

# Memorandum

To Dr. Patrick Murphy, Superintendent, Arlington Public Schools  
 From Superintendent’s Advisory Committee on Sustainability  
 Topic 2018 Annual Memorandum  
 Date August 2018

Since 2013, the Superintendent’s Advisory Committee on Sustainability (SACS) has prepared an annual memorandum 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 areas of work and two recommendations for the Superintendent’s consideration. Appendix A summarizes the Committee’s 2017-18 membership.

Work Areas	Summary	Recommendations
<b>2018-Work Area-1: APS Sustainability Liaison Program</b>	APS provided stipends for Sustainability Liaisons in fifteen schools. Liaisons created transferable lesson plans and led students in implementing projects that promoted a culture of sustainability across APS. In the 2018-19 school year, SACS is seeking funding to expand the program to 20 schools with a focus on waste/recycling.	<b>2018-R-1a:</b> Continue to support and expand the Sustainability Liaison Program. <b>2018-R-1b:</b> To coordinate and optimize the Liaison program, support the Science Advisory Committee’s proposal to create a full-time Sustainability and Outdoor Learning Coordinator.
<b>2018-Work Area-2: Communications and Outreach</b>	SACS continued to promote the use of #APSGreen, published an enhanced website, and tracked several sustainability awards within APS.	<i>No recommendation</i>
<b>2018-Work Area-3: Defining Sustainability for APS</b>	SACS has begun developing a high-level statement about the purpose and value of integrating sustainability more holistically into APS operations and curriculum. SACS plans to complete this work in the 2018-19 school year.	<i>No recommendation</i>
<b>2018-Work Area-4: Sustainable Materials Management</b>	SACS continued to focus on sustainable materials management—reducing waste through more sustainable procurement, material use, and disposal—through group discussion and guest speakers.	<i>No recommendation</i>

## 2018-Work Area-1







### APS Sustainability Liaison Program

*2018-R-1a: Continue to Support and Expand the Sustainability Liaison Program*

*2018-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 encouraged that the Sustainability Liaison program was funded for a second time this school year. Stipends were provided to support Sustainability Liaisons in fifteen schools, including two secondary schools (Arlington Career Center, Arlington Community High School), three middle schools (Gunston, Jefferson, Williamsburg), nine elementary schools (Arlington Traditional, Barrett, Claremont, Discovery, Glebe, Jamestown, Long Branch, Oakridge, Patrick Henry), and the Stratford Program.

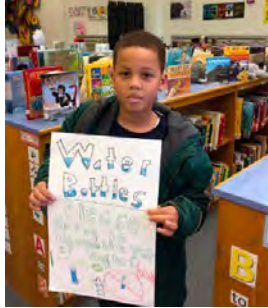
The liaisons have done exceptional work to build a culture of sustainability in APS through diverse curriculum, operational, transportation, and communication projects (see table below). They led students, faculty, and staff to reduce environmental impacts, improve the whole child, and link sustainability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

2017-18 Sustainability Liaison Projects			
<p><b>Arlington Career Center</b> Rosemary Donaldson</p> <p><i>Aquaponics system</i> <i>Bird boxes</i> <i>Electronics recycling</i> <i>Waste audit</i></p>		<p><b>Arlington Community High School</b> Sharon Ruggieri Elizabeth Minihan</p> <p><i>Stream study</i> <i>Recycling debate</i></p>	
<p><b>Arlington Traditional</b> Monica Hirschberg</p> <p><i>Food Bus Donation to AFAC</i></p>		<p><b>Barrett</b> Cara Doherty</p> <p><i>Energy Monitors</i> <i>Sustainability Superheroes</i> <i>Water Conservation</i> <i>ATP Gold Status</i></p>	
<p><b>Claremont</b> Aracely Vance</p> <p><i>Outdoor learning</i> <i>Food Waste Warriors</i></p>		<p><b>Discovery</b> Kathleen Krupa Maria Burke</p> <p><i>Bike Drive</i> <i>Discovery Bikers</i> <i>Two Wheel Tuesday</i> <i>Eco-Action Team</i></p>	

2017-18 Sustainability Liaison Projects

**Glebe**  
Toni Wexler

*Glebe Green Team*  
*Waste audit*  
*"Green Scene" video*  
*Encouraged reusable water bottles*



**Gunston**  
Topher Paterno

*Permaculture garden aligned with technical education*



**Long Branch**  
Gregory D'Addario

*Recycling rangers program*



**Jamestown**  
Dani Greene

*Green Team*  
*Gardening Lunch Bunch*  
*Sustainability lessons*  
*Outdoor classroom*



**Jefferson**  
Kaila Bell

*Schoolyard Habitat*  
*Green Jackets Service Club*



**Oakridge**  
Sean Jones

*Walk/bike to school program*  
*Erosion prevention garden*



**Patrick Henry**  
Susan Spranger

*Incentivized "Walk and Bike to School"*  
*Targeted grade-specific education programs:*  
*Natural Resources/ Recycling, Growing Food/Tomato Sale, Watershed*



**Stratford Program**  
Nicholas Gorman

*Reusing in art*  
*Student recycling helpers*



**Williamsburg**  
Jill Mentch

*Electronics and shoe recycling*  
*Bake sale for plants*



In the 2017-18 school year, SACS has supported this program by engaging with the liaisons through a buddy system, where a SACS committee member was paired with a Sustainability Liaison to provide support, guidance, and connections to deeper sustainability expertise. SACS also continued to refine the reportable metrics that would be used to capture the liaisons' work. This school year, the Sustainability Liaison program touched hundreds of students, created transferable lesson plans, added to the 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 2018.

Another area of focus for SACS in the 2017-18 school year was to refine the objectives of the Sustainability Liaison program for future years. In the 2018-19 school year, the Sustainability Liaison program will require the Sustainability Liaisons to complete a waste/recycling site assessment and implement one project based on the site assessment results. The project may relate to improving recycling and/or composting, reducing waste, and improving procurement practices. The Sustainability Liaison would provide support to his/her school's recycling coordinator by identifying areas of potential improvement and implementing a project to help the school improve its waste management practices.

By aligning the Sustainability Liaison program with the increased focus APS has on waste and recycling following implementation of the enhanced county/school waste contract, the Sustainability Liaison program can help APS improve its waste and recycling practices, reduce waste generation, and creatively engage students, faculty, and staff. SACS has updated all of the data collection tools underlying the Sustainability Liaison program to make them easier to use and compile data, and to reflect this evolving program focus.

SACS strongly **recommends** that APS continue to support and expand the Sustainability Liaison program, allowing APS to document and enhance school-based sustainability activities, including waste and recycling. In the 2018-19 school year, SACS is seeking funding to support Sustainability Liaisons in 20 schools, as well as continue to improve liaison communication tools, emphasize external communication, and standardize liaison reporting. SACS recommends that APS plan for full, system-wide implementation of the Sustainability Liaison program at all schools for the 2019-20 school year, bearing this in mind during budget and planning meetings.

Following up on our 2015-16 and 2017-18 year-end memoranda, 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 message within and outside APS, which cannot be accomplished in the current staffing and responsibility structure.

# 2018-Work Area-2

## 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 dozens of topics and events promoted by #APSGreen included bike to school day, energy monitoring, water bottle fillers, aquaponics, waste audits, composting, eco-action days, pollinator gardens, and sustainability curriculum. The Sustainability Liaisons have increased the use of the #APSGreen hashtag, sharing updates on the sustainability projects they implemented, as well as other sustainability activities and coursework ongoing in their schools.

We anticipate that in the next year we will get even more traction, as our followers and content grow, and the sustainability liaison program expands and includes more specific social media tasks.



SACS also enhanced its web presence this year by building out the SACS web page. The web page documents the committee's accomplishments and shares resources with county residents, including a summary of the Sustainability Liaison program, Green Action Awards, year-end reports, and our committee membership: <https://www.apsva.us/aps-goes-green/superintendents-advisory-committee-sustainability/>

We are pleased to note that APS earned several national and regional sustainability awards and recognition, including:

- [US Green Building Council \(USGBC\) National Capital Region Connect the Dots Green Schools Challenge](#)
  - Discovery Elementary School – Honor Award Winner
  - Glebe Elementary School – Data and Verification Award Winner
- American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Energy Design Guide and Journal Vol. 60, No. 5, May 2018 ([link](#)) inclusion of Discovery Elementary School
- John C. Chadwick, AIA, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations is noted for his work on the [Achieving Zero Energy Advanced Energy Design Guide for K-12 School Buildings](#), which was developed through a collaboration of ASHRAE, the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES), and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), with support from the Department of Energy (DOE)

Next school year, SACS will explore the ability to list awards such as these on the SACS web page to increase visibility of APS sustainability achievements.

### 2018-Work Area-3

#### Defining Sustainability for APS

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In the 2017-18 school year, SACS had several discussions about the value sustainability offers to APS in supporting more efficient, cost-effective, and healthy operations. Sustainability offers a natural learning framework to support APS's strategic goals (including the Strategic Plan's Core Value of Stewardship) and develop the whole child. To better articulate this message within APS and to Arlington County, SACS has begun developing a high-level statement about the purpose and value of integrating sustainability more holistically into APS operations and curriculum. SACS plans to complete this work in the 2018-19 school year.

### 2018-Work Area-4

#### Sustainable Materials Management

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SACS continues to value the role of sustainable materials management in advancing sustainability within APS operations and curriculum. It provides a measurable, visible method to engage students, teachers, and faculty on a variety of sustainability topics and is a simple way for APS to reduce its impact on the environment. We had several discussions about methods to reduce waste through more sustainable procurement, material use, and disposal, with special emphasis on the new County/APS waste and recycling contract, which will enhance waste collection and reporting for APS. We hosted a presentation from the World Wildlife Fund's Food Waste Warriors program, which led to the program conducting a pilot with one of APS's Sustainability Liaisons this school year. Most notably, SACS recommends that the Sustainability Liaison program focus on waste and recycling in the 2018-2019 school year (see 2018-Work Area-1).



## Appendix A: SACS 2017-18 Membership

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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
Michael Cruse	Resource Teacher, Arlington Career Center
Heather Dantzker	MS, PhD, Owner and Principal, Dantzker Consulting, LLC
Barbara Englehart	MBA, CPA, Financial Management Consultant, Englehart Consulting
Elenor Hodges	M.Ed., Executive Director, <a href="#">EcoAction Arlington</a>
Rachel Lang	MS, PLT Program Coordinator, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc.
Gregory Lloyd	CCM, LEED AP BD+C, TRUE Advisor, Senior Construction Manager, <a href="#">Capital Brand Group</a>
Karen Luz	Vice President, Markets and Food, <a href="#">World Wildlife Fund</a>
Kate Marshall	MURP, Workplace Sustainability, <a href="#">GDIT</a>
Pam Nagurka	Secondary STEM Teacher Specialist, Arlington Public Schools
Levi Novey	MS, Outreach & Education Specialist, International Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Cynthia Palmer	JD, MPH, Convener, Sports for the Earth
Robin Puttock	LEED AP BD&C, AIA Architect, Architecture Faculty at Catholic University
Andrew Soles	BS, Financial Advisor, K Street Financial
Laura Watchman	LEED AP Neighborhood Development, Principal, Watchman Consulting

### Arlington County Liaison

Joan B. Kelsch	LEED AP BD+C, Green Building Program Manager, Office of Sustainability and Environmental Management, Arlington Department of Environmental Services
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### Staff

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

### Student Liaisons

Rose Duane	Yorktown High School Class of 2019
Olivia Kennett	Washington-Lee High School Class of 2019

### Liaisons to Other Committees

Gregory Lloyd	Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs
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