

Present: A. Storrs, S. Campbell, C. Gutierrez, D. Mower, L. Hernandez, D. Kane, J. Laden, C. Masden, M Enriquez, N. Schulak, A. Myrthue, L. Mason, H. Boime, J. Elliot
H. Law, T. Sullivan, J. Pultz, B. Thielman, A. Mooney, S. Mondragon, I. Solis, E. Lancaster, K. Martin, J. Cohen, H. Wilf, C. Larson, K. Mountain., M. Ruby, G. Dursch, J. Adams

Welcome: Sheri Campbell welcomed guests Deborah Kane, Vice-President of Ecotrust and Kristy Obbink, RD, LD, Director of Nutrition Services for Portland Public Schools. Sheri referenced the schools' FTE cuts and Chris Gutierrez will discuss this issue later in the agenda.

Meg Ruby, president of the Atkinson Outdoor Learning Garden and member of the Wellness Committee, discussed the relationship of the Ecotrust goals and OLG goals for students. The OLG goals are to encourage hands-on, small group learning as well as parent involvement in the garden as it relates to the students' science and health curriculum.

Meg introduced Deborah Kane, Atkinson parent and VP of Ecotrust. Deborah manages the Farm to Schools Program and publishes the magazine Edible Portland. Ecotrust presently focuses on three areas:

- Students' outdoor physical activity related to the garden
- Garden-based education with a curriculum related to science and nutrition
- Relationship of garden to the cafeteria and students' daily nutrition.

Future goals for Atkinson OLG and Ecotrust include:

- Further development of K-3 curriculum related to the garden
- New development of garden curriculum that relates to upper grades
- Post consumer: composting unused food from the kitchen
- Permanent Ware: use of recyclable trays for the students
- Further development of Harvest of the month- vegetables and fruits from local growers included on the schools lunch menu
- Student destination trips to local farms and food producers

Deborah asked the group to recognize and honor Jennifer Putz, Atkinson parent, as a major contributor to the work of Ecotrust.

Dawn Mower, Wellness Committee staff member, discussed the need for every student to have adequate water intake by providing water bottles for every student at school. Dawn discussed the importance of accessing the gym at all available times to promote students' physical activity.

Deborah continued with questions from the attendees. Parents asked about the substitution of soy milk for cow's milk. Deborah said it was a possibility but cost was prohibitive. Parent asked about menu for Harvest of the month and addressing when kids are not familiar with certain vegetables such as beets. Deborah encouraged parents to consider 3 strategies as related to Harvest of the month.

- Review the menu, see what is being served and discuss those foods with your kids
- Prepare those foods at home for your children
- Buy those foods at least twice a month to be prepared at home

Deborah discussed three Ecotrust goals related to the Legislature

- A full-time Department of Agriculture employee to develop and oversee the relationship of Oregon food producers and the schools.

- A full-time ODE Department of Education and Curriculum employee to focus on curriculum as related to Farm to Schools.
- Support Oregon Cafeteria Bill to educate public Farm to Schools Program, Harvest of the Month, et

Deborah added that there was support in the Oregon State Legislature for the Department of Agriculture position and it will be reviewed in mid session of 2008. The ODE bill has some support.

Sheri introduced Kristy Obbink, RD, LD, Director of Nutrition Services for Portland Public Schools. Kristy said that the Atkinson Wellness committee goals of post consumer cafeteria composting and permanent ware (washable cafeteria trays) were doable.

Meg Ruby volunteered to be point person for Atkinson School in implementing the cafeteria composting, and Dawn Mower volunteered to be the point person at Atkinson for the permanent ware. Kristi outlined the basic requirements for permanent ware. Parents and students volunteer the labor and her PPS nutrition department provides the necessary equipment such as the trays, dish washing soap, and drying racks.

Kristy fielded a question from a parent related to organic products and sited the cost as a huge consideration at this time. Kristy discussed the “healthy pizza” served by the cafeteria that is produced using local foods. She introduced the statewide coalition called Sustainable Northwest that works to provide locally grown products in the school kitchens. Concern related to tainted beef products in the schools was discussed at length with no resolution. Kristy discussed the use of the Scratch kitchen oven and Village Oven to prepare healthy foods for children.

Sheri introduced Karl Larson, Safer Routes to School Coordinator. Karl applauded Atkinson schools’ participation in the support of the program and discussed the upcoming Bike/ Walk to school program in May 2008. The study to identify needed improvements to the make Atkinson campus a safer place for students in terms of access, structure and visibility identified approximately \$2 million of possible improvements. Karl reported that he has \$10,000 to work with to make improvements and he is requesting input from Atkinson staff and parents. Please contact Karl Larson at lore.wintergreen@trans.ci.portland.or.us or (503) 823304.

Horatio Law, a local artist is working on a project, “China on the Willamette”. May is Asian/American History month. His project will educate the community regarding Chinese history. Horatio and Rob Stewart worked together to develop several activities during May. Horatio is developing a Chinese history curriculum focusing on third graders and these students will visit his studio. Horatio will conduct free Tai Chi lessons the first three Saturdays in May at Atkinson. These activities will be culminated by a group Tai Chi exercise of 1,000 participants to be held on the Portland Waterfront on Saturday, May 31st.

Kate Mountain, Move Program, Exercise log will be sent home in May 2008. Exercise Program focuses on encouraging students, families and faculty to exercise at least 3x/week.

Jim Laden briefly discussed the Outdoor Playground Cover. He reported that a prefabricated cover would be much more affordable and the committee is looking to that option very seriously.

Chris Gutierrez briefly discussed the 3.5 FTE budget cuts for Atkinson school that were discussed at length at a school meeting on Monday, March 10th. Chris reported that he needed parent input to help preserve the areas that make Atkinson the school it is today. Parents at the 3/10/08 meeting identified Music, Library and Language as necessary programs. Possible changes may include the reorganization of Literacy groups and reduction of the Main Office staff. The elimination of the PE teacher, the Vice Principal position and the counseling staff were discussed.

Chris discussed: Atkinson as the 2nd largest Elementary school in PPS, the development of the K-8 schools having an impact on the budgets of the K-5 schools, and the declining enrollment (less than 500 students) as factors that both parents and administrators need to consider in making budget decisions.

Sheri introduced Gretchen Dursh as a possible coordinator to chair the schools committee to organize a clear, compelling opinion to address the PPS administration. Sheri emphasized the importance of the need to develop an appropriate opinion to be presented in an appropriate forum as having the greatest impact. Interested parties should contact Gretchen Dursh.

Sheri will organize a PTA on Tuesday, April 15th to address budget issues and strategies.

Janet Cowal discussed the CLEAR Language Art Project to be held at Atkinson School on Wednesday, March 12th in the cafeteria. Art Work created in the language classes will be on display from 6:30- 8:00. The CLEAR Art work will also be on display in the Library at Portland State University in April.

Janie Cohen, Reading is Fundamental co-coordinator at Atkinson reported that the RIF has been cut from the Federal budget by the Bush Administration. If you are interested in this issue, please be alert to more information to be provided in the FYI.

Sheri Campbell called the meeting to a close.