

Santa Cruz City Schools
GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE
Meeting of 2/7/17

Minutes

Call to Order

Asst. Superintendent Patrick Gaffney called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. in the Harbor High Library.

Attendance at Meeting:

Jeremy Shonick, SCCS Trustee

Leslie O'Malley, City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction

Patrick Gaffney, Asst. Supt., Business Services

Stu Branoff, Bay View Elementary

Tiffany Wise-West, City of Santa Cruz Climate Action Program

Trevor Miller, Facility Services

Welcome and Introductions

Asst. Supt. Patrick Gaffney welcomed attendees to the meeting and invited all to introduce themselves to the group.

Agenda

Asst. Supt. Gaffney reviewed the agenda and contents of the agenda packet. Members were provided with the draft minutes of the Green Schools meeting of 5/10/16, the 2015-16 Green Schools Report, the January 2017 newsletter from the District's Curriculum Dept. on implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards and an email update from Nick Coonrod, Global Student Embassy Coordinator for Santa Cruz County.

Minutes of GSC Meeting of 5/10/16 and 2015-16 Green Schools Report

The minutes of the last GSC meeting were reviewed. It was noted that Stu Branoff was not shown on the list of attendees. With this correction, the minutes were approved. (M/S/P, Branoff/Shonick, with Leslie O'Malley and Tiffany Wise-West abstaining). The 2015-16 Green Schools Report was presented to the District's Board on May 23, 2016, and was provided as information at tonight's meeting.

SCCS Update

a. Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

The January 2017 newsletter from the District's Curriculum Dept. on implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards was included in the agenda packet. Heather Murphy is the science curriculum coach for grades 9-12.

b. Renewal of Bay View's Green Business Certification

Stu Branoff reported that Bay View was awarded a Monterey Bay Green Business certification two years ago. Mission Hill Middle School was previously working on a certification, but had not yet completed it. Stu met with Shawn OrgelOlsen of the Santa Cruz City Green Business project to research how to renew. The renewal process seems easy, and consists of answering previous questions plus a few new ones. Bay View now has a battery collection center, LED lighting, and encourages use of refillable ink cartridges. Such efforts create a

culture of awareness. A Westside Green Business challenge will be announced in a couple of months, per Tiffany Wise-West, Santa Cruz City Climate Action coordinator

c. 4th & 5th Grade Watershed Field Trips

Stu reported that students from either 4th or 5th grade, depending on the school, participate in field trips to Henry Cowell Park to study the San Lorenzo River and also to the Loch Lomond reservoir. Unfortunately, due to heavy rain, the trip for Stu's class had to be rescheduled.

Jessica Missaghian of the Santa Cruz Water Department coordinates bus transportation, volunteers and rangers for this program. Students study curriculum on water cycles and how it moves through our community.

Proposition 39 Update – Trevor Miller, Facility Services

This program is focused on projects to find energy savings in schools. Climatec was the vendor selected to manage Prop 39 projects. The fluorescent light fixtures in gyms have been replaced with LED fixtures, which should last 7-10 years. Some fixtures must be replaced in order to provide adequate light. Potential Prop 39 projects must be evaluated in light of planned bond projects. The focus is mostly on outdoor projects which give good energy savings. The District received about \$1 million in Prop. 39 funds, with more coming in the future.

Bond Projects Update – Trevor Miller, Facility Services

The District is finalizing contracts with architects and developing a timeline for projects. The first bond series will provide about \$83 million to be split between the elementary and high school districts. Some projects address critical needs, and some are easier to do than others. Key card access and heat sensors are being discussed.

DROPS Water Conservation Grant – Bay View Elementary

It took 20 months to get a contract from the State. Plans are now at the DSA for approval. 5,000 gallon water tanks are considered structures. Plans must include the path of travel and ADA access. Trevor was asked how this project fits in with bond projects. Currently the tanks are collecting rain from the portables, but eventually the portables may be removed. The District had to show other sources of water. The project must be planned to last for 25 years.

The educational component of this project includes the landscaping and bioswales which will collect water and filter it. Curriculum will tie into the project, and will incorporate NGSS. 3rd generation UCSC volunteers are assisting with the project. Next month the District will take bids 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.

Stu Branoff reported that some teachers are being asked to develop curriculum, working with Jessica Missaghian of Santa Cruz City Water and Elise of the UCSC IDEASS Program. Stu and the Bay View Principal applied for the DROPS grant. It had to be implemented on property with the City limits. Other schools were not interested in applying. The Grant requires that a documentary be created about the project, and that it be shown at three locations, one being a research institute. The documentary should be of decent quality, and a professional has been contacted to assist with the video production.

Tiffany Wise-West – Santa Cruz City Climate Action Program

The Santa Cruz Climate Change Speakers Bureau (CCSB) contacted Tiffany and expressed their interest in working with District Schools. Tiffany said that if the District was interested, the City would work with CCSB to support implementing their program. Jeremy Shonick reported that Roland

Saher of the CCSB had met with him, Stacey Falls of Santa Cruz High and Heather Murphy, Science Curriculum Coach. CCSB representatives also came to a Board meeting. The CCSB program would be suited to middle and high school students. It was requested that staff check with Frank Wells, Asst. Supt., Educational Services and with the District Curriculum department for an update on the CCSB proposed program, and on whether it might tie into NGSS curriculum.

Tiffany reported that the City is sponsoring “learning luncheons” at which City employees can hear from organizations about ways to save energy and about basic energy literacy. She suggested that curriculum on how the City of Santa Cruz works could incorporate climate change information, and that her department could help students develop carbon footprint inventories for their school sites.

Leslie O’Malley, Santa Cruz City Waste Reduction

Leslie joined the City in July. Fall was very busy, with school tours at the recycling center. She would like to make the tours more impactful by incorporating pre and post tour activities in the classroom. Other activities through the Waste Reduction Department include student posters promoting recycling which are displayed on City buses, the recycled fashion show and the annual Earth Day celebration. Leslie said that the competition factor was being eliminated from the poster project and the Earth Day sustainable projects in order to encourage participation by students of all ages.

Ecology Action

Stu Branoff noted that Ecology Action has coordinated bike rodeos and partners with the District on Bike to School Days in October and May.

Global Students Embassy

An email from Nick Coonrod of GSE was included in the agenda packet. Nick reported that student leaders from Nicaragua and Ecuador were recently visited Santa Cruz and were hosted by students from Harbor High, Santa Cruz High, Soquel High, Pacific Collegiate, Scotts Valley High and UCSC. They participated in garden support and classroom activities. Photos of their visit were shared.

Bond Website

Jeremy Shonick said that in the District’s October newsletter mentioned that an update would be coming on where ground would be broken and how projects were environmentally safe. Trevor Reported that a bond website was being developed to provide information on current and future projects. It will also be a place where the public can ask questions.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Meyer-Johnson
Administrative Assistant
Business Services

Patrick K. Gaffney
Asst. Superintendent
Business Services