

GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

JUNE 10, 2020

The Green Schools Committee met three times during the 2019-20 school year: 11/7/19, 1/21/20 and 5/21/20. Attendees included:

Community Experts & Parents

Dan Lazarus	Santa Cruz County Parks, Quail Hollow Park
Ronnie Lipschutz	University of California, Santa Cruz
Leslie O'Malley	City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction
Anne Rumbaugh	AFE Parent
Amity Sandage	SC County Office of Education
Chris Soriano	Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History
Chris Tom	UCSC student, City of Santa Cruz Intern
Tiffany Wise-West	City of Santa Cruz Climate Action Program

District Staff

Patrick Gaffney	Assistant Superintendent, Business Services (11/7/19 meeting)
Amy Hedrick-Farr	Director, Food Services
Catherine Meyer-Johnson	Executive Assistant, Business Services
Trevor Miller	Director, Maintenance, Operations & Transportation
Jim Monreal	Assistant Superintendent, Business Services (1/21/20 and 5/21/20 meetings)
Kris Munro	Superintendent

Classified and Teachers

Stu Branoff	Bay View teacher
Joanne Brown	AFE consulting teacher and parent
Keresha Durham	Greater Santa Cruz Federation of Teachers rep, AFE teacher
Dorothee Ledbetter	AFE Resource Librarian
Elnora Lewis	Harbor High Special Day Class teacher

SCCS School Board

Jeremy Shonick	SCCS Trustee
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Students

Phoenix Rumbaugh	AFE Student
Jackson Damhorst	AFE Student

SUMMARY

The highlights included:

- Student presentations continued to be an exciting addition to this year's meetings. Alternative Family Education student Phoenix Rumbaugh presented his plan to teach a class for AFE students on the history of Santa Cruz, featuring field trips to historical locations. AFE student Jackson Damhorst shared his podcast at planetactionnow.com where he interviews scientists, educators, environmental activists and community leaders on topics related to climate change.
- AFE Resource Teacher Dorothee Ledbetter invited Members to participate in sample experiments taken from her monthly science night workshops for AFE parents and students. AFE Teacher spoke about her Ecology class, in which students will be allowed to visit a protected area at the Quail Hollow Park.

Joanne expressed the importance of instilling hope in students, and requires students to present a final project which represents a success story.

- Harbor High teacher Elnora Lewis reported on her Special Day Class students' recycling efforts on campus. She informed the Committee of the need to have the proper size container to use the new water filter stations on campus.
- Santa Cruz City Public Works Waste Reduction representative Leslie O'Malley encouraged Members residents to rethink and refuse goods which contain materials that need to be recycled, in light of the reduction in locations accepting recycling. City Intern Chris Tom shared information on the Green Business certification program and about a handbook being created for schools on this track.
- City of Santa Cruz Climate Action Manager Tiffany Wise-West reported on the implementation of the Anti-Idling Campaign, designed to reduce emissions from parents' vehicles waiting to pick up students. She thanked Trevor Miller and school principals for their assistance in launching this program. She also updated Members on the Mayor's Health in All Policies initiative, aimed at addressing citizens' community priorities through the lenses of sustainability, equity and public health.
- Chris Soriano of the Santa Cruz Natural History Museum introduced the Museum's Earth Stewards program, in which high school students can volunteer to work after school on a variety of City projects, where they can learn about landscape design, solar energy design and installation and habitat restoration in venues like Neary Lagoon, the Homeless Garden, and the creek next to the Museum. State Parks also is a partner with this program.
- Amity Sandage of the County Office of Education informed Green Schools Members about a County Science Initiative with teacher leaders to create and refine lesson sequences and to align K-12 learning about the watershed, ocean and climate. A spring summit was planned to bring together leaders in education and partner agencies to collaborate.
- Food and Nutrition Director Amy Hedrick-Farr reported on efforts to recycle and compost food and serving supplies. Gault Elementary and Mission Hill Middle School are piloting share stands. In-house composting has been implemented at Delaveaga Elementary, Mission Hill and Soquel High Schools. Amy shared her experience with Mission Hill Middle School 7th grade students, who studied plastics pollution at the school, under the leadership of teacher Sally Corbin. Their presentations and ideas so impressed Amy that she has implemented some of their ideas.
- Facility Services Director Trevor Miller kept the Committee updated on bond improvements being made at schools throughout the District, and also on the DROPS grant project at Bay View Elementary to build bioswales and install rain catchment tanks on campus. An all-electric bus has been acquired through a grant program. An electric charging station is being installed at the District's transportation yard at Harbor High.
- The Committee would like to give a special shout-out to retiring AFE Teacher Joanne Brown, who has encouraged her students to participate in the Green Schools Committee over a number of years. She has also forged partnerships with county and state parks leaders, and by doing so, created opportunities for her students. She will be missed, but not forgotten. Congratulations, Joanne!