

Santa Cruz City Schools
GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE
Meeting of 11/7/19

Minutes

Attendance at Meeting:

Amity Sandage, SC County Office of Education
Anne Rumbaugh, AFE Parent
Chris Soriano, Museum of Natural History
Chris Tom, City of Santa Cruz
Dan Lazarus, Santa Cruz County Parks
Dorothee Ledbetter, AFE Resource Teacher
Elnora Lewis, Harbor High Recycle Club
Jeremy Shonick, SCCS Trustee
Joanne Brown, AFE Teacher
Kris Munro, Superintendent
Leslie O'Malley, City of Santa Cruz, Waste Reduction
Phoenix Rumbaugh, AFE Student
Ronnie Lipschutz, UCSC
Stu Branoff, Bay View Elementary Teacher
Tiffany Wise-West, SC City Climate Action Program
Trevor Miller, Director, SCCS Facility Services

Call to Order

Superintendent Kris Munro called the Green Schools Committee meeting to order at 6:00 pm. in the District Office. She welcomed all attendees and invited them to introduce themselves.

Agenda

Phoenix Rumbaugh, an Alternative Family Education student was added to the agenda.

4/9/19 Meeting Minutes

Members reviewed the draft minutes of the 4/9/19 Green Schools Committee meeting. The minutes were approved.

Dorothee Ledbetter - AFE Science Night Workshops

Dorothee reported on the monthly science night workshops she is leading at Alternative Family Education. The workshops are designed for parents and students. The September workshop focused on the nature of science, and the October workshop on water. The November workshop will study air and in December, carbon footprints will be explored. Dorothee invited Members to participate in simple experiments while enjoying delicious snacks she had prepared. Thank you, Dorothee!

Phoenix Rumbaugh – AFE Class

Phoenix Rumbaugh is a student at Alternative Family Education who is planning to teach a class for AFE students on Santa Cruz history during spring semester. He is planning bi-weekly field trips to historical locations, like Evergreen cemetery, the Santa Cruz Mission, areas affected by the 1989 earthquake, the limekilns and the previous site of the Santa Cruz Chinatown. Phoenix has nine students signed up for his class.

Members responded enthusiastically to these class plans, and offered information on other historical projects, like the Chinatown Bridge Entrance Arch to be installed soon near San Lorenzo Park. The local Ahma Mutsun tribe is working on relearning their cultural history. The City of Santa Cruz leads City tours that focus on

sustainability. Trustee Jeremy Shonick commended Phoenix for his work on this class, and stated that he would like to see a presentation made to the Board like the ones heard tonight from Phoenix and Dorothee.

Leslie O'Malley and Chris Tom - Santa Cruz City Waste Reduction

Leslie distributed new stickers from the Waste Reduction Department, which incorporate "rot, rethink and refuse" into the previous slogan of "reduce, reuse and recycle". It is important to refocus on rethink and refuse. Leslie said she was happy to see the Food Service report on food sharing and composting programs.

Chris Tom, a SC City Intern, updated Members on the Green Business Certification Program. Checklists are available to guide small businesses. A handbook is being created for schools. Chris mentioned the "Wally Waste Not" challenge offered in Salinas Valley, which awarded cash prizes to schools who participated in the program. Tiffany Wise-West of SC City commented that some \$500 mini-grants are available from City Waste Reduction.

Supt. Kris Munro commented that lighting improvements have been made at the sites. Previously, Bay View and Soquel High worked with the County to qualify for the Green Ribbon certification. Mission Hill was working towards the certification as well. The State bronze award and a cash prize was awarded to Bay View.

Tiffany Wise-West – SC City Climate Action

An exhibit on the impacts of sea level rise is now on display at the downtown library through mid-February. It shows 3D images of the coastline, projecting what is to come. This is an immersive exhibit for ages 13 and older.

Tiffany recognized Trevor Miller for installing signs in school parking lots for the Idle Free Campus project. City public works installed signs in the public roadways. Tiffany worked with principals and provided text to use in school newsletters. Tiffany thanked all for their efforts to inform the public about the 90-second idling limit.

Tiffany presented information on the Mayor's Health in All Policies Initiative, which looks to incorporate sustainability, equity and public health as core lenses through which to frame public policies. Since last summer, City representatives have conducted a listening tour to identify citizens' concerns and priorities. The intent is to direct City Council and Departments to work efficiently and with more intentionality regarding these priorities, with the goal being community health. Tiffany asked Members to give input on what they see as priorities. Ideas discussed included affordable housing, access to the environment, and addressing the social and cultural division of people.

Chris Soriano – Museum of Natural History

Chris spoke about the Museum's Earth Stewards program, which is designed for high school students. This program is for volunteers to work after school, on weekends and during the summer. Students can learn about landscape design, solar energy design, installation, and habitat restoration working in areas like the Homeless Garden, Neary Lagoon and the creek next to the Museum. For students not college-bound, this is an opportunity to explore other careers. Chris said that he would like to work with teachers to understand what would work best for students. State Parks may be another partner in this program. It was suggested that Chris contact Branciforte Small Schools. Joanne Brown of AFE said their Ecology Class would come to the Museum one day/week to work on habitat restoration.

Amity Sandage – Santa Cruz County Office of Education

Amity spoke about a new grant received from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program. This supports the work of the County Science Initiative with teacher leaders to create and refine lesson sequences, and to align K-12 learning about the watershed, ocean and climate.

Amity also spoke about a new County initiative to encourage students to take action on issues about which they care. High school students are invited to help plan a spring summit, featuring panels of education leadership and partner agencies who will share what the schools are doing. This will be a great opportunity for

groups to mix and collaborate. Tiffany Wise-West of SC City said that the City Climate Action Plan sunsets in 2020, and that she would like to start a youth group to generate interest. Kris Munro said she would send an announcement out to the high schools regarding these opportunities.

SCCS Updates

Food Services

Food Services Director Amy Hedrick-Farr was not able to attend this meeting, but sent an update. By the end of 2019-2020, all paper products will be 100% recyclable, biodegradable and/or compostable. Gault Elementary and Mission Hill Middle School are piloting share stands. Amy included an information memo, describing how the food share station program works. In-house composting has been started at Delaveaga Elementary, Mission Hill Middle and Soquel High Schools.

Trevor Miller – Facility Services, Bond Projects and Transportation

Trevor showed slides of work completed and ongoing at various sites, including the new pool, a new fire access road and new water sprinkler system at Soquel High, and the relocated pool and new basketball courts at Harbor High. Other slides featured the refurbished gym at Santa Cruz High, the new shelter for students awaiting pick-up at Mission Hill Middle, new modular classrooms at Delaveaga and Bay View Elementaries, and refreshed exterior paint at Gault Elementary. At Branciforte Small Schools, new modular classrooms are replacing the old portables and a breezeway is being constructed. The roof is being replaced at Westlake with a new one, which should last 60-80 years. Kris Munro expressed her appreciation to the community for supporting the bond measures.

Trevor updated Members on the DROPS grant at Bay View. Water tanks have been delivered. The project includes bioswales and tanks for rain catchment. It is linked to the Life Lab program.

The Transportation Department now has an all-electric bus! It will run for 155 miles. An electric charging station is to be installed in the Transportation yard. The bus will take five hours to charge. The electric bus was obtained through a grant. Older buses are to be replaced. Two large buses, which run on clean diesel, will allow trips out of town. Smaller buses to transport special needs students are much more economical for fuel.

Supt. Kris Munro - Parcel Tax Update

Kris announced that the Board of Trustees had voted to continue and consolidate the District's current parcel taxes into two parcel taxes, one for the elementary schools and one for the secondary schools. These taxes supply 8% of the District's budget. California is 41st in the nation for education funding. She expressed her gratitude for the community's support, and for the Board's leadership.

Kris also announced that the Jim Monreal had taken the position of Assistant Superintendent for Business Services. Jim will start work on November 8.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Kris Munro thanked attendees for coming. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Meyer-Johnson
Executive Assistant
Business Services

Kris Munro
Superintendent