

Summary
Sustainability Presentation to Board of Education
Aug 27, 2009

Background:

- A group organized by the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative (SOSI) was invited to present to the Board in March 2009. They introduced the concept of sustainability within our education system and provided some on-the-ground stories.
- Subsequently, a team of Kate Brown, Secretary of State and chair of the Oregon Sustainability Board; Elin Shepard, OR. Dept of Administrative Services; Art Paz, Oregon Board of Education member; Anne Schuster, Corvallis SD Board member and Lori Stole, Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative worked together on a proposal to include the topic on the Board of Education's summer retreat agenda.
- This resulted in Art Paz and Lori Stole being asked to organize a panel presentation as part of a sustainability discussion at the August retreat.

August 27 presentation

A status report was prepared and presented by ODE and CCWD. Summary doc available here: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/superintendent/update/2009-aug-27-sustainability.doc>

Panel Presentation (30 min) from:

- Lori Stole, Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative
- Bill Stewart, Gladstone SD
- John Weekes, DOWA Architects
- Susan Wolff, Columbia Gorge CC
- Jennifer Hayward, Lane CC
- Chet Bowers, retired professor

Presentations and handout materials are available here:

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?=2741>

This includes a vision and list of potential strategies that the group prepared.

Discussion (30 min)

There was good discussion, and some of the points are summarized here.

- Many questions were trying to get at a better understanding of sustainability for schools, and how the Board could move it forward.
- There were many comments complimenting the panel; good mix of interesting topics, good job watching the time, good response to questions...
- Bob Turner, Special Assistant to the Chancellor, OUS, noted that he could push for the attention of the various Depts. Of Education to get sustainability included in pre-service teacher instruction.
- Bob Turner agreed that it makes sense for the next OUS sustainability conference to be a K-20 conference.
- It was noted that the sustainability effort could be incorporated in the hiring process for teachers.
- It was suggested that teachers could get a certificate in sustainability.

- There was mention that Finland is a true leader as regards school buildings.
- Susan Castillo noted that she is learning about the connection between buildings and student performance.

Some additional observations:

- Duncan Wyse noted that the board needs to first develop a common understanding about sustainability before moving on, so that they are prepared to answer questions about any related actions they may take.
- As is to be expected the board has a lot to learn about sustainability education and how all the pieces fit together.
- Community colleges are on their way already. They have formed a state-wide committee to work on these issues.

Summary prepared by Lori Stole, Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative (SOSI)