

Austin Independent School District

**Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

May 23, 2019

5:30 - 7:30 pm

Carruth Administration Center, 1111 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Board Auditorium



take place, and Mr

opportunities to increase access to nature-based recreation and education. The ESAC member, Kate Martin, shared information about the Emeril Lagasse Foundation grant that was awarded to PEAS. It is partially funding the design and construction of a teaching kitchen. The total cost of the construction project is approximately \$500,000. The grant covers \$300,000 and AISD is putting in approximately \$200,000. Once complete, students will harvest from the PEAS farm at Cunningham Elementary School and use their produce in the adjacent teaching kitchen. AISD Sustainability Manager, Darien Clary, updated the members about the AISD tree inventory. Thanks to the City of Austin Urban Forest Grant, a total of 10,054 trees have been inventoried and mapped so far. The inventory is expected to be completed in winter 2019. Eight schools requested maps that were generated using the inventory data. They used the maps for earth day activities at their school.

The Energy & Water Action Area update was presented by the ESAC member, Dub Taylor. Mr. Taylor shared that AISD has seen a 4.5% reduction in electricity and water use over the past year and has seen \$1,000,000 saved compared to last year. Total utility costs were \$2.2 million less than two years ago. Many factors have resulted in reduced usage and costs, including school closures for Bond modernization (ALC, TA Brown, Doss, Norman) and improving maintenance. The energy and water management team has also contributed to this reduction by closely monitoring performance, finding causes of problems, and then correcting issues. Mr. Taylor also shared that initiatives at Crockett High School and Anderson High School have a combined predicted savings of \$78,000/year. Additionally, cooling tower water treatment is helping save water at Martin Middle School and Pickle Elementary (approximately 1,700,000 gallons of water

