



PGCPS Board of Education Climate Change Action Plan Focus Work Group

February 23, 2021 3:30pm-5:00pm

Topic: Draft Final Work Plan

Draft Narrative Summary

Board Member Boozer-Strother called the meeting to order. She thanked David Smith, Joseph Jakuta, Valerie 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 to amend the agenda to add a conversation with Antoine Thompson of Greater Washington Region Clean City Coalition (GWRCCC) and Mr. Donald Belle seconded it. The agenda as amended was approved without objections. Board Member Boozer-Strother then called for adoption of the December 15, 2021 meeting minutes. Donald Belle made a motion and David Hill seconded it. The minutes were approved without objections.

Board Member Boozer-Strother thanks the student members for their work on the student town hall the prior week.

Mr. Jakuta provided an update on the progress on writing the Climate Change Action Plan, most of the sections were about 95% complete and that a new section was added on overarching issues. The education and outreach section needs the most work. Pictures are needed for the document as well as some additional information on PGCPS highlight sections. We are striving to have it complete by March 7 in order to have it ready for the end of month. Boardmember Boozer-Strother also mentioned that David Smith will work on the image placement as well.

Mr. Jakuta then introduced Antoine Thompson, the Executive Director of Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition. He described that there are 90 sister organizations to GWRCCC. GWRCC is currently pushing some big initiatives, especially concerning what is happening with electric vehicles. A lot of money is going to be coming to Maryland from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and there are already disparities in the county in access to EV charging. There is also an important need to make sure Prince George's gets proper access to funds,

since our county is already at a disadvantage. School bus electrification is another effort of note. Conversion to electric school buses is also a possibility and these retrofits can possibly make this occur faster and cheaper. GWRCCC does work with other fuels, including a DERA grant and CMAQ grant. They are also working on conversion with the District to convert 100 vehicles to biodiesel. Environmental justice is also an area of great concern to GWRCCC's efforts. GWRCCC is also hosting a listening tour on these issues and would like to collaborate with the workgroup.

Councilmember Taveras asked them about Andrews Airforce Base and how they would work on this issue. Councilmember Taveras also mentioned the need to address the disparity in electric vehicle charging and said she is looking at legislation on the issue. She also mentioned the idea of holding the listening event in conjunction with the Climate Action Plan to get a larger audience. The County Executive will submit the budget to the County Council March 15, 2022.

Boardmember Boozer-Strother then discussed the intersection of all of these issues being discussed and then asked if GWRCCC could help speed up the installation of chargers at PGCPSS buildings for teachers, etc. Mr. Thompson said that the communities that are ready will get the funding and mentioned schools, community centers, rail centers, etc. They can work with vendors to make this happen. Community sites will also demonstrate to the community that electric vehicles are here.

Mr. Jakuta discussed how the action plan was partially intended to show that PGCPSS is ready for funds. He then asked about the biodiesel vehicles discussed earlier and the MEEP program. GWRCCC can get a school bus for a week to get a pilot and a charger that would be installed. There is an electric bus coming to the region in March. The DC Water project for biodiesel was dump trucks, snow plows, etc.

Ms. Jamee Alston then discussed mentorship and other collaboration with Andrews Airforce Base. She also discussed a meeting with BG&E and the issue of whether the power grid is ready for them. Mr. Thompson discussed how they have partnerships with Washington. DC schools and could do such things in Prince George's as well.

Boardmember Boozer-Strother then thanked Mr. Thompson for his participation and ideas today.

Boardmember Boozer-Strother then thanked the student leaders for their work on the town hall event. Marita Roos added that she was. Mr. Jakuta said that the student leaders made him PGCPSS Proud and that he was glad we had such strong leaders. Ms. Alston was glad to see the leaders and breathed easier knowing that they are doing this hard important work and that we have their back. Kate Culzoni also thanked them and specifically liked hearing them talk about which items were most important to them. Mr. Belle also discussed how they aren't just students, but citizens of Prince George's and this will have ripple events, that their work is impacting the county as a whole and each individual school. Valerie Erwin said we were wringing about the future, but she said we should feel solid about the future since these

students are bringing the fire. Councilmember Taveras said she was proud of the efforts of the students and thanked them for taking the time to participate in this important effort.

The students then provided reflections. Ja'bari Woodberry was glad he was a participant. Breanna Malcolm said she was glad her friends started to care more because of her work. Nithin Gudderra said he was inspired by the town hall and the workgroup.

Mr. Jakuta then provided a brief legislative update on bills at the intersection of the environment and schools. He discussed HB 19, the Safe Walk to School Act, HB 124/SB150, that would provide composting grants, HB 365, the Green Schools Construction act, HB 696, the electric school bus pilot program, SB 588, The High Performance Green Buildings, SB 528, Climate Solutions Now, HB 831/HB 806, the Climate Solutions house equivalents, and HB 1290.

Boardmember Boozer-Strother discussed making recommendations to the Board of Education on these bills. Ms. Ervin then discussed the legislative package that includes the bills Mr. Jakuta discussed and many more. Councilmember Taveras provided some additional insights on those and additional bills.

Ms. Alston asked about the Climate Solutions Now package.

Meeting Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uG8RcL7iuRE>

Action Items:

- The next meeting is March 9, 2022 at some time between 3:30 and 4 to discuss a final Climate Action Plan. [NOTE THIS WAS LATER CANCELED]