climate Action Plan. Their comment period has ended for the public at large and municipalities have until today. They will now review and incorporate the comments into the final document before taking it to the County Council. They have agreed to share their documents with us to use as a template. PGCPS is coded in the plan, but our work does go beyond that. Board Member Boozer-Strother then discussed how productive the subworkgroups have been.

Mr. Jakuta then reviewed the upcoming schedule. The next full workgroup meeting is on 1/19, where we will be discussing a draft plan. That night is also the first of three Board of Education Committee Meetings, Budget, followed by Academics and Policy Governance, in that order. There will also be three online budget hearings during that time period. There will be a public comment period, with two town halls, one for students and one for the public at large. The final draft should be provided for our meeting on 2/24.

Board Member Boozer-Strother reported that the Buildings Subworkgroup will meet in the future.

Joseph Jakuta reported on the Electricity Subworkgroup's findings. The workgroup did not come to consensus on offsite procurement, but draft language is being discussed offline. The workgroup has recommendations for a holistic evaluation of properties for solar installation using nine metrics. The workgroup also still needs to discuss online for including language for installation of solar in RFPs. The workgroup did not think that that battery backup is quite ready for widespread use. The workgroup also saw a lot of feedback from the public on the need to reduce load from lightning retrofits, etc.

Joseph Jakuta then reported on the Transportation Subworkgroup's findings. The workgroup focused on bus electrification, which was popular in the public surveys. The workgroup was recommending development of a strategy to meet the 2040 goals, and this would be done in a holistic fashion. Seeking funding is also an important part of the recommendations. Though we didn't have the same level of detail we discussed expanding biking and walking and anti-idling. Also discussed was bus safety and amenities, which was found to be important to keep ridership high and discourage parents from driving children to school. We didn't get to discuss the white fleet or telework policies for staff.

Chloe Waterman then reported on the Food Waste and Climate Friendly Food Subworkgroup. The workgroup met and categorized the recommendations using the matrix, but felt a bit more outside expertise was needed to deal with the waste recommendations. An effort would be made to expand and amplify many of the programs that are in place in PGCPs with food. A values driven food purchasing program and looking at the visual nature of the food will be important factors. Breanna Malcolm provided some additional details on recommendations for vegetarian options from the student perspective. Delegate Lehman also spoke of the issue of composing pickup from the implementation of HB 264 from the 2021 MDGA session.

The Materials and Other Waste Cycle topic will be presented with the Food Waste and Climate Friendly Food Subworkgroup.

Marita Roos then reported on the Storm Water and Landuse Subworkgroup. They grouped the strategies into categories. The first category involves projects underway such as tree plantings and stormwater management. Projects need to be packaged and streamline rather than piecemeal. She also reviewed the survey results with bioretention, native plantings, and tree plantings are very high on the list.

Joseph Jakuta then reported that the Legislative Strategy Subworkgroup will meet once the other recommendations are reviewed. He also mentioned that we will reach out to schedule a meeting in the near future.

Kate Culzoni then reported on the Education and Awareness Subworkgroup. The curriculum should be curated around the topic areas. Partnerships should also be developed to make this happen. There is an important element of creating connections across subject areas, with the student led curricula, and leveraging existing courses. Partnerships should also be developed between local businesses and the CTE program. The idea also came up of having climate ambassadors to leverage opportunities. Jamee Alston also mentioned the Center for Energy

Workforce Development (CEWD) as a great partner on these efforts. Marita Roos asked where a Sustainability Officer would “live” and Board Member Boozer-Strother suggested that it would be a position that could work across all departments, it would need to be high level. She also mentioned the grants that were just received from Exelon for two green labs at two high schools, which is another example of a partnership on the environment and education and Donald Belle added additional information on the afterschool programs at the green labs.

Ms. Culzoni then introduced Alveta Addison to discuss the Equity and Environmental Justice Workgroup. She noted the similarities with the Education and Awareness group. Public education around equity and justice was important, especially around health. Developing partnerships was also a crucial part of the equation. Tools such as EJScreen should be relied on for decisions. It is also important to work with already existing board policies and have standard terminology. Ms. Culzoni added the idea of having an equality section for each subworkgroup to make sure the area is being clearly addressed. Delegate Lehman cited the example of unsafe walking conditions that was discussed earlier as a prime example of inequitable access that needs to be addressed. Ms. Waterman also added that there is an equity lens that needs to be applied to healthy climate friendly foods.

Ms. Culzoni then said that the Communications and Outreach Subworkgroup had not yet met in order to get feedback from the other Subworkgroups, but did cite several areas of importance from the County Climate Action Plan.

Board Member Boozer-Strother also mentioned the need to build internal capacity as stated in the PGC Climate Action Plan and that resources would be made available for numerous county officials, including school officials.

Mr. Jakuta then reminded the workgroup of the upcoming meetings and Board Member Boozer-Strother then closed out the meeting.

Meeting Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HK-o6YChDi4>

Action Items:

- The next meeting is January 19, 2022 at 3:30 to discuss a draft Climate Action Plan.