

Santa Cruz City Schools
GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE
Meeting of 10/13/15

Minutes

Call to Order

Asst. Superintendent Jim Monreal called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. in the Harbor High Library.

Attendance at Meeting:

Andrew Bird

Andy Moskowitz, Seed Culture Labs

Bill Maxfield, Delaveaga Elementary School

Branna Banks, Soquel High School

Jim Monreal, Asst. Supt., Business Services

Joanne Brown, Alternative Family Education

Ken Wagman, Community Member

Mark Thomas, Branciforte Small Schools, GSCFT

Mary Simmons, City of Santa Cruz

Mollie Behn, Coastal Watershed Council

Stacey Falls, Santa Cruz High School

Stu Branoff, Bay View Elementary School

Trevor Miller, Facility Services

Wyeth Wunderlich, Global Student Embassy

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Monreal thanked Ken Wagman and Bill Maxfield for their leadership roles in establishing the Green Schools Committee (GSC). He noted the partnerships that had been forged with other organizations and the positive impact that had been made on students.

Mr. Monreal gave a brief history of recent actions pertaining to the GSC. The District's Parcel Tax Oversight Committee (PTOC) was the subject of a Santa Cruz County Grand Jury investigation earlier this year. In response to their report, Bylaws were created for PTOC, in keeping with Brown Act rules governing Board-directed committees. Originally, the GSC was a 23 member board, which sometimes made it difficult to have a quorum. The Board took action to make the GSC a District committee, rather than a Board committee, in order to have more flexibility in how it operates. We will still have minutes to document GSC actions.

Mr. Wagman stated that the Board had rescinded the original resolution creating the GSC and asked if it had been rewritten. Mr. Monreal will research the Board's directions. Mr. Maxfield distributed copies of the original resolution creating the GSC. Mr. Wagman stated that a new

resolution should be approved, including the value statement, means and goals of the original resolution.

Mr. Monreal acknowledged the past GSC records that had been sent to his office by Mr. Wagman, and said that they would be posted on the Green Schools website.

Agenda

Mr. Wunderlich suggested that rain catchment be added to the agenda.

Agenda

Mr. Monreal asked if there were any changes to the Agenda. Upon a motion from Mark Thomas, seconded by Bill Phillips, the Agenda was adopted unanimously as presented.

Minutes of Meeting of 5/12/15

The Minutes of the last GSC meeting on 5/12/15 were approved unanimously (M/S/P, Thomas/Falls).

SCCS Update

Mr. Monreal reported that Board Members are now using an electronic Board packet program to view the Board documents on iPads, in order to reduce paper usage.

Trevor Miller updated the GSC on the Soquel High School Football Field Project. The Board directed staff to find an alternative to recycled rubber. EPDM is a manufactured product, mostly rubber, but not containing the other materials found in tires. It does not require water to be maintained. A 1.5 inch thick polymer pad, good for 20 years, was installed under the rubber, to keep the rubber from getting packed down. Beneath the pad is a porous rock, through which water trickles out.

Discussion followed. Grass was not an alternative because high usage by students and by outside groups damages the field every year. Contracted help would be needed to rehabilitate a grass field, at a cost of \$50-60,000 per year, without enough time for the grass to grow. Cork was considered, but requires water. At Santa Cruz High, there are grass fields maintained by school staff. Water catchment could help, but adequate storage for the water required to maintain grass is a challenge. Existing irrigation at schools will be considered with future installations. Artificial turf fields are "cleaned" when it rains. Last summer the fields at Mission Hill and Branciforte Middle School were cleaned, and staff are working on a maintenance plan going forward. The materials in EPDM do not allow bacteria to grow.

Mr. Monreal reported on the Long Range Facilities Master Plan currently being worked on by architects, who are meeting with school staff and community partners to identify facility needs. Expected completion date of the Plan is April, 2016. The last bond measure for SCCS was passed in 1998.

Mr. Miller reported that the custodial process has been modified to include only green-certified chemicals. All bleach and other grocery store purchases have been eliminated. All chemicals have been documented. We are now working with only 2.5 companies. The green products are not always the cheapest. It was commented that standardizing chemicals was a hurdle in the Green Business Certification process at Bay View and Soquel High School. It was suggested that Green Business Certification could be pursued for Santa Cruz High School, which is 100 years old, perhaps with help from Sue Lisin, a SCHS parent and previous member of GSC. 133 Mission Street is ripe for water, light and efficiency upgrades. Mr. Monreal will look into this.

Mr. Miller reported that SCCS is participating in a JPA agreement to replace or retrofit school busses. Staff is looking into options for applying to replace two buses.

DROPS Water Conservation Grant

Bay View Elementary was awarded a \$486,200 DROPS grant for rain water collection projects at the school. They were aided in their application by UCSC engineering students and Santa Cruz City partners. Rain barrels will be placed all across the back of the school, to collect water dripping from the gutters. Some play areas are being repaved, and wood chips replaced with a permeable rubber material. The project includes bioswales to direct water off the parking lots and to collect dirty water. The front part of the campus will be taken up with bioswales, benches with information on environmental plantings. The work will probably be done by a contractor, with perhaps some help from volunteers.

Members discussed rain catchment project proposals at other sites. Joanne Brown reported that Alternative Family Education received a \$2,000 grant from Driscoll's for rain catchment. Jean Mahoney at Branciforte Middle School applied for a grant from Driscoll's, but the project had to be scaled down to include a required ADA pathway to the rain catchment equipment. The asphalt at Branciforte Middle made this possible. It would be far more expensive to install an ADA pathway at Santa Cruz High School, the other school which applied for the DROPS grant.

Watershed Curriculum

An update with information on the Watershed Program prepared by Jennifer Wildman, Curriculum Director was included in the agenda packet. Staff expressed their appreciation of support from Santa Cruz City for this program, including funding for field trip transportation this year, which allows this popular program to be offered to more students. Ms. Wildman is working on linking this program to the next generation of 4th and 5th grade science standards.

Updates from the City of Santa Cruz

Mary Simmons, of Santa Cruz City Recycling, provided information on City programs. She acknowledged Agnes Topp who was unable to attend tonight's meeting, for her work on the DROPS grant.

This fall trips are scheduled for 3rd and 5th graders from Gault and Westlake to visit the resource recovery facility, using grant funds from CAL Recycle. Field trips for Delaveaga and Bay View students are planned in the spring. Ms. Simmons distributed copies of "Trash Talk", a

newsletter for students, which provides information on the DROPS grant, Earth Day class challenges, and the Santa Cruz Recycles poster contest, which was won by 2 students from Delaveaga. Their posters will soon be seen on the side of City Recycling trucks. The annual "Trash to Fashion" show took place recently. There will be a teen show in the spring. Julia Davenport is assisting with combining various City efforts.

Mollie Behn, who has recently joined the Coastal Watershed Council, introduced herself and said that she looks forward to finding ways to work with schools, and appreciated the ideas being expressed at the meeting.

Ecology Action Update

Jeanne LePage of Ecology Action was unable to attend tonight's meeting, but provided an email with updates on various programs, including the "Active4Me" program at Delaveaga, in which students are issued tags, and on the days they walk, skate, bus or bike to school, their tag is read by a program that awards points towards prizes for more active trips. BikeSmart (bike rodeo) safety education is being offered to 5th grade students. Bay View provides a monthly breakfast snack celebration to reward active student transportation. The traditional biannual Bike/Walk to School takes place at SCCS sites this fall and spring. This year, over 1,000 SCCS students participated in the Fall Bike/Walk to School Day.

U.S. Green Building Council Update

Stuart Branoff reported that 100 people participated in the Green Apple Day of Service on Sept. 26th at Bay View Elementary, doing garden work and installing bike racks, which the kids splatter-painted.

Global Student Embassy

Wyeth Wunderlich provided background on the Global Student Embassy (GSE), an organization devoted to motivating students to become environmental leaders. He visits high schools to see what projects students are interested in, including community gardens and orchards. Currently GSE is partnering with FFA at Soquel High School. Andy Moskowitz is a collaborator on projects like the one at Harbor High, where students worked on compacted, degraded soil to develop a garden. GSE has had great SCCS student participation in these extra-curricular activities, often aided by UCSC students looking for real world experience. A work day is scheduled at Santa Cruz High on Saturday, 10/17, where garden beds have been double dug, mulched, and fruit trees planted.

Committee Updates & Plans

- Stacey Falls reported that the Transportation subcommittee has been disbanded for a while, due to lack of support.
- Student Subcommittee: No students were in attendance at tonight's meeting. Ken Wagman said that a student subcommittee at Santa Cruz High School, had worked on a catalogue return project, trying to get faculty members' names off mailing lists to reduce the amount of junk mail received. Students usually meeting with the Asst. Supt.,

Business Services and the Board Member rep to GSC half an hour before the regular meeting.

Meeting Dates

Members were asked if it might be possible to move GSC meetings to Mondays, as Board Member Jeremy Shonick is not currently available on Tuesdays. Members will be notified if the meeting dates change. Meetings can be added besides the four currently scheduled, if needed.

Member Comments

Joanne Brown stated that she would love to see a project that spans all the schools in the District, as a way to unify the schools.

Adjournment

There being no further business, upon motion from Mark Thomas, seconded by Stacey Falls and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Meyer-Johnson
Administrative Assistant
Business Services

Jim Monreal
Asst. Superintendent
Business Services