**Santa Cruz City Schools**

**GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE**

**Meeting of 1/21/20**

***Minutes***

Attendance at Meeting:

Amy Hedrick-Farr, SCCS Food Services Director

Chris Soriano, Museum of Natural History

Elnora Lewis, Harbor High Recycle Club

Jackson Damhorst, AFE Student

Jeremy Shonick, SCCS Trustee

Jim Monreal, Asst. Supt., Business Services

Joanne Brown, AFE Teacher

Keresha Durham, Soquel High/ARK Independent Studies Teacher

Call to Order

Assistant Superintendent Jim Monreal called the Green Schools Committee meeting to order at 6:05 pm. in the District Office. He welcomed all attendees and introduced himself, this being his first meeting since he came back to work at Santa Cruz City Schools.

Agenda

Trevor Miller, Director of Facility Services and Bond Projects, was unable to attend tonight’s meeting. He will update the Committee at their next meeting on 4/2/20.

11/7/19 Meeting Minutes

Members reviewed the draft minutes of the 11/719 Green Schools Committee meeting. Joanne Brown moved approval and Jeremy Shonick seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Update from Alternative Family Education – Joanne Brown

Joanne shared details about the class she will offer at AFE starting next week on Topics in Ecology. Among other things, students will study the effect of climate change on salmon eggs. They will also take a field trip to the Sand Hills in Quail Hollow Park, a protected area not usually open to the public. A biologist will accompany the group. Joanne said it was important to instill hope in students. Part of her curriculum is that each student will present a final project which represents an environmental success story.

Members encouraged Joanne to share her curriculum with other science teachers. Joanne said she would send her contacts info to Heather Murphy. The Committee would be interested to hear about students’ final projects.

Update from Elnora Lewis – Harbor High School

Harbor High now has two water filter stations on the upper campus, and two on the lower campus. Elnora has tried them out and discovered that you must have the right size bottle. She’s researching sources for the bottles. Elnora is trying to get the word out to students. Elnora’s Special Day Class students are continuing with their recycling efforts and are monitoring use by other students. Elnora asked for an update on whether a recycling center would be opening anytime soon in Santa Cruz.

Harbor High’s new swimming pool will have ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, 1/23/20 at 12:20 pm. Water polo teams are currently using the pool. It may be used for P.E. classes when the weather gets warmer.

Principal Tracey Runeare is promoting a “Green Graduation” this year, requesting that families not bring balloons or other non-biodegradable items to the ceremony. The District’s electric bus will shuttle folks from Delaveaga to Harbor High.

Update from Food Services – Amy Hedrick-Farr

Amy shared her experience with Mission Hill Middle School 7th grade students, who have focused on plastics pollution at the school, under the leadership of teacher Sally Corbin. The students presented a slide show which illustrated the plastic problem at their school and potential solutions. Amy was very impressed with the students’ work, and has implemented some of their ideas. Amy brought copies of several student presentations for Members to see.

Museum of Natural History – Chris Soriano

Chris updated Members on the Earth Stewards program he introduced at the last Green Schools meeting. Students work with Museum staff and State Park staff on restoring the creek environment next to the Museum, at State Parks and beaches on a variety of projects. Currently he is working every Friday with students from Ponderosa High School, and he hopes to offer the program next year to an additional high school, possibly as a senior project for Branciforte Small Schools. Student volunteers could work after school and on weekends. Chris has reached out to the leadership at Branciforte Small Schools and hopes to hear back soon. It was suggested that he might give a guest presentation for the ARK School.

SCCS Update – Jim Monreal

Jim updated Members on bond projects ongoing at the sites. Some are closer to completion than others. It is a challenge to manage them all at the same time. He expressed his thanks to the community for supporting the bonds. At Branciforte Middle School, improvements include enhanced security, a new music building, and upgraded wiring for technology.

Keresha Durham asked if covered, secure bike cages could be added at sites to encourage students to use alternative transportation to get to school. At Soquel High, the bike cage is unlocked, exposed to weather, and unused. Jim Monreal explained the process by which sites arrived at priorities for improvements. There are not enough funds to do everything, but priorities are reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Jackson Damhorst – AFE Student

Jackson Damhorst is a 16 year old Alternative Family Education student who has embarked on a mission to inform people how they can individually make a difference regarding climate change.  He has started a website and podcast where he interviews scientists, educators, environmental activists and community leaders on topics related to climate change. His website is [http://planetactionnow.org](http://planetactionnow.org/), and the podcast can be found at <http://planetactionnow.org/podcasts.html>. He shared his introductory podcast with Green School Committee members. It was suggested that Jackson might interview teachers, Sierra Club, and Facility Services Director Trevor Miller in future podcasts. Chris Soriano of the Santa Cruz Natural History Museum offered to provide names of guest speakers the Museum had hosted.

Adjournment

Asst. Supt. Monreal thanked AFE teacher Joanne Brown for bringing students to the Green Schools meetings. At the next meeting, the Committee will contribute ideas for the annual report. Trustee Jeremy Shonick suggested that the Committee come up with one step the Board could take that would be doable, like to promote a policy for enough bike racks at schools to serve a defined percentage of students.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Meyer-Johnson

Executive Assistant

Business Services

Jim Monreal

Assistant Superintendent

Business Services