



## **Santa Cruz City Schools**

### **Green Schools Committee**

**Meeting of January 26, 2023 from 4 to 5pm Via Zoom**

#### **Minutes**

##### **Call to Order**

Assistant Superintendent Jim Monreal welcomed the committee and called the meeting to order at 4:02pm.

##### **Attendance at Meeting**

Veronica Zaleha, Santa Cruz High School Librarian  
Keresha Durham, ARK Independent Studies Teacher  
Chris Soriano, Museum of Natural History  
Pauline Seales, City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction  
Leslie O'Malley, City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction  
Janice Kelly, City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction  
Tiffany Wise West, City of Santa Cruz Climate Action Program  
Maryna S, City of Santa Cruz Water Department  
Mary Ann LoBalbo, County of Santa Cruz  
Zav Hershfield, Member of the Community (Owner of Compost Service)  
Kyle Kelley, SCCS Trustee  
John Owen, SCCS Trustee  
Thien Hua, Elementary Principal Representative  
Jim Monreal, SCCS Assistant Superintendent  
Kinsey Dickson, SCCS Executive Assistant  
Amy Hendrick-Farr, SCCS Director of Food Service

##### **Minutes of October 20, 2022 Meeting**

Assistant Superintendent Jim Monreal shared the minutes from the October 20, 2022 meeting, there were no corrections.

### **Welcome and Updates**

Assistant Superintendent Jim Monreal began introductions of the Committee members once the meeting was called to order.

### **Food Services Update–Amy Hedrick-Farr**

Amy Hedrick-Farr shared that SCCS received a Farm to Table Grant and SCCS is entering the 2nd year of grant funding for the nutrition program. Amy was in conversation with Mission Hill Middle School and is pleased to announce the site has had a 85% reduction of plastic use. Pre-pandemic, SCCS had moved to all compostable products, due to supply shortages during the pandemic the Food Service Department had to move away from compostable resources.

### **School Site Update–Thien Hua**

Derek Kendall, Mission Hill Principal is out today and Thien Hua, DeLaveaga Elementary Principal will be sharing an update on Derek's behalf.

At the Mission Hill Middle School, the recent storms were a great opportunity to have a teachable moment and learn more about ocean erosion. Science classes are currently engaged in waste reduction projects and continue to collect data about reducing waste. Students will be presenting findings and making recommendations to school administration by the end of the 2022-23 school year.

DeLaveaga has an active green team, the group goes around every friday to make sure all recycling is disposed of properly. Initiatives are in place to promote more walking and biking to school. The site is also working toward more thoughtful water conservation and will be having an assembly to inform students. The school recently received a grant to rebuild several lifelab boxes, which will be made out of all natural redwood. UCSC is teaming up with lifelab to secure additional grant opportunities. Big Creek Lumber offered an additional grant to update the school's garden space.

### **Museum of Natural History–Chris Soriano**

Chris shares that he manages the stewardship learning service programs for high school students. The museum has been partnering with local organizations to develop the program further. 15 to 20 students meet once a week to continue to remove invasive plants and plant over 235 native plant species around the museum. This week, the students have successfully cleaned-up and improved 300 feet of trails. In the future, the Museum hopes to finalize the plan for a new program focusing on earth stewardship geared towards families and kids that will be offered on Saturdays.

### **Janice Kelley, City of Santa Cruz**

Janice shared information about the City of Santa Cruz newsletter, which is a great way to stay informed about what is happening around the city. There are hopes to offer in-class presentations and activities to inform students and families about how to prevent litter, inspire more recycling, and gain greater understanding about why it is important to properly dispose of food waste. The city will be hosting a poster contest, open to all students. DeLaveaga is visiting the facilities to learn more about waste reduction in March.

Link Shared:

<https://www.cityofsantacruz.com/government/city-departments/public-works/resource-recovery-garbage-recycling-sweeping/recycling-and-waste-reduction/school-recycling-waste-reduction-p>

### **City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction Facilities–Leslie O'Malley**

Leslie O'Malley shares the development of SB1383 initiative and a landing page for all SB1383 compliance information. Leslie's team can help with education and outreach for students and families as we continue to strive for a greener future.

Link Shared: <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/schools/>

### **City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction Facilities–Tiffany Wise-West**

Tiffany shares the city adopted a resiliency action plan in September 2022. The central coast launched one uniform platform and each city has a landing page. There are over 100 prizes encouraging people to sign-up for the city's resiliency program. The city wants to partner with the schools and possibly organize prizes specifically for students and teachers. The program would be unique to the school sites participating and the city is open to discussion.

Link Shared: <https://resilientsantacruzcounty.org/santacruz>

### **Youth For Climate Justice–Pauline Sealers**

Pauline shared a comic and would like to create a local one for our schools.

Link for Printable Comic [HERE](#).

### **Zav, Community Member from Hardcore Compost**

One of the six owners of Hardcore Compost, Zav, wanted to introduce themselves and hopes to start collaborating with various school sites to inspire more composting in the community. The organization has successfully collected more than 250 household's compost, mostly kitchen waste, and uses a compost site located near the Homeless Garden Project on the West Side. They compost for about 6 months and return the compost to the participants. Hardcore Compost received a grant from Cal Recycle last

year and will reapply for funding to continue educating the community. The organization is interested in partnering with schools to educate students and families about composting and the benefits.

**Maryna, Santa Cruz Water Department**

Interested in offering a poster contest for 5th graders to participate and learn more about watersheds and why they are beneficial to our environment. Open to conversations. Anticipating that contest will take place in May.

**Mary Ann LoBalbo, Santa Cruz County**

Mary is impressed with the work of the community. Pleased to announce that Calabasas School is California's first official green school. Tours resume at the landfill. Excited to share that a group of kindergarteners want to participate in a tour.

**Kyle Kelley**

Would like to discuss transportation for students, and how we as leaders can improve student transportation.

**Keresha Durham**

Is pleased to announce that she was able to use the recent storms as a teachable opportunity to inform students about the effects caused by storms.

**Discussion**

Assistant Superintendent Monreal opened the meeting up for discussion. There were no discussions aside from the updates.

**Next Meetings**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 3/16/2023 from 4-5:30pm via zoom.

**Adjournment**

Assistant Superintendent Monreal thanked the committee for their time and input and adjourned the meeting at 4:59pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Monreal  
Assistant Superintendent  
Business Services

Kinsey Dickson  
Executive Assistant  
Business Services