

# Memorandum

Arlington Public Schools (APS). SACS receives feedback on these recommendations and provides the Superintendent through meetings held twice each year. This year we focused on four areas of work that resulted in numerous recommendations for the Superintendent's consideration. Appendices to this document also include additional detailed information of interest.

Work Areas	Summary	Recommendations to Superintendent
2018 Work Area 1: Management of the APS Sustainability Liaison Program	APS provided stipends for Sustainability Liaisons in more than half of the county's schools (18 of 33). Liaisons led students in implementing projects that promoted a culture of sustainability across APS. This year they were required to complete at least one project focused on waste reduction / recycling in addition to completing a site waste assessment and school sustainability inventory.	<del>2019R-1:</del> Continue to support and expand the Sustainability Liaison Program to provide a liaison in every school and additional APS staff support for sustainability efforts throughout the school system.
2018 Work Area 2: Strengthening the Liaison Program	SACS agreed to an action plan with six key priorities that would leverage visible opportunities and our skill sets to continue improving the impact and visibility of the liaison program.	









2019-Work Area2  
Strengthening the Liaison Program

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support of the Superintendent's Office to pursue this goal in the coming year.

3. Provide a toolbox and repository of project ideas (particularly waste reduction and recycling

assistance to help them provide feedback on grant proposals in advance of submitting should they choose to in the future. We will continue to build out this resource and adapt it in the coming year for the liaisons based on their feedback

### 2019-Work Area 3

## Improving Recycling and Waste Reduction Efforts in APS

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Throughout the sch



In addition to honoring custodians, we heard from liaisons that learning from the experiences of other schools in their efforts to advance waste reduction and recycling efforts was critical. Lessons don't need to be repeatedly learned school by school in isolation, even as schools often have different circumstances that influence waste reduction and recycling efforts. Additionally, we also heard that resistance from their fellow teachers, staff, and principals also sometimes influenced what was possible. APS waste and recycling policies were not well known or understood, and without pressure for individual schools to enforce policies from above, it was sometimes easy for staff to argue that it was too challenging to prioritize these kinds of changes or efforts without APS support. Of course, this isn't to say that some staff and principals were not supportive of actions, just that this type of barrier was not unusual for potential game-changing actions such as changing how cafeterias operate to reduce food waste across the school system. Particularly with specific topics such as share tables, milk disposal and waste, and composting, the need for more clear guidance and accessible expertise was made clear by the liaisons. For this reason, SACS believes that creating a set of resources that facilitate an improved understanding of existing recycling and waste-related policies will be beneficial. We request the support

## Appendix A: SACS 2018-19 Membership

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SACS meets on the third Tuesday of each month, except for July and August. All meetings are open to the public. Members are appointed to two year terms and participate on a volunteer basis

### Appointed Members

Alison Kinn Bennett MUEP, Senior Advisor for Sustainable Products and Purchasing, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Michael Cruse Resource Teacher, Arlington Career Center

Heather Dantzker MS, PhD Owner and Principal, Dantzker Consulting, LLC

Barbara Englehart MBA, CPA Financial Management Consultant, Englehart Consulting

Elenor Hodges M.Ed., Executive Director, [EcoAction Arlington](#)

Rachel Lang MS, PLT Program Coordinator, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc

Gregory Lloyd CCM, LEED AP BD+CRUE Advisor, Construction Manager, Wesley Housing Development Corporation

Kate Marshall MURP, Real Estate Senior Manager, [EDIT](#)

Levi Novey MS, Outreach & Education Specialist, International Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Cynthia Palmer JD, MPH, Convener, Sports for the Earth

Robin Puttock LEED AP BD+CA, WELL AP Architect, Architectural Faculty at Catholic University

Andrew Soles BS, Financial Advisor, K Street Financial

Aracely Vance Science Teacher, Claremont Elementary School

Laura Watchman LEED AP Neighborhood Development, Principal, Watchman Consulting

### Arlington County Liaison

Joan B. Kelsch LEED AP BD+CA, Green Building Program Manager, Office of Sustainability and Environmental Management, Arlington Department of Environmental Services

## AppendixB: Request to Add a Custodial Worker Appreciation Day / Week to APS Calendar

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### **Memo**

To: Arlington Public School Board  
Attention: Tannia Talento, Vice Chair

From: Rachel Lang and Andrew Soles on behalf of the Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Sustainability (SACS)

Date: June 17, 2019

Subject: Request to add a Custodial Worker Appreciation Day to the annual calendar

This memo is to request that the Arlington Public School Board approve the addition of a Custodial Worker Appreciation Day to the annual calendar.

On behalf of the Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Sustainability (SACS), we request that a Custodial Worker Appreciation Day be observed on October 2 each year, in recognition of services custodians provide to maintain building operations and to keep our buildings clean and enjoyable for students, staff, and visitors.

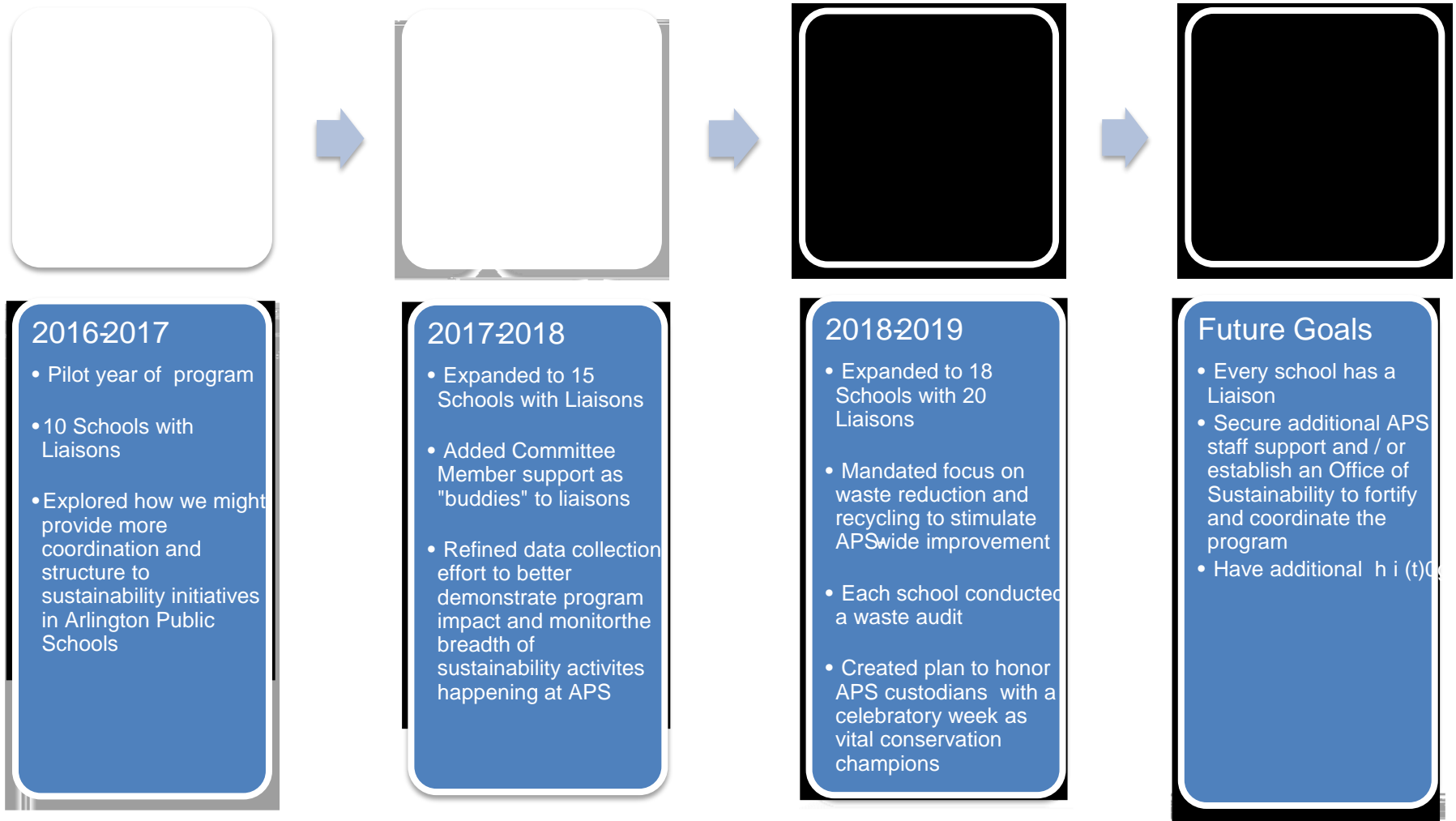
Arlington Public Schools (APS) has a long tradition of celebrating teachers, staff, and

The custodial staff at APS are often unrecognized champions for sustainability, making extra efforts to sort recycling and comply with complicated sorting and handling. We want to ensure that we honor and share the many stories of custodial staff that go the extra mile to help APS recycle, both through their influence and actions.

Through an APS-

Appendix C

# APS Sustainability Liaison Program Overview



The Arlington Public Schools (APS) Sustainability Liaison Program was created in 2016 to help bolster sustainability in APS so that students, staff, parents, and the communities at their schools gain environmental literacy and exhibit behaviors that reflect sustainability in their lives and the culture of the schools. Principals nominate interested teachers to serve as the liaisons for their school. In exchange for completing a certain number of sustainability tasks and projects, teachers receive a small stipend.