

Santa Cruz City Schools
GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE
Meeting of 4/12/16

Minutes

Call to Order

Asst. Superintendent Jim Monreal called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. in the Harbor High Library.

Attendance at Meeting:

Felicia Van Stolk, Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History
Jim Monreal, Asst. Supt., Business Services
Joanne Brown, Alternative Family Education
Mark Thomas, Branciforte Small Schools, GSCFT
Nick Coonrod, Global Student Embassy
Roland Saher, Santa Cruz Climate Change Speakers Bureau
Stacey Falls, Santa Cruz High School
Trevor Miller, Facility Services

Welcome and Introductions

Jim Monreal welcomed attendees to the meeting and invited all to introduce themselves to the group.

Agenda

Watershed Curriculum was deleted from the agenda, since there were no representatives to report on it. Roland Saher was invited to speak about his Climate Change education program in place of the Watershed item.

Minutes of GSC Meeting of 1/12/16

The minutes of the last GSC meeting were reviewed and were approved unanimously with one small typo correction. (M/S/P, Brown/Miller).

SCCS Update

Asst. Supt. Jim Monreal reported that staff are busy constructing the 2016-17 budget. The Governor's proposed budget includes additional funds coming to schools as one-time funds in smaller amounts than previously received. A joint Board/Budget Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled on 4/27. More info will be known after the Governor's May Revise budget is presented. After the May Revise, the District will conduct a public hearing on the budget, then the budget adoption, and a hearing on the Local Control Funding Plan.

Jim and Facility Services Director Trevor Miller reported on progress on the Long Range Master Facility Plan. A Facilities Steering Committee, composed of one parent and one staff member from each site, is being assembled to work with District architects on finalizing the Plan. The first meeting will be held on 4/21, and two more meetings will be held in May. The Plan is intended to cover the next ten years, and will focus on how to enhance District facilities while tying into current infrastructure. The Plan will be tied to a November bond measure for

facilities. The final Plan and outlook for a bond measure will be presented to the Board in August and September.

Proposition 39

This program is focused on projects to find energy savings in schools. Staff reviewed three firms' proposals in response to a Request for Proposals, and chose Climatec. This summer, the District's gyms will all be re-lamped. The Long Range Master Facilities Plan will drive the projects to be completed with Prop. 39 funds. District architects will meet with Climatec to identify projects. The funds must be spent by 2021, with the last release in 2018.

The District will work with the City of Santa Cruz on "Bike to School Day" counts, at eight sites, including the four elementary schools, two middle schools and two high schools. Last year the City helped fund the Safe Routes to Schools program.

DROPS Water Conservation Grant – Bay View Elementary

Trevor reported that this project is currently with the State awaiting approval. Staff have become aware of many unanticipated rules and stipulations in connection with this Grant. Whatever is installed must remain in place for 35 years. It is hoped that the approval will be received in the next two weeks. Students from UCSC will be able to work on the project.

Roland Saher – Santa Cruz Climate Change Speakers Bureau

Roland introduced himself to the group. He is a retired social studies teacher and is one of a group of teachers from different fields who make themselves available to speak to groups about climate change. Roland distributed copies of a proposed resolution, modeled on a resolution which was approved in Portland, Oregon. The Resolution ensures that efforts are made to teach students to be climate change literate, in science or other related fields, via age appropriate curricula. Roland requested help to proceed with the District. He will meet with Jennifer Wildman, Director of Curriculum.

Stacey Falls stated that her environmental studies students were thrilled and energized after hearing Roland speak recently to their class. She suggested that climate change material could be incorporated into a freshman core class. Joanne Brown put in the Pauline Seales visited her Alternative Family Education class last year and presented a soils/water workshop. She reminded members that the District had previously passed an anti-fracking resolution. Felicia Van Stalk informed members that she works with the Monterey Bay Environmental Educators group to develop environmental curriculum pathways in Monterey schools, often by presenting ideas at LCAP meetings. Nick of Coonrod of the Global Students Embassy spoke about a proposed leadership program for students to link vocabulary with environmental concerns, which he hopes the District might implement next year. Students could earn six credits. He asked for guidance in how to work with the District Curriculum dept.

Jim Monreal informed Members that the District is now in the process of hiring a secondary Director of Curriculum. He said that he would take the resolution to Curriculum and to the Superintendent to discuss bringing it to the Board. Jim expressed his hope that student leaders would participate in the Green Schools Committee next year.

Updates from the City of Santa Cruz

Mary Simmons provided an update on City projects.

- On 4/15/16 a Teen Fashion Show featuring the recycled creations of 130 County middle and high school students will be held at the Civic Auditorium.
- 4/16/16 is Earth Day. The City and County co-sponsor this event with Ecology Action. There will be 100 booths promoting many environmental causes, kids' activities, music and a short recycled fashion show.
- "Trash Talks" is a mini newspaper published by the City Waste Management Dept. and distributed to District elementary students. The publication contains info and activities for kids.

Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History Update

Felicia Van Stalk introduced herself as the new education manager for the Museum. She provided the following updates:

- 3rd and 5th grade groups are participating in field trips at the Neary Lagoon
- 4th and 5th grade groups are going on field trips to Pogonip
- Tuesday, April 19: Naturalist Night: Restoring California's Coastal Praries. A lecture by Karen Holl. 7 - 8:30pm
- Saturday, April 30: Explore the Night Sky. A lecture and guided star-gazing with UCSC's Astronomy Club. 7 - 9pm
- Wednesday, May 18: "Chris Wilmers: Lions, Leopards, and Pumas" a lecture at Rio Theatre. 7:30 - 9pm
- The newest exhibit at the Museum is "The Art of Nature", featuring works by the CA Guild of Natural Science Illustrators.

Global Students Embassy Update

Nick Coonrod announced that he had assumed the Santa Cruz County Program Coordinator role formerly held by Wyeth Wunderlich, who had to leave GSE due to pressing family matters. Nick provided the following updates:

- The GSE is looking to expand education choices for students, possibly through a Leadership Council, which would meet during evenings at each school. The program could award 6 college credits. They will need teachers to be present. GSE is working out the details with the District.
- At Harbor High, GSE is exploring the possibility of an outdoor classroom in the Grow Quad. GSE is also working with the Harbor High Beautification Committee to create a rain garden, with support from an Oceans Guardian. Sean Patrick's Construction Technology class is helping with this project. (Trevor Miller requested that Nick send plans to the Facility Services office before starting work.) Bioswales have been built by the stairways to the lower campus. GSE would like to explore implementation of water catchment in this area as well.
- At Santa Cruz High, work continues on the reclaimed garden. GSE is seeking fundraising activities to support this work. A large community donation of vegetable plants was received.

Jim Monreal informed members who are planning projects that the District has "as-builts" which can help identify what lies beneath the ground.

Member Comments and Announcements

- Trevor Miller informed members that summer facility plans include the upgrade of all roofing structures to bring them under warranty, after which they are covered by the manufacturer. Also being planned is the conversion of Santa Cruz High's athletic field to artificial turf, through long range financing and some facilities funds. Trevor said that more alternatives for the underlying pad are now possible. This project will free up Depot Park, and support the partnership between the District and the City.
- Stacey Falls inquired about any possibility of long term water catchment at Santa Cruz High. Trevor explained that sports fields require massive amounts of water, which is why we are moving to artificial turf. She asked if the garden area there might be a possible site for water catchment. Trevor said that small projects have potential.
- Jim encouraged members to speak to their principals if they wish to participate on the Facilities Steering Committee.
- Members inquired whether a subcommittee might help with moving the Climate Change Education Resolution towards reality. Jim Monreal said he will research this proposal and that no subcommittee was necessary at present.
- Jim will start work on the annual Green Schools report and bring it to the next meeting.

Meeting Dates

The next meeting of the GSC will take place on 5/10/16 at the Harbor High School Library from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Meyer-Johnson
Administrative Assistant
Business Services

Jim Monreal
Asst. Superintendent
Business Services