

Santa Cruz City Schools
GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE
Meeting of 05/05/2022
Minutes

Attendance at Meeting:

- Jim Monreal, SCCS Asst. Supt. Business Services
- Wednesday Manners, SCCS Executive Assistant of HR & Business Services
- Amy Hedrick, Farr, SCCS Food Services Director
- Trevor Miller, SCCS Facility Services Director
- Clyde Curley, Principal of Westlake Elementary
- Derek Kendall, Principal of Mission Hill Middle School
- Pauline Seales, City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction
- Chris Soriano, Museum of Natural History
- Caylie Soon, City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction
- Tiffany Wise-West, City of Santa Cruz Climate Action Program
- Mary Ann LoBalbo, Santa Cruz County
- Elnora Lewis, Harbor High Recycle Club
- John Owen, SCCS Trustee
- Jeremy Shonick, SCCS Trustee

Unable to Attend:

- Dorothee Ledbetter, AFE Teacher
- Keresha Durham, AFE Teacher
- Stu Branoff, Bay View Teacher
- Zeke Bean, Santa Cruz Water Department
- Dan Lazarus, Santa Cruz County Parks
- Leslie O'Malley, City of Santa Cruz
- Amity Sandage, Santa Cruz County Office of Education
- Maryna Sedoryk, Santa Cruz Water Department
- Lexi Daoussis, Fellow City of Santa Cruz Climate Action Program
- Christina Horvat, Santa Cruz County

Call to Order:

Assistant Superintendent Jim Monreal called the Green Schools Committee meeting to order at 4:00 pm via Zoom. He welcomed all attendees.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the Green Schools Committee meeting on March 16, 2022 were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Assistant Superintendent Jim Monreal, seconded and passed unanimously. The minutes were approved.

Sustainability Update (Trevor Miller)

Director of Facilities, Trevor Miller, updated the committee on continued planning of the newest sustainable projects.

Earth Day Video

Executive Assistant Wednesday Manners showed the Earth Day video, made by Chief Communications officer Sam Rolens, to the committee.

Mary Ann LoBalbo asked what happened to the leftover black planting pots that were used by students during the project. Assistant Superintendent Jim Monreal said he would check with the school site and provide an update.

Food Services (Amy Hedrick-Farr)

Food Services Director, Amy Hedrick-Farr, updated the committee that they are getting their summer feeding program set up and that they had finished procurement and bidding for the year. She updated the committee that SCCS would no longer use the plastic spork packs and that they will be switching back to a biodegradable fork, knife and spoon when necessary. They have also re-implemented compostable and biodegradable food containers. Food Services is also looking into reducing the plastic water bottles by replacing them with boxed water.

Secondary Environmental Education

Mission Hill Middle School Principal Derek Kendall presented the steps that are being taken by SCCS Secondary schools to be more environmentally friendly and conscious. Mr. Kendall referenced the NGSS science curriculum, the Environmental Justice Club, the Garden & Nature Club and that students built owl and bird boxes in woodshop classes.

Mr. Kendall then informed the committee that the week of May 16th is Bike to School week. During the week food and refreshments will be provided to students who rode their bike to school and teachers will be going over bike safety as well as performing maintenance and tune ups on student bikes. He also reminded the committee of the district's commitment to hosting No Balloon/No Landfill graduation ceremonies. Finally, Mr. Kendall showed the committee slides of the Cowell Beach clean up and described the project that the students undertook.

Chris Soriano from Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History suggested the students make native bat and bee boxes alongside the bird and owl boxes and provided the following link with information: www.bumblebeeconservation.org/bee-nest-boxes/ .

Update from Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History (Chris Soriano):

Chris Soriano updated the committee that one of the schools they partner with, Natural Bridges High School, will be closing next year so they are looking for a new High School class that would like to use the two hour slot on Friday mornings. The participating students support building trails, removing invasive species and planting native plants. Mr. Soriano stated that they normally work with alternative education schools and the museum hoped to have a new class before the end of the school year.

Update from City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction (Caylie Soon)

Leslie O'Malley was absent so Caylie Soon updated the committee on the City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction's efforts to aid in trash free graduations. They offer bubble machines and fun vibrant dory flags in lieu of balloons! Ms. Soon informed the committee that the city offers dumpsters and carts for books, workbooks and magazines for school sites as those items should not go into the recycling at the end of the year.

Update from Youth for Climate Justice (Pauline Seales)

Pauline Seales updated the committee on the success of the county's Earth Day events this year. She stated that in previous years 70% of booths were primarily selling items, but this year in Watsonville there were no vendors, only folks looking to share information about saving our planet! Ms. Seales also updated the committee that the youth transit bill went through the transport committee and was waiting for appropriations.

Update from SC City (Tiffany Wise-West)

Tiffany Wise-West shared the results of the Earth Day Survey from the Youth for Environmental Action Summit. The facilitators included interns and two Cabrillo sustainability members. Survey takers shared that they consider transportation as a high priority issue in tackling climate change and that they get most of their environmental news from Instagram and Tik Tok with Environmental Sciences classes ranked second. Students also said they want non AP Environmental Science classes to increase accessibility, more outreach on social media, a community wide checklist of goals and they voiced a desire for more internships and volunteering opportunities for young people.

Pauline Seales commented that her program has items she calls Food Cubes (the correct name of the project being Carbon Cafe) that teachers could put into their classrooms to help students understand the physical weight of the carbon impact different food items have on our planet. These devices were developed by the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco.

Update from High Recycle Club (Elnora Lewis):

Elnora Lewis updated the committee that around five students went to the metro station to get their lifetime bus pass. While there she showed students bus safety tips such as how to lock their bike on the bus and where to get a bus pass so they do not have to carry cash.

Annual Report

Assistant Superintendent Jim Monreal asked committee members to review the annual report and send over any changes desired to their sections.

Future Meeting Dates

Projected 2022-23 Dates:

10/20/22

01/19/23

3/16/23

4/12/23

Adjournment:

Assistant Superintendent Jim Monreal thanked Committee Members for their participation and contributions, which are much appreciated. The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wednesday Manners
Executive Assistant
Human Resources & Business Services

Jim Monreal
Assistant Superintendent
Business Services