

Public Schools of Brookline
Climate and Sustainability Task Force
January 19, 2024
4:00pm to 4:50pm
Remote via Zoom

The work group leaders of the Climate and Sustainability Task Force met for a coordination meeting, on Friday, January 19, 2024, to review their work to date. In attendance were: Steven Ehrenberg, Helen Charlupski, Sasha Palmer, Roger Grande, Eric Colburn, Christopher Mutty, Rebeca Salguero, and Matthew Yamatin.

The four work groups of the Task Force are:

- Work Group 1: Education and Engagement (Roger Grande)
- Work Group 2: Energy, Buildings, and Outdoor Spaces (Matthew Yamatin)
- Work Group 3: Food Services and Waste (Christopher Mutty)
- Work Group 4: Transportation (Eric Colburn)

Participants described the continuing work they have done in their respective groups on the Task Force's first task: *inventory town assets (initiatives, organizations, activities, investments, funded positions) already working in the area, identifying those that PSB can partner with, leverage, or scale to achieve relevant objectives of the Sustainability Policy.*

Mr. Grande reported on the activities of the Education and Engagement work group. The group will be launching a survey to PSB educators to gather information about sustainability education/activities in PSB classrooms. They hope to have responses from a representative sample of teachers: K-8, BHS, science teachers, classroom teachers, etc. The Education and Engagement group will partner with staff from the Office of Teaching and Learning (including Curriculum Coordinators) to circulate the survey, and they will seek assistance from Principals to help spread the word and encourage participation. The data gathered from this survey will be used to create the inventory to present to the Task Force.

Mr. Yamatin reported on the activities of the Energy, Buildings and Outdoor Spaces work group. The group recently toured Pierce and Driscoll Schools (visits facilitated by Ms. Charlupski); the idea was to visit both a new school, built to be energy-efficient and sustainable; and visit an older school that would require substantial retro-fitting to be efficient and sustainable. These visits were reported to be very instructive for the work group. The group is developing a set of questions to share with Charlie Simmons, Director of Public Buildings for Brookline; the answers will enable the work group to have an inventory of all schools without having to visit each one.

Mr. Mutty, Ms. Palmer, and Ms. Salguero reported on the activities of the Food Services and Waste work group. Mr. Mutty noted that the group's report will include recent successes, policy recommendations, resource recommendations, curriculum enhancements, improved communications (including recommendations for signage so that students, in the serving line, will be able to easily identify plant-based, sustainable meal options), and increased composting (both in the back-of-the-house in the kitchen and in the front-of-the-house in the cafeteria).

Mr. Colburn reported on the activities of the Transportation work group. The group has gathered

data about student transportation to-and-from school from the Safe Routes to School program, and they have also been given a copy of a 2018 report commissioned by the Town that studied staff commuting patterns. The group has the results of a staff survey (sent to BHS staff already, and soon to be sent to K-8 staff) to gather data about how they travel to school. The group will also be speaking with the PSB Transportation Coordinator, Evan Schwartz, to gather more data about school bus options. The group has inventoried bike infrastructure in the town, and spoken with bicycle advocacy groups.

Dr. Ehrenberg discussed the timeline for the written inventory from each work group; a deadline of Friday, February 2 was set. The inventory will be an appendix in the Task Force's final report. Dr. Ehrenberg will create a template for the inventory data. After the inventory phase is complete, the Sustainability Task Force will move to the next phase: recommendations.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50pm.

A recording of the meeting is available on the Brookline Interactive Group website, here: <https://brooklineinteractive.org/school-sustainability-task-force-january-19-2024/>