

**GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE  
NINTH ANNUAL REPORT  
JUNE 14, 2017**

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## **2016-17 GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE ATTENDEES/REPORTS**

### ***Community Experts & Parents***

Molly Behn	Coastal Watershed Council
Nick Coonrod	Global Student Embassy
Elida Erickson	University of California Santa Cruz, Sustainability Director
Jeanne LePage	Ecology Action representative and traffic study coordinator
Steve Murphy	US Green Building Council
Leslie O'Malley	City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction
Shawn Orgel-Olson	City of Santa Cruz Green Business Program
Amity Sandage	SC County Office of Education, CREEC Network
Mary Simmons	City of Santa Cruz Recycle!
Becky Steinbruner	AFE Parent
Felicia Van Stolk	Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History
Tiffany Wise-West	City of Santa Cruz Climate Action Program

### ***District Staff***

Patrick Gaffney	Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Catherine Meyer-Johnson	Administrative Assistant to the Committee
Trevor Miller	Director of Maintenance, Operations & Transportation

### ***Classified and Teachers***

Stu Branoff	Bay View teacher and yoyo coach
Joanne Brown	AFE consulting teacher and parent
Keresha Durham	Greater Santa Cruz Federation of Teachers Representative
Stacey Falls	Santa Cruz High teacher
Heather Murphy	Curriculum Dept. Science Coach

### ***SCCS School Board***

Jeremy Shonick	SCCS Trustee
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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The committee has met twice in 2016-17. The highlights include:

- Continued development of the partnership with Agnes Topp (City of Santa Cruz Environmental Projects Analyst), UCSC IDEASS students, engineering mentors, and district facilities staff in coordinating the implementation of the DROPS (Drought Response Outreach Program for Schools) project to increase rainwater catchment and reduce runoff at Bay View. Plans are now at the DSA for approval. Plans must include the path of travel and ADA access. The project must be planned to last for 25 years. The educational component of this project includes the landscaping and bioswales which collect water and filter it. Bids are being taken to renovate the playground area, replacing wood chips with a permeable surface, possibly artificial turf with sand underneath. This project should be completed this summer. Staff have worked with Jessica Missaghian of Santa Cruz City Water and Elise of the UCSC IDEASS

Program. The Grant requires that a documentary be created about the project, and that it be shown at three locations, one being a research institute. A professional is assisting with the video production.

- Bay View, for the fifth year in a row, participated in the Green Apple Day of service sponsored by the US Green Building Council on 9/24/16. Parents, teachers, staff, and students participated, doing garden work and installing bike racks.
- The fourth or fifth grade classes went through the Watershed Education Program with bus transportation funded by the City of Santa Cruz. This partnership made possible a program which positively affects our students.
- Partnered with Ecology Action, and are co-hosting the 2016-17 Bike/Walk to School Days. City Schools participates in the fall and in the spring events.
- In conjunction with Educational Services Department, expanded introduction and support of Global Student Embassy in SCCS. Information was shared as our students did work over spring break in Nicaragua and in Ecuador. Students from Central America visited SCCS High Schools in February and assisted with SCCS student garden projects. Students at Soquel High have spearheaded a lunch composting effort in conjunction with the AVID program. Students have the option to participate in the GSE Leadership council and can earn up to 6 units of college credit at San Francisco State.
- Two teams of Harbor High students tied for 1<sup>st</sup> place with their public service announcement videos in the Santa Cruz County Save Water and Pollution Prevention Video Contest.
- SCCS students participated in the annual Teen Fashion Show, featuring recycled materials, and in the Santa Cruz Recycles poster contest, both sponsored by SC City Public Works.
- Climatec was the vendor chosen for their Prop 39 proposal to find and implement energy savings in schools. Their initial projects were to install LED lights and fixtures in school gyms, classrooms and offices.

What follows is a report on specific activities of the Committee during the 2016-17 school year.

## **DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

The District finalized a Long Range Master Facilities Plan (LRMFP), to guide the District over the next ten years. The LRMFP reflects the anticipated facility needs of our schools and our students and provided a comprehensive base for the District's Measures A and B facilities bond measures, approved by the voters in November, 2016. The District will be upgrading numerous systems throughout our schools which will result in energy efficient technology being installed throughout our campuses.

Eight years ago, the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy was established to help Santa Cruz City Schools improve its environmental footprint through purchasing practices that seek out goods and services that have a lighter impact on human health and the environment. The policy has guided purchasing decisions towards more environmentally friendly products and services. Custodial products now include only green-certified products.

Water took center stage this year as the District continued fixing the watering systems at all the grass fields at the high schools. In addition, water use will decrease further with the installation of an artificial turf field at Harbor High School and the renovated athletic field at Soquel High School.

## **DISTRICT CONSERVATION PROJECTS**

Water conservation continued to be a high priority for the District, as the State emerges from drought conditions. Grass has become less of an alternative because high usage by students and outside groups damages athletic fields every year, necessitating expensive rehabilitation work without enough time for fields to recover, and because of the water required. During the summer of 2016 artificial turf was installed on the football field at Santa Cruz High.

The projects this year have been continuations of previous projects including utilizing Prop 39 Clean Energy

Jobs Act funding which is anticipated to be around \$2 million over the next five years.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

In partnership with the City of Santa Cruz and Ecology Action, the District encourages students and staff to participate in “Bike to School” day, to be held this year on Thursday, 5/11/17. Breakfast treats and other goodies will be given to all who participate.

SCCS received a grant from the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution District to replace two older 84 passenger buses. Funding is available as part of an initiative to minimize student exposure to diesel particulates by replacing older buses with more recent models with improved emissions control technology. The buses replaced were from 1972 and 1993.

## **CURRICULUM**

The successful Wetlands and Watershed field study program at the San Lorenzo River for fifth and fourth graders was expanded this year to include Monarch School. To make the program sustainable for the district, the City of Santa Cruz Water department provides the funding for the buses, a significant cost of the project. Curriculum science coach, teachers and Water Dept. staff worked together to integrate the watershed curriculum with the new science standards and to provide a more active and engaging educational opportunity for students. Assemblies included students calculating water use and developing models to describe water cycles. Students identified plants and animals that share the river habitat with people around the essential question: is the river healthy for plants and animals? Teachers also worked with the parks department to redesign the Loch Lomond portion of the field trip to include hands on inquiry labs, small group instruction and more active learning. Teachers worked to link the watershed project and outdoor science camp with Common Core English Learning Arts and Development to understand core science ideas and environmental literacy.

## **PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

\*\*\* Santa Cruz City Schools is a signer of the Climate Action Compact 2.0 along with UCSC and the City of Santa Cruz, among others. One of our commitments is to reduce the district's carbon footprint. This goal will be incorporated into the District's modernization projects over the coming years.

\*\*\*Continue the Student Subcommittee and encourage and support students in their projects.

\*\*\*Keep working with the city and county governments, the COE, the City Museum of Natural History, Ecology Action, the US Green Building Council, UCSC and other interested organizations that want to contribute to the district.

\*\*\*Keep the flexibility of the committee that enables local organizations to participate and make contributions to the district.