

Santa Cruz City Schools

Green Schools Committee

Meeting of October 20, 2022 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
Derek Kendall, Mission Hill Middle School Principal
Leslie O'Malley, City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction
Tiffany Wise West, City of Santa Cruz Climate Action Program
Melissa Schilling, Harbor High Climate Justice Club
Jim Monreal, SCCS Assistant Superintendent
Kinsey Dickson, SCCS Executive Assistant
Trevor Miller, SCCS Director of Facility Services
Amy Hendrick-Farr, SCCS Director of Food Service

Minutes of May 5, 2022 Meeting

Assistant Superintendent Jim Monreal shared the minutes from the May 5, 2022 meeting, there were no corrections.

Introductions and Updates

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

Green Updates At School Sites–Trevor Miller

Trevor shared a presentation about the updates happening at the sites that will help some of our schools run more efficiently.

Suggested Improvements At School Sites–Keresha Durham

Keresha Durham shared suggestions on how to make sites more efficient and energy conscious. Improvements include insulation before solar updates, double-pane windows, sealing doors and windows, solar on roof-not taking up land/soil, new toilets that are more efficient, stopping the use of gas powered leaf blowers and moving to the use of electric leaf blowers.

Food Services Update–Amy Hedrick-Farr

Amy Hedrick-Farr shared that SCCS is focusing on using less plastic in the Food Service Department. Another focus has been locally sourcing food products to secure food from local farms. Water-wise choices continue to be a main focus. This year, the district has started growing plants and food at school sites that help the soil, are drought tolerant, and help educate our communities. The district continues to build relationships with new contacts at local farms, with hopes to bring fresh produce to our schools.

School Site Update–Derek Kendall

Derek Kendall, Mission Hill Principal, shared there has been an increase in students and school staff riding bikes to school and work. Mission Hill's Environmental Club investigated a tree machine program that plants a tree for donated clothing.

School Site Update–Mellissa Schilling

Over the summer, Melissa connected with a few speech pathologists to work on some listening and soft skills to introduce into the school programs. She partnered with the State Parks of Santa Cruz County, and was able to take students on a field trip to the forest to learn more about nature. The students are working on starting a podcast about this program at Harbor High School and Mellissa hopes to put together a tool-kit for other schools to adopt the program.

Museum of Natural History–Chris Soriano

Chris shares that students have been helping remove some invasive species around the museum site. The museum has been working with Santa Cruz City, Santa Cruz County, and Santa Cruz Mountain Trail Stewards for several upcoming projects. Students are taking photos of the work happening to showcase progress at the Museum and what is happening in the community. The museum recently started a middle school program for students called: Nature Club. The Nature Club went on their first hike recently.

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

Leslie O'Malley shares that In-person tours have resumed at the City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction Facilities. 3 classes from Westlake visited recently. Tours are open

and transportation is available. DeLaveaga has 3 zero waste kits at their school currently. SB1383 has occupied a lot of energy, trying to get organics out of the landfill. City representatives remain the intermediary between the state and city guidelines. .

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

Tiffany shares that the City adopted a climate action plan for 2030 in September 2022. Landscaping electrification transition incentives are moving forward. The City is also looking into building electrification in commercial and residential buildings. The city will be starting a roundtable and asking for SCCS participation. A link for the Implementation of the climate action plan was provided and included below. Tiffany also shared that the city partnered with the ocean conservation mural artists to offer a special tour with hopes of connecting art, climate, and ocean protection.

Climate Action Plan Link:

<https://www.cityofsantacruz.com/home/showpublisheddocument/90696/637983259409670000>

Resiliency Project Link: <https://resilientsantacruzcounty.org/santacruz>

Youth For Climate Justice–Pauline Sealers

Pauline Sealers suggested an event on Nov. 2

<https://scruzclimate.org/funding-for-the-future/>

Secondly, shared a link for the Local Youth Group called Youth for Climate Justice

<https://scruzclimate.org/youth-for-climate-justice/>

Discussion

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

Next Meetings

Meetings are scheduled on Thursday 1/19/2023 and 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