

Santa Cruz City Schools
GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE
Meeting of 11/14/18

Minutes

Attendance at Meeting:

Abra Allan, Parent, Business Owner
Stu Branoff, Bay View Elementary Teacher
Joanne Brown, AFE Teacher
Patrick Gaffney, Asst. Supt., SCCS Business Services
Gray Jameson, AFE Student
Trevor Miller, Director, SCCS Facility Services
Leslie O'Malley, City of Santa Cruz, Waste Reduction
Pauline Seales, Santa Cruz Climate Action Network
Jeremy Shonick, SCCS Trustee
Tiffany Wise-West, SC City Climate Action Program

Call to Order

Asst. Superintendent Patrick Gaffney called the Green Schools Committee meeting to order at 6:35 pm. in the Harbor High Library. He invited all present to introduce themselves.

Minutes of 3/20/18 Meeting

The minutes had been sent out to expected attendees via email before tonight's meeting. There were no corrections.

Student Report

Mass Transit Model – Gray Jameson

AFE Student Gray Jameson presented the fully developed video that he previewed with the Green Schools Committee last March of a future high speed rail system running from downtown Santa Cruz to Watsonville. Using the Cities: Skylines game platform, Gray imported Santa Cruz locations and landmarks from an aerial map, showing 14 stations along the tracks, with pedestrian and auto traffic. The model Gray portrayed is an Alstrom Citadis Spirit zero emission light rail vehicle. It runs on an electric battery that partially recharges at stations and from braking. It has a maximum speed of 65 mph and is a modular design which can be expanded as ridership grows. The County now owns a rail line that could be retrofitted for a battery electric light rail system. Gray's video can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hePsaohaa-U>. Gray presented his video to the Watsonville City Council, who voted unanimously to endorse this model.

Update: Gray presented his video to the Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) on 11/15/18 at their special meeting at Watsonville City Council chambers. The RTC received an in depth presentation from RTC staff highlighting the preferred scenario. This scenario strongly supports and advocates for a rail transportation system that serves our County effectively. The Commission will vote on the scenario they wish to pursue on December 6, 2018, 9am at the County Supervisors chambers at 701 Ocean Street in Santa Cruz. Gray will continue to work on this project and produce more videos on the subject that will be shared with the community.

Climate Change Lawsuit – Pauline Seales

Pauline Seales, a speaker with the Santa Cruz Climate Action Network, spoke about the 10/29/18 rally in support of the Juliana et al v. the United States lawsuit pending since 2015. This lawsuit was filed by a group of young people aged 11-19 known as Our Children’s Trust and alleges that the government and the fossil fuel industry have long known about the harmful effects of climate change, which will harm the environment, affect future generations and infringe on their constitutional rights to life, liberty and property. Five pretrial motions were filed to dismiss the case, and all were dismissed. On 10/29/18 the matter was finally to come to trial, but the Supreme Court again put a hold on the case while it considered yet another motion to dismiss. Demonstrations were held on 10/29 in every state, and one was organized in Santa Cruz at the County Courthouse.

Curriculum Update

Bay View 5th grade teacher Stu Branoff reported that his 5th graders took part in the watershed field trip to Loch Lomond. Loch Lomond staff now have a boat and take students out on the lake. Jessica Martinez-McKinney, who previously organized the school field trips, has moved to a different position in the SC City Water Department.

Joanne Brown, AFE teacher, stepped in for Heather Murphy, Science Coach, who was presenting at the District’s English Learners Advisory Committee meeting held at the same time as the Green Schools Committee meeting. 100 families were expected to attend the DELAC event, where NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) mini-lessons were to be offered to attendees.

Joanne presented a summary of the District vision for TK-12 Science, emphasizing hands-on multi-sensory curricula to engage students, give them environmental literacy and teach them practices like what scientists and engineers do. Instruction is designed to incorporate real world phenomena which has local and global significance. The goal is to make science relevant and real.

Joanne reported that science leads are carrying forward lessons learned during the five day professional development last summer. Dan Lazarus, Santa Cruz County Parks ranger at Quail Hollow Ranch Park has worked with Joanne to plan five lessons using NGSS standards for grades 3-5. The 3rd lesson is held at the Park. Pauline Seales attended the summer professional development and offered to share many lessons she had developed that deal with climate change. Trustee Jeremy Shonick is the Board representative on the BaySci project, and said it provides a way for English learners to gain entrance to science.

Anti-Idling Campaign – Tiffany Wise-West

Tiffany Wise-West of the Santa Cruz City Climate Action Program introduced Abra Allan, a parent and owner of Motion Pacific, who had approached her with concerns about parents leaving their cars running while waiting to pick up students, resulting in exhaust polluting the air where children are present. Tiffany proposed a campaign being developed to educate parents to turn off their cars while waiting. She said there is a 2015 City ordinance restricting idling to 90 seconds when in a public right of way. The City has ordered 40 signs which will be available to schools on a first come, first served basis. The City will install them in the right of way roads in school zones. Signs may also be installed by district staff in school parking lots. In exchange, the City requests that the District works with them in an outreach campaign to educate staff, parent associations and student environmental clubs about the campaign and to enlist their support and advocacy. The City is developing tool kits including newsletter language, flyers, social media blurbs, etc. Abra mentioned that she had spoken personally to parents who were waiting for their students, reminding them that their engines were

on, and that most were happy to turn their vehicles off. It is a misconception that turning off one's engine and restarting uses more fuel than leaving the car running.

Facilities Director Trevor Miller responded that the signs would be welcomed on District campuses. Asst. Supt. Gaffney said he would check Board policies regarding signs. It was suggested that the topic be introduced at a principal's meeting, and that information could be distributed to parents as part of the "first day" packet. Tiffany asked that the District notify her if and when the City could approach parent and school environmental groups.

Santa Cruz City Waste Reduction Update – Leslie O'Malley

Winners of the annual "Santa Cruz Recycles" poster contest for students have been chosen and will be displayed in the children's department of the downtown public library. A one-way radio system has been added to student field trips to the Dimeo recycling center, allowing field trip presenters to speak directly to students, who wear headsets. Leslie commented that it keeps the kids focused. A sign-maker tool is being added to the Waste Reduction website, to enable event coordinators to create specific materials. Leslie reminded school staff that extra recycling bins are available for end of the school year cleanup. Earth Day events will take place on 4/20/19, including the class challenge contest and the teen fashion show. In her presentations to school groups, Leslie encourages them to think of other "re-" words than recycle, like re-use, reduce and refuse. Many items cannot be recycled, like clam shell containers. Per Leslie, "When in doubt, throw it out" (into the trash bin).

Bond Projects – Trevor Miller

Facility Services Director Trevor Miller noted that the popular perception is that modernization is taking a long time to actualize. He said that the planning process is complex and driven by many factors. Over the summer, many new roofs were installed on District schools, with an expected life of five to six decades. At Delaveaga, the parking lot has been reconfigured, LED lighting installed, and a rain shelter built for students at the pick-up point. A bioswale was created to collect run-off from the parking lot. A new ADA ramp now runs from the street to the front door. These improvements make it much safer for students. This type of work will be happening at all the District sites, including upgrading utility systems and creation of new fire lines for better protection. At the Small Schools campus and new inclusionary playground was installed with a permeable rubber surface. Students were very excited at the ribbon cutting. A new ADA ramp to the lower level of the school is to be installed soon.

Next Meetings

Meetings are scheduled on Tuesday 1/29/19 and Tuesday, 4/2/19, from 6:00 -7:30 pm.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Pat Gaffney thanked attendees for coming. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Meyer-Johnson
Executive Assistant
Business Services

Patrick K. Gaffney
Asst. Superintendent
Business Services