



OLP Maryland Outdoor Learning Partnership (OLP) Sustainable Schools Working Group Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: Thurs, Aug 28, 2025, 3:00 – 4:00

Attendees

Laura Collard (Working Group Co-Chair), Olivia Wisner, Stephanie Tuckfield, Lindsey Walker, Larissa Pasco, Karen Fedor, Victoria Howard, Jo Anne Murray

3:00 – 3:05 Welcome

Laura Collard

3:05 – 3:15 Presentation: MEA Decarbonizing Public Schools Program

Larissa Pasco, Energy Specialist

- MEA provides grants to LEAs to fund new energy projects for Public K-12 Schools:
 - o Capacity building for Energy Management, Efficiency, Sustainability, and Portfolio Planning
 - o Energy Efficiency and Electrification Capital
 - o Solar for Schools
 - o Net Zero Schools
- The Decarbonizing Public Schools Grant Program is funded through state funding
- FY26- \$35 Million – Applications now open. Closes Nov 21st
 - o Funds are eligible for capital stacking
 - o LEAs can apply for multiple awards in each category
- Solar awards are no longer limited to one per LEA
- Electrifying Community

Chesapeake Bay Program, Draft Revised Agreement

Olivia Wisner

- [Revised Draft Agreement Available for Public Comment](#)
 - o School District Planning Outcome: XXXX
 - o Email feedback to ChesapeakeBay.net, closing date Sept. 1

3:15 – 3:25 Update: NAAEE Superintendents Collaborative

Laura Collard

- 4 Superintendents, 2 from MD Washington County and Frederick County
 - o Washington County and Frederick County

- Superintendents in attendance expressed interest in sustainable schools citing teacher retention, student wellbeing. Said health and nutrition need to be highlighted through sustainable schools' efforts.
- Cost savings was identified as a messaging that resonated with most
- Next steps: reaching out to the Sustainability teams in Washington and Frederick
- Superintendents will present at the Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland in March

3:25 – 3:35 Sustainable School Summit

Laura Collard

- Draft Agenda
- Requesting an opening welcome from the Superintendents from Washington and Frederick Counties.
- Opportunity for operations and facilities staff to connect with XXX.
- Considering a lunch panel around CTE's connection to Sustainable Schools
- Hope to have this sustainable schools working group give feedback on the agenda for the Summit as

3:35 – 3:50 Sustainable School Working Group Recommendations

Potential Recommendation:

- Members of the OLP recognize and actively promote the MAEOE Green Schools program as the model to increase the number of Green Schools (Green Schools Act). This recommendation would also to help Maryland to achieve the School District Planning Outcome of the revised Watershed Agreement.
 - o Maryland Sustainable Schools Week?
 - o Dedicate an OLP Whole Partnership meeting to the topic of Sustainable Schools, how do agencies support Sustainable Schools.
 - o OLP supports the convening of Facilities Staff around the Green Schools Act
- Timeline:
 - o Sep 11: Present near final version of recommendation to full Partnership
 - o Sep 11-18: Update recommendation to reflect feedback
 - o Sep 18: Share to leadership
 - o Oct: Incorporate leadership feedback
 - o Nov 6: Whole partnership vote
- Feedback:
 - o Connect applicants interested in the MEA Decarbonizing Schools Program to the MD Green Schools Program.
 - o Connect to the CGC Working Group recommendation to develop a CTE pathway in Sustainability and incorporate facilities/ maintenance. Calvert County Career and Technology Academy does a "Public School System" apprenticeship on maintenance and various aspects of maintenance.

Action Items:

- Who wants to present next time? Lindsey Walker
- Olivia to email Larissa/ Kristin with questions about if the majority of Decarbonizing Schools Grant programs generally apply to specific school buildings or whole counties.

- Olivia to share information with Larissa about the public comment period for the updated Watershed Agreement.
- Jo Anne/ Maria to bring up the facilities/ maintenance CTE connection to the CGC Recommendation at the Sep 11th Whole Partnership Meeting
- Keep an eye out for a google form about the Sustainable Schools recommendation

3:50 – 4:00 Public Comment

Meeting Closed at 4:04