

Santa Cruz City Schools
GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE
Meeting of 5/9/17

Minutes

Call to Order

Asst. Superintendent Patrick Gaffney called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. in the Harbor High Library.

Attendance at Meeting:

Amity Sandage, SC COE CREEC Network
Becky Steinbruner, AFE Parent
Brie Steinbruner, AFE Student
Heather Murphy, SCCS Science Curriculum Coach
Jeremy Shonick, SCCS Trustee
Leslie O'Malley, City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction
Patrick Gaffney, Asst. Supt., Business Services
Steve Murphy, US Green Building Council
Stu Branoff, Bay View Elementary
Tiffany Wise-West, City of Santa Cruz Climate Action Program
Trevor Miller, Facility Services

Welcome and Introductions

Asst. Supt. Patrick Gaffney welcomed attendees to the meeting and invited all to introduce themselves to the group.

Agenda

Asst. Supt. Gaffney reviewed the agenda and contents of the agenda packet. Members were provided with the draft minutes of the Green Schools meeting of 2/7/17, a draft spreadsheet prepared by Amity Sandage of the SC COE CREEC Network, with information on curriculum topics and related programs offered by local agencies and organization, and the draft 2016-17 Annual Report for the Green Schools Committee.

Minutes of GSC Meeting of 2/7/17

The minutes of the last GSC meeting were reviewed. Tiffany Wise-West of the SC City Climate Action Program clarified that the "learning lunches" being sponsored by the City are for City employees and not the general public. Leslie O'Malley of the SC City Waste Reduction Department noted that she had not actually met with Heather Murphy yet. With these corrections, the minutes were approved unanimously (M/S/P, Shonick/Wise-West).

SCCS Update

- a. Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) – Heather Murphy, SCCS Science Curriculum Coach
Heathy provided an overview of how NGSS is being developed in the District. Staff are working with BaySci, an organization of science educators who work to support districts in implementing the shared goals of NGSS and Common Core, by providing leadership seminars and assistance with planning. After the passage of the 2004 Environmental Initiative, 100 educators and scientists worked together to agree on concepts for K-12 students to learn

going forward. Heather presented a power point which gave details on the goals and methods to be implemented. She spoke about this year's progress, with AP Biology and AP Chemistry being taught at Harbor and Soquel High Schools, incorporating the ecology of climate change ocean acidification and the watershed of Arana Gulch.

- b. California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) – Amity Sandage
Heather introduced Amity Sandage of the Santa Cruz County Office of Education. CREEC is administered by the State of California and works to connect teachers with resources, grants, field trips and help with integrating environmental education into regular education. CREEC works to connect organizations providing resources with districts, with the goal of avoiding redundancy and being equitable. Working with Pajaro Valley USD and SCCS, CREEC has collected information on programs available in Santa Cruz County. Amity went over the sample draft summary of resources and topics for 5th grade education included in the agenda packet. She explained that this is a work in progress, and invited input from meeting attendees. An example of linked agencies is the Watershed project. The City wants the public to be informed, and the schools need to get kids out to do real science, as is happening at Harbor High where students have a study unit on Arana Gulch. Stu Branoff of Bay View Elementary stated that related curriculum is taught before and after the students go on the watershed field trips, to extend the impact. At Soquel High teachers worked with the Climate Change Speakers Bureau to create a unit. Students collected and analyzed data. Brie Steinbruner of AFE commented that she had enjoyed the 8th grade Neary Lagoon Bird Project. Amity requested that a link to her website be sent to meeting participants and invited input to the resource spreadsheet. Tiffany Wise-West of the Santa Cruz City Climate Action Program said that they had been approached by the Climate Change Speakers. The City is willing to work with them but does not have teachers. It was commented that volunteers with expertise are needed for the Arana Gulch watershed investigation.
- c. Pat Gaffney gave a brief update on the District's bond projects. Currently, the District is in the planning stage. A project calendar will soon be available. Fluorescent lights are being changed to lower energy LED bulbs. Decisions on Harbor High projects are dependent on creekbed factors. There is a link on the District's website to a page with updates on the bond projects.

City of Santa Cruz Updates

- a. Tiffany Wise-West – Santa Cruz City Climate Action Program
Tiffany reported that Earth Day was a success. The City has received grants for energy projects at City Hall and the Police Department, and partnered with eight organizations on a tree planting grant. Thursday, 5/11 is Bike to School day. Micro grants are available for projects west of the San Lorenzo River.
- b. Leslie O'Malley - City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction
Leslie spoke about the home battery disposal program at Bay View School. This non-competitive program was rewarded with a certificate and a check for \$200.00. The annual poster contest is winding down. Leslie said that the City wants to work with the District on composting. They are two years away from curbside collection of food waste, and are focusing on food waste reductions first. Leslie met with Nick Coonrod of Global Students Embassy to discuss ways to build a "learning" bridge/mentorship with Bay View Elementary and Mission Hill Middle School students, possibly in the form of a bottle brick bench project. Heather asked how to get on information on local careers and job opportunities out to District

students. Information can be sent to school counseling offices and to school newsletters. Students may be considered for internships.

US Green Building Council Updates

- a. Steve Murphy stated that for the past 5 years the US Green Building Council has supported the Green Apple Day of Service world-wide. It provides opportunities for improvements at schools; in the SCCS District, Bay View Elementary and Mission Hill Middle have participated. The event usually takes place on the last Saturday in September, but it is not necessary that it happens on that day only. Stu Branoff advised that it is better to plan it in the spring, as the beginning of school is always so busy. Past projects have included getting people off spam lists, weeding in the LifeLab, redoing landscaping.
- b. Stu Branoff reported that Bay View Elementary has just been recertified as a "Green School." Bay View first earned this certification in 2013.

Proposition 39 Update

- a. Trevor Miller, Facility Services Director, reported that the District is coming to the end of the Phase 1 project to install LED lights at the sites. More funding will be available from the State.
- b. At Harbor High, a CEQA will be done for the athletic field project. The District is working with a hydrologist to address flood plain considerations. The plan is to complete the project in time for the homecoming game in 2018, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the school. After the CEQA, the project will go to the Dept. of the State Architect (DSA). If the field floods, the artificial turf will be lost. Cork is now being used as the underlying layer, rather than rubber. Cork does not smell and microbes cannot grow on it. The turf, made from nylon, is 20-30 degrees cooler.

DROPS Grant at Bay View Elementary

- a. Stu Branoff shared that staff are working with Tamara of IDEAS at UCSC on writing the curriculum, which is one of the grant requirements. It will be tied to the watershed curriculum.
- b. Trevor Miller said that the project is to be bid on 6/12/17. The project is too small to attract a lot of interest. The goal is to get the heavy elements done over the summer, then to work with volunteers on the planting. A mini documentary is being made about the project. Water tanks are now installed by each portable. Because the portables will be eliminated when Bay View is modernized, the water tanks have been moved near the existing structures, and will later be moved near the new permanent buildings. Trevor stated that periodic rains can usually be used, but steady rain cannot, and will run off.

Annual Report to the Board

- a. A draft annual report was included in the agenda packet. It will be updated and presented to the Board on 5/24/17. It will be included in the next Green Schools Committee agenda packet.

Brie Steinbruner, AFE Student

Brie told the Committee about the historic rose landscaping project she is doing at Branciforte Small Schools. Ecology Action provided \$500 which was used for work around the school's monument. Brie met with an irrigation specialist, obtained approvals, installed mulch and drip irrigation. She worked with the other small schools and Head Start to use cardboard to make adobe bricks. Brie informed the group that there would be a Fandango in July to celebrate Villa Branciforte.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Meyer-Johnson
Administrative Assistant
Business Services

Patrick K. Gaffney
Asst. Superintendent
Business Services