

Memorandum

To: Dr. Patrick Murphy, Superintendent, Arlington Public Schools
 From: Superintendent’s Advisory Committee on Sustainability
 Subject: 2017 Annual Memorandum
 Date: June 22, 2017

Since 2013, the Superintendent’s Advisory Committee on Sustainability (SACS) has prepared an annual memo with highlights and recommendations for the Superintendent to advance sustainability in Arlington Public Schools (APS). SACS receives feedback on these recommendations and direction for additional research from the Superintendent through meetings held twice each year.

We present four items and four recommendations for the Superintendent’s consideration. Appendix A summarizes the Committee’s 2017-2018 membership.

Items	Summary	Recommendations
2017-Item-1: APS Sustainability Liaison Program	APS provided stipends for Sustainability Liaisons in ten schools. Liaisons created transferrable lesson plans and led students in implementing projects that promoted a culture of sustainability across APS. In the 2017-2018 school year, the program is expected to expand to 15 Liaisons.	2017-R-1a: Continue to support and expand the Sustainability Liaison Program. 2017-R-1b: To oversee the Liaison program, support the Science Advisory Committee’s proposal to create a full-time Sustainability and Outdoor Learning Coordinator.
2017-Item-2: Sustainable Materials Management: Procurement, Waste and Recycling	SACS compiled an inventory of APS’s current sustainable purchasing practices based on an in-depth review of contracts. SACS also connected with APS and Arlington County staff to stay updated on implementation of the new County/APS waste and recycling contract.	2017-R-2a: Use a new platform called SPLC BENCHMARK to benchmark the sustainability of APS purchasing practices. 2017-R-2b: Implement recommendations for waste and recycling improvements described in SACS June 2017 memorandum.
2017-Item-3: APS Green Action Awards Program	The second-annual APS Green Action Awards recognized five outstanding projects that promoted sustainable best practices in the APS community. SACS will continue this program next year.	<i>No recommendation</i>
2017-Item-4: Communications and Outreach	SACS used the #APSGreen hashtag on social media to promote topics such as the activities of Sustainability Liaisons.	<i>No recommendation</i>

2017-Item-1









APS Sustainability Liaison Program

2017-R-1a: Continue to Support and Expand the Sustainability Liaison Program

2017-R-1b: Support the Science Advisory Committee's proposal to create a Full-Time Sustainability and Outdoor Learning Coordinator

For several years, SACS has recommended the creation of Sustainability Liaison Stipend Positions. We are very pleased that this year, you provided stipends for Sustainability Liaisons in ten schools, including two secondary schools (Arlington Career Center, H-B Woodlawn), and eight elementary schools (Ashlawn, Discovery, Drew, Jamestown, Long Branch, McKinley, Oakridge, Patrick Henry).

The liaisons have done exceptional work to build a culture of sustainability in APS through diverse curriculum, operational, transportation, and communication projects (see table below). They led students, faculty, and staff to reduce environmental impacts, improve the whole child, and link sustainability to standards of learning.

2016-2017 Sustainability Liaison Projects		
<p>Arlington Career Center Erin Hannon</p> <p><i>Car maintenance program to reduce fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions</i></p>		<p>H-B Woodlawn Meghan French</p> <p><i>Environmental Club</i></p> 
<p>Ashlawn Daniel Redmond</p> <p><i>Seedling program Solar education classes Bike commute enhancements</i></p>	 <p>Award Ashlawn earned the Bike Friendly Business, Silver level from the League of American Bicyclists</p>	<p>Discovery Kathleen Krupa Josephine Walker</p> <p><i>Eco Action Team meetings Pledge drive to avoid single-use plastics</i></p> 
<p>Drew Carley Fisher-Maltese</p> <p><i>4H Junior Master Gardeners After School Club</i></p>		<p>Jamestown Dani Greene</p> <p><i>Sustainability BIG ideas Honeybee curriculum</i></p> 
<p>Long Branch Gregory D'Addario</p> <p><i>Recycling rangers program</i></p>		<p>McKinley Meghan Ehrman</p> <p><i>AFAC Food Bus</i></p> 

2016-2017 Sustainability Liaison Projects

Oakridge
Sean Jones

*Integrated
composting and
green blacktop
program*



Patrick Henry
Susan Spranger

*Promoted walking,
biking, busing and
carpooling
Composting
Schoolyard habitat
curriculum
Environmental service
and 4H projects*



In the 2016-2017 school year, SACS has supported this program by engaging with the liaisons and developing reportable metrics related to the liaisons' work. This program has touched hundreds of students, created transferable lesson plans, created an initial inventory of sustainability activities across APS, and generated energy among APS teachers to build sustainability into the curriculum. A report summarizing the accomplishments of the Sustainability Liaisons will be delivered in summer 2017.

SACS strongly **recommends** that APS continue to support and expand the Sustainability Liaison program, allowing APS to document and enhance school-based sustainability activities. In the 2017-2018 school year, SACS anticipates supporting up to 15 sustainability liaisons and improving the program by formalizing the liaison engagement process, improving liaison communication tools, emphasizing external communication, and standardizing liaison reporting. SACS recommends that APS plan for full, system-wide implementation of the Sustainability Liaison program at all schools for the 2018-2019 school year, bearing this in mind during budget and planning meetings.

Following up on our 2015-2016 year-end memorandum, SACS again **recommends** that you support the Science Advisory Committee's proposal to create a Full-Time Sustainability and Outdoor Learning Coordinator. Together, the Sustainability Coordinator and Stipend Positions would create a tiered and integrated approach to sustainability within our schools. The Coordinator position would play a critical role supporting APS's commitment to sustainability in daily instruction and school operations, and communicating that within and outside APS.

2017-Item-2

Sustainable Materials Management

Procurement

2017-R-2a: Connect with SPLC BENCHMARK -- a new sustainable purchasing benchmarking tool/community platform

In January 2017, SACS's sustainable purchasing experts met with David Webb, APS Director of Purchasing, and other key APS staff to discuss opportunities to improve the sustainability of APS's purchasing practices. These changes could drive health, environmental, and economic benefits within APS and across the global supply chains of many key products and services. The APS procurement and operations teams performed a review of contracts to develop an inventory of APS's current sustainable purchasing practices, demonstrating the substantial work APS has already done in this area (see inventory summary in Appendix B).

Following the January meeting, an informal collaboration began between SACS and the APS procurement team. The lead article in APS's [April Procurement News](#) raises awareness of considering sustainability issues when purchasing custodial supplies, furniture, IT equipment, office supplies, and other products. In turn, SACS shared additional sustainable procurement resources (e.g., model contract language) and identified emerging opportunities in key purchase categories.

Looking ahead, **we recommend** that APS use a new tool for assessing and benchmarking the sustainability of its purchasing practices. The Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council (SPLC) has developed a community platform called [SPLC BENCHMARK](#) and will launch a pilot program this summer to test the platform. As a SPLC member, Arlington County should have access to the tool and could participate in the pilot. Learning about best practices and shared challenges from this community would save APS time and resources and set APS on a path toward even more strategic and sustainable uses of its purchasing power.

Waste and Recycling

2017-R-2b: Implement recommendations for waste and recycling improvements described in SACS June 2017 memorandum

In the 2016-2017 school year, SACS has participated in several waste- and recycling-related activities including discussion of the new county/APS waste and recycling contract at our September, October, December, March, and May meetings; a presentation by student Elizabeth Woolford on her project to enhance recycling practices at Yorktown High School; and a presentation by Kerm Towler, Assistant Director of Plant Operations, APS, on the implementation of the new county/APS waste and recycling contract. We see many opportunities for APS to continue to expand its waste and recycling programs and hope that APS will consider the recommendations described in our June 2017 memorandum.

Looking ahead, **we recommend** APS implement the recommendations listed in our June 2017 memorandum, including using the data from the new contract to enhance programs to reduce waste overall (waste and recycling) and provide resources to schools to improve recycling rates (signage, co-located and consistent bins, education).

Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment
senior experience interns
audit waste at Yorktown High School



2017-Item-3

APS Green Action Awards Program

The second-annual APS Green Action Awards recognized five outstanding projects that make APS more energy efficient, cost effective, healthy, and environmentally sustainable. The program promotes best practices in sustainability so that other schools can learn what works. This year's winners include:

- Campbell Elementary: Big Bad Basil Project (teacher-led)
- Gunston Middle: Invasive Removal Project (teacher-led)
- Yorktown High: Recycling Retrofit Project (student-led)
- Washington-Lee High: The Effect of Water Hyacinth Treatment on the Removal of Heavy Metals from Water and the Effect of Carbonate Solutions on the Extraction of Metal from Water Hyacinth Roots for Reuse (student-led)
- Washington-Lee High: The Effect of Natural Microbead Substitutes on Artemia (student-led)

Students and staff were recognized for their sustainable projects with the Second Annual Green Action Awards at the May 4, 2017, School Board meeting



Given the success of this year's APS Green Action Awards program, SACS plans to continue this program in the 2017-2018 school year.

2017-Item-4

Communications and Outreach

SACS continued to make progress on using the #APSGreen hashtag on social media channels this year and in particular on Twitter. Some of the topics and events that we helped promote included the Green Action Awards, Clean Air Awareness Month, Earth Day, energy savings generated by schools like Discovery Elementary, garden days, and the activities of sustainability liaisons. Even though our Twitter presence and followers are still in a nascent stage, Twitter analytics data indicate that one recent tweet about the Green Action Awards application period reached 3,718 people. We anticipate that in the next year we will be able to get even more traction, as our followers and content grow, and as the sustainability liaison program expands and includes more specific social media tasks.

#APSGreen is gaining traction



Appendix A: SACS 2016-2017 Membership

SACS meets on the third Tuesday of each month, except for July and August. All meetings are open to the public. Members are appointed to two year terms and participate on a volunteer basis.

Appointed Members

Alison Kinn Bennett	MUEP, Senior Advisor for Sustainable Products and Purchasing, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Stephanie Burns	Researcher and Consultant
Michael Cruse	Resource Teacher, Arlington Career Center
Barbara Englehart	MBA, CPA, Business Sustainability and Management Consultant, Englehart Consulting
Elenor Hodges	M.Ed., Executive Director, Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment
Gregory Lloyd	CCM, LEED AP BD+C, Senior Construction Manager, Capital Brand Group
Karen Luz	Vice President, Markets and Food, World Wildlife Fund
Kate Marshall	MURP, Workplace Sustainability, CSRA
Pam Nagurka	Secondary STEM Teacher Specialist, Arlington Public Schools
Levi Novey	MS, Outreach & Education Specialist, International Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Steve Offutt	LEED AP, MBA, Vice President - Sustainability, Green Diamond, LLC
Cynthia Palmer	JD, MPH (environmental and occupational health), Director, Pesticides Science and Regulation, American Bird Conservancy
Robin Puttock	LEED AP BD&C, AIA Architect, Adjunct Faculty at Catholic University
Laura Watchman	LEED AP Neighborhood Development, Principal, Watchman Consulting

Arlington County Liaison

Joan B. Kelsch	LEED AP BD+C, Green Building Program Manager, Arlington Initiative to Rethink Energy (AIRE), Arlington County Department of Environmental Services
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Staff

Cathy Lin	CEM, APS Energy Manager
Dat Le	Ph.D., APS Science Supervisor

Student Liaisons

Casey Donovan	Washington-Lee High School Class of 2017
Johanna Klein	Washington-Lee High School Class of 2017

Liaisons to Other Committees

Gregory Lloyd	Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs
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Appendix B: APS Sustainable Procurement Activities

The following is a list of sustainable procurement activities APS currently supports. It was ascertained via an in-depth review of contracts in school year 2016-2017.

Design & Construction

- USGBC LEED® Rating System

Plant Operations – Custodial Products

- Director and Assistant Director of Plant Operations are certified to GS-42 Building Wellness Certification
- Microfiber roll-out program (reducing use of disposables)
- Green Seal cleaning products
- Paper towels 100% recycled, 40% post-consumer waste
- Wastebasket Liners (43x47) – Ecologo certified

Food & Nutrition Services

- Compostable and recyclable food trays and napkins
- Online menus to reduce paper

Information Services

- EPEAT registered IT hardware

Office Supplies/Furniture

- Card stock and colored paper – 30% recycled content
- BIFMA e3/level certified furniture