Emily: OK, thanks for coming, everyone. Picking up where we left off last week, our goal today is to share and discuss ideas for how we can improve the school's sustainability. By the end of the meeting, we will have decided on one idea to propose to the director. I'm really excited to hear everyone's ideas, so let's get started, shall we? Kara, do you want to go first?

Kara: Sure. I was thinking that we could have tablets in class to cut down on paper. With tablets, students could still write directly on worksheets, but they wouldn't need to be printed out, so it would save teachers time, too. A lot of textbooks are available digitally these days also.

Mike: I think that's a really good idea. One concern I have is that it would probably require a lot of money to buy and maintain all the tablets. Then there's the added security risk — who's going to be responsible for keeping track of them? It might be difficult to convince staff to do this.

Emily: Those are definitely points that we need to consider, but I do think it would save time and money in the long term.

Kara: OK, Mike, why don't you go next?

Mike: I think that the school should give all students refillable water bottles and install water fountains around the school. That way, it will be really easy for students to avoid buying water in plastic bottles. Did you know that more than one million plastic water bottles are bought *every minute* and the majority end up being sent to landfill or polluting our oceans and rivers?

Lucy: Yeah, and even those that are sent to recycling often don't actually get recycled, so reducing consumption is key. I agree that making it easy for students to avoid plastic bottles is one of the best and most

practical ways to make our school more sustainable. Great idea! How about you, Emily?

Emily: One idea I have is that we make all meals sold in the restaurant meat and dairy free. Research shows that plant-based or vegan diets are much more eco-friendly when it comes to greenhouse gas emissions, water use, and even fossil fuel use. If we made the restaurant completely plant-based, it would reduce our environmental footprint significantly and might encourage students to eat less animal products outside of school, too.

Kara: I can see where you're coming from, but I'm not sure that idea would work in practice. It's really difficult to convince people to change their eating behaviours; it's often an important part of their culture. I feel like a lot of students would just go out at lunch instead, and the restaurant would end up wasting more food.

Lucy: You might be right, but surely exposing people to plant-based options would have some effect on their thoughts and behaviours?

Mike: Of course, but I think Kara has a point. I don't think that forcing it on them is the answer. Maybe a more practical idea is that we increase the amount of vegan options and decrease the amount of meat and dairy.

Emily: Yeah, that sounds like a good compromise. Lucy, what's your idea?

Lucy: I think it's important to think about what we can do in school, but more community involvement is what we need to have the biggest impact. I suggest that we start a monthly community volunteering initiative where groups of students can participate in activities like fundraising or park clean ups to help make the community more sustainable. That way, we're improving not only the school's sustainability but also the community's.

Kara: That's a really good point, Lucy. I like that it's more long-term and flexible than our other ideas, too. That might help to keep people engaged in the project.

Mike: Yeah, I agree. The activities could extend beyond sustainability, too.

Emily: OK, so we've heard one idea from everyone. Does anyone want to share any extra ideas before we make a decision?

Kara: Yeah. We've also got a lot of empty roof space. What if we turn it into a school garden? Students and teachers could grow vegetables that could be used to prepare food in the restaurant, which would reduce its energy cost. Learning about and growing vegetables might also encourage students to think more about where their food comes from and make more environmentally friendly choices like buying local, plant-based food.

Mike: I like that idea. We'd need someone to manage it, though.

Emily: OK, so, why don't we each share our opinions on which idea we think will be both most impactful and most practical.

Kara: I like the refillable water bottle idea. It's easy to implement and keep going.

Mike: For me it's Lucy's community volunteering idea. It just seems more active and impactful.

Lucy: Thanks, Mike. I think so, too. I just feel like it has a lot more potential than our other ideas.

Emily: I'm with Mike and Lucy. I really like the idea of extending our work beyond the school. Kara, are you happy with that idea?

Kara: Yeah, I really like it.

Emily: OK then. Now, let’s set a date for our next meeting to discuss how we’re going to present this to the director...