

F2S Steering Committee Meeting Notes

October 13, 2006

9-11 am Beecher's Flagship, Seattle

Attendance: Tom French, Tim Crosby, Kristin Hyde, Alison Leber, Sylvia Kantor, Erin MacDougall, Jenny Thacker (UW Evans School), Heidi Broekemeier

General Updates:

Tim: Farm to Hospital work; organizing event Oct. 25 2-4 at Seattle U or Antioch); wants to engage with more school districts;

Alison: Parents are untapped resources; kid mail; geared toward parents; think about including PTA more

Erin: School Gardens web site is live! Attempted to contact Debra Kane from Ecotrust, but phone calls were not returned; invited Andrew Hayden from Ecotrust to Monday Oct 16 Team meeting to get conversation going between F2S Team and Ecotrust.

Tom: Working on a sustainable development project that's focused in Burien

1- Planning for Oct. 16 F2S Team Meeting:

Erin MacDougall will facilitate meeting; Shelley Curtis –Children's Alliance will speak; confirmed invited guests: G. Sneller –OSPI and Bob Lee – WA State Senate Agriculture Committee;

Agenda Set:

1-Welcome & sign in

2-Introductions

3-Brief Steering Committee Report: Two sub-committees set up: Policy & Outreach

4-Shelley Curtis: Legislative updates and process for policy changes – general overview, learning; ask her to present a case study;

5-Report of Farm to School legislation around the U.S, as reported by Marion Kalb at the CFSC Conference 10/10/06 in Vancouver: Erin and Heidi will plan to show power point

6-Discussion

7-Closing: What's next? Announcements?

Other discussion, relative to Oct 16 meeting:

If a school receives federal funds, federal regulation says they have to abide by a no geographical preference rules; other states have gotten around this policy by separating federal from state funds; OSPI may be concerned that separating funds doesn't address feeding hungry kids; Do we support a federal change? We can build momentum at federal level; we also have to deal with the reimbursement rates that are set currently at about \$2.50 per child; there is also work to be done on building infrastructure;

Another problem is that the food is not there; the procurement policy may not be the real problem; farmers getting insurance and the ability to get their food to the school are other barriers. We have to be careful we know the real barriers; we can't assume it's the procurement policy; What is the change we want with the procurement policy? What will the change do? There are lots of things going on in our own backyard that we need to know about before we move forward with looking for a big policy change; We have to know more than assume a policy change will make a difference;

2-Steering Committee Report for Oct 16 Team meeting

- Potential plan for follow-up NCSL funded meeting about Farm to Schools in Washington – Funds are available until April 2007 from NCSL grant (as reported by Leslie Levine-NCSL to Heidi)
- Two sub-committees formed:
 - Policy – Erin, Sylvia, Kristin; include planning for NCSL follow-up meeting
 - Outreach – Alison, Tom, Tim, Kristin; Suggested work includes getting PTAs involved and developing outreach materials

- o Steering Committee will plan to discuss specific roles of each committee at a later date;

ACTION: Ask Goldie and Mary which committee they would like to be on; Will ask for other people who are interested in serving on either committee at Oct 16 meeting;

3-Report on white paper: Heidi's progress

Heidi shared highlights from White paper examples she and Sylvia have looked at; there is a wide range of lengths and types of White papers; Jenny Thacker (Heidi's project partner from the Evans School) and Heidi will continue work in creating a Policy Report/Analysis; citing the CEP white paper as source with Sylvia Kantor as the author; the Policy Report assignment is due December 8 and Heidi and Jenny will have a document to share at that time. Heidi plans to develop this document for her degree project throughout the two next quarters.

4-Web page updates:

At Oct. 16 meeting, will ask for more updates to be posted on web; only 1 received to date.

5- Survey results, as of 10/12/06:

16 responses; Team meeting will rotate venues between Renton and the PCC Offices, Seattle.

6-Speaker/topic for following F2S Connections Team Meetings:

November 13: Strategies on how to plan a farm field trip and how to connect to farms; panel which might include Ann Lanning and/or someone from Pikes Market

December 11: Cheryl Katzberg, Lake Washington School District;

January: School Gardens (Erin will contact someone from community to help lead this discussion)

February: PTA and how to be more connected with parents & outreach to the schools

March: ?

April: ?

Other speaker ideas/discussion:

Meetings should cover areas of policy, farming, nutrition and school gardens; Skip Skinner was suggested on the survey as a potential speaker; He is the go-to food person for OSPI working with commodities; Cheryl Katzberg is already speaking on commodities in December; Erin can find someone to talk about school gardens; joint meeting with AFPC and pick a topic to discuss; school wellness policies and school;

Better strategies to reach PTAs; something in conjunction with Thanksgiving; healthy holidays; leverage, give options for healthier food during the holidays

7- Other action items:

- Next Steering Committee Meeting, November 6: Strategic planning and developing a more formal structure for the group
- Pay for a domain for the Farm to Schools Connections Team: Tim will work on a .net or.org using 'Farm to School Connections Team' or 'WA F2Schools;' Also, the group should think about more funding and non-profit status; the group would like to assert more 'ownership' of the farm to school work
- Tom explained the status of the letter originally proposed to be written to WSU and other community members to thank WSU for their work on the farm to schools project, and also to elevate and solicit support, and to establish this group as the authoritative entity on farm to schools; committee has moved forward and feedback has changed and getting feedback from many people that he stopped writing the letter; Erin volunteered to take over the new task of drafting a letter, using Tom's notes and information so far collected and written.