

Santa Cruz City Schools
GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE
Meeting of 12/5/17

Minutes

Attendance at Meeting:

Stu Branoff, Bay View Elementary Teacher
Joanne Brown, AFE Teacher
Sallie Corbin, Mission Hill Middle School Teacher
Patrick Gaffney, Asst. Supt., Business Services
William Goss, Project Pollinate
Gabe Jameson, AFE Student
Elnora Lewis, Harbor High SDC Teacher
Jessica Martinez-McKinny, Santa Cruz Water Dept.
Heather Murphy, Science Coach
Leslie O'Malley, City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction
Amity Sandage, CREEC Network
Jeremy Shonick, SCCS Trustee
Becky Steinbruner, AFE Parent
Bria Steinbruner, AFE Student

Call to Order

Asst. Superintendent Patrick Gaffney called the regular Green Schools Committee meeting to order at 6:00 pm. in the Harbor High Library.

Student Subcommittee

Harbor High SDC Recycling Club – Elnora Lewis

Harbor High SDC Teacher Elnora Lewis attended on behalf of Ahmad Aziz, her SDC aide, who is active in the Harbor High SDC Recycling Club. Ahmad could not attend as he had a work commitment. The Club has been in existence since 2002, after a career awareness field trip to the Recycle Center. The Club participates in campus beautification projects. They collect and separate recyclable materials using blue recycle cans with labeled compartments for different types of recycle materials. They redeem recycled materials for cash, which supports a Club scholarship and grad pizza party. The Club encourages the campus community to keep their recyclables outside the trash the can.

Heritage Garden Project at Branciforte Small Schools – Bria Steinbruner

AFE Senior Student Bria Steinbruner gave an update on the heritage garden project at Branciforte Small Schools. She reported that the plants and Monarch caterpillars are doing well. Fellow AFE student Gabe Jameson took photos and measurements, then drafted renderings of the proposed project. Donations of landscaping materials were received from Central Home Supply. Levi Glatt, graduate of AFE, is consulting on plant selection. Bond renovations will affect the other side of the campus. There is a bee hive in one of the palm trees on that side. Will Glover offered to assist with the bees if they must be moved. The proposed heritage garden path will have a crushed granite ADA accessible path and plaques depicting Native American history of the area. The Coastanoan Ahmah Mutson Ohlone tribe has been contacted for information to be depicted on the plaques. A mural

regarding the Ohlone people was suggested, to be painted possible on the 6' tall fence next to the school building.

It was suggested that the students contact Larkin Wilson of Harbor High to discuss making a video of the project's evolution. District administrators advised that the students confer with the architects working on modernization plans for Branciforte Small Schools, and that a proposal including facility modification paperwork and images be brought to the Board. Perhaps some bond money could help fund the project.

Mission Hill Middle School Recycling and Waste Reduction – Sallie Corbin

Sallie Corbin, an 8th grade teacher from Mission Hill Middle schools spoke about her work with MH students on reducing use of plastic products which end up in the great Pacific Gyre. They met with the Director of Food Services to explore eliminating the plastic straws that come with cafeteria juice boxes. There is a continuing effort to eliminate the use of single serve plastics. A different class goes out daily to pick up trash on school grounds, to see if this will translate to less litter being generated. Morning announcement videos and Instagram posts have also been used. Sallie said that to be successful, a team effort should include Grades 6-8 students, perhaps through a three year plastic unit curriculum, coordinated with other teachers. Leslie O'Malley of City Waste Reduction offered to help engage students. Sallie said the challenge is to keep students involved after they leave the class. Will Glover suggested "peace benches" to be constructed from plastic bottles with waste inside. This was mentioned previously in connection with Gault, and might be an excellent way to raise awareness. Other schools might wish to collaborate.

Regular Meeting Agenda Topics

Jessica Martinez-McKinny, Santa Cruz City Water Dept.

Jessica spoke about the City's partnership with SCCS for the elementary grades watershed field trips. In 2018, 5th and 6th grade students will participate. For 2017, over 300 students have visited the Loch Lomond reservoir, including students from Delaveaga, Bay View and Westlake. Last year rain and ranger availability limited the trips. They are considering calendaring the trips in the fall, closer to the start of the school year. An assembly would introduce students to where water comes from, who shares it and about the field trip. Classroom materials are available to any teacher, which depict the source of water and how it is treated. The topographic model of Loch Lomond and the surrounding area has been replaced. Activities replace the previous long lecture. Students learn how to read the map, and carry out experiments on water run-off, comparing turbidity, and how trash ends up in the reservoir. Transportation to Loch Lomond has been a challenge. Jessica will meet with principals in the spring to plan next year's trips. Stu Branoff of Bay View Elementary commented that the ranger met their bus at the turn and escorted them through the tricky parts. He likes the fall field trips, and said that students can build on what they learned throughout the year. He commended Jessica for her hard work. Jessica showed a video of the Loch Lomond model and how water run-off works.

City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction - Leslie O'Malley

Included in the agenda packet was Leslie's Annual Report for 2016-17 on School Recycling & Waste Reduction Program. She has contacted principals to make them aware of the recycling services and opportunities available from the City. She visited the Westlake Environmental Club twice and noted that schools need hands on experiences to promote better awareness. Mission Hill Middle School has completed the Green School Certification. The City checklist for certification focuses on energy awareness, recycling and lightening chemical use, much like the District is already doing.

At present, not much from the school lunch program can be recycled, as it must be compostable. The county has different definitions of what is recyclable. They accept clamshells, for example. It has become more difficult to find warehouse space to house recyclable materials. Vendors don't like paper straws; an alternative is to provide straws upon request. The Santa Cruz message is "Reuse, Reduce, Recycle." Don't create the waste in the first place! People are recycling too much.

Curriculum Update – Heather Murphy & Amity Sandage – CREEC Network

Heather Murphy, Science Coach for SCCS, introduced Amity Sandage, the Regional Coordinator for the State's Educational Network. Her mission is to connect schools with outside resources, field trips, curricula, etc. At a previous Green Schools meeting, Amity shared a county-wide project to connect programs and resources which fit NGSS topics and goals. Heather said that in K-6 grades, not every student has science every year. Field trips provide fun activities with educational components. The challenge is how to make programs more robust, to ensure conceptual understanding of scientific concepts across grades. There are plans to add more watershed projects and related curriculum strands, and to work during the summer with teachers and providers.

Amity distributed a brochure that outlines program offerings by outside agencies, organized by grades. A more complete list is available online. SCCS has the Educator Effectiveness Grant to support professional development in NGSS subject areas. Additional funding may also be available from the CA Department of Education. The proposal being considered is eight paid days for teachers and educators to work together. SCCS is currently developing a Master Curriculum Plan, which incorporates environmental literacy. Environmental principals and concepts should also be included.

Update from Project Pollinate – Will Glover

Previously, Will spoke to the Green Schools Committee about changing the IPM (Integrated Pest Management) policy in schools. Will reported that at the City of Santa Cruz meeting on 11/28/17, the City passed a resolution supporting a six month pilot program to use non-toxic chemicals for groundskeeping. The focus was to eliminate the use of glyphosate, which is contained in the commercial product, Round-Up. It eliminates both targeted and non-targeted plants, leaches into the ground and enters the water supply. It has been linked to several health issues. Project Pollinate is helping to develop a coalition between environmental organizations and contractors to design a new IPM policy.

Project Pollinate is working with some schools to develop educational curriculum regarding pollinators and preservation, and pesticides. Will invited attendees to sign up with the coalition he is promoting. He is available to do garden installations for pollinators.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Meyer-Johnson
Administrative Assistant
Business Services

Patrick K. Gaffney
Asst. Superintendent
Business Services