

Santa Cruz City Schools  
GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE  
Meeting of 9/26/17

Minutes

Student Subcommittee – 6:00 pm

AFE Senior Student Bria Steinbruner met with Asst. Superintendent Pat Gaffney, Trustee Jeremy Shonick, and Facility Services Director Trevor Miller at 6:00 pm to discuss her proposal for a pathway to be constructed at Branciforte Small Schools, incorporating native plant landscaping and plaques displaying historical information on the Native Americans of Villa Branciforte. Bria proposed inviting other schools on the Branciforte Small Schools campus to participate. She reported the positive feedback she had received regarding the heritage rose monument project she did last summer. It was suggested that Bria refine her project drawings and add photos for a presentation to the Board. It might be possible to tie her proposed project into the bond projects outlined for Branciforte Small Schools.

Call to Order

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

Attendance at Meeting:

Stu Branoff, Bay View Elementary Teacher  
Joanne Brown, AFE Teacher  
Keresha Durham, ARK Independent Studies Teacher, GSCFT, Sierra Club  
Patrick Gaffney, Asst. Supt., Business Services  
Levi Glatt, former AFE Student, current Cabrillo College Student  
William Goss, Project Pollinate  
Trevor Miller, Facility Services  
Leslie O'Malley, City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction  
Mary Anne Robb, Elementary Curriculum, Assessment & Intervention Director  
Jeremy Shonick, SCCS Trustee  
Becky Steinbruner, AFE Parent  
Brie Steinbruner, AFE Student  
Ken Wagman, Community Member, Gavilan College Instructor

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 5/9/17 and the annual Green Schools Committee report, which was presented to the Board on 6/14/17.

Minutes of GSC Meeting of 5/9/17

The minutes of the last GSC meeting were reviewed.

### Levi Glatt – Medicinal Herbs of Santa Cruz County

Former AFE student (now Cabrillo College student) Levi Glatt spoke about his book, Medicinal Herbs of Santa Cruz County. The book contains illustrations done by Levi of more than thirty medicinal herbs found locally and in the Greater California Bay Area, details of each plant's usage internally and externally, methods of preparation, and warnings, folklore and history of use, locations where plants can be found in Santa Cruz County and the author's favorite herbal recipes. Levi extensively researched the information and published the book himself, which he sells for \$10. It is also available on Amazon. Members present enthusiastically received the book, and several bought copies. Levi has used proceeds of sales to pay the cost of herbal remedies which he makes available to those who may lack access to health care.

### William Goss – Project Pollinate

William Goss, Director of Advocacy for Project Pollinate, spoke about his background in agriculture, the environment, health, and education. The Project Pollinate organization is devoted to protection of the ecosystem through education, research and the development of sustainable solutions in a variety of areas, such as pesticide reform and the establishment of habitats for pollinators. Will's specific focus is on eliminating the use of toxic pesticides, especially Round-up, near schools and other city venues. Facilities Director Trevor Miller clarified that the list of toxic chemicals distributed at the beginning of the school year in students' first day packets was intended to provide compliance with State regulations regarding notification of the public. The chemicals listed are used rarely, if at all, in very targeted situations and never around students. Will offered his help to anyone who had questions or concerns about pollinators, and about how to establish habitats attractive to them.

### SCCS Update

Trevor Miller provided a brief update on the District's bond projects. Currently, master plans for the sites are being fine-tuned and prioritized. Potential timelines for projects are being developed. The first bond project, re-roofing at Bay View, is nearly complete. Plans for replacement of the swimming pools at Harbor and Soquel High Schools are progressing. For the of installation of an artificial athletic field and track at Harbor High, experts have been engaged to assist with evaluating any potential negative effects in connection with the Arana Creek flood plain. Mission Hill Middle School's entry and front yard are to be renovated to create an area behind the sidewalk where students waiting for pick-up can sit. A ramp is to be added to the main entrance at Mission Hill, to direct the flow of foot traffic and to improve security. At Branciforte Small Schools the existing parking lot will be redesigned to include an exit road along the north side of the school to Branciforte Avenue. This will improve the traffic flow at the school.

### DROPS Water Conservation Grant at Bay View Elementary

Trevor Miller informed the Committee that several factors had impacted this project. Originally, it was planned to have the rain catchment containers collect run-off from the Bay View portables' roofs. However, since the portables will be replaced by permanent structures during bond projects modernization work, it was decided to situate the containers closer to the existing permanent structures. The project was scheduled to take place last summer. However, due to an uptick in construction activity in the area, the one bid received was nearly twice the original project estimate. Staff are revising the grant application to incorporate the increased costs.

### City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction - Leslie O'Malley

Leslie spoke about progress on the Green Certification Process for Santa Cruz City Schools. Bay View was recently recertified as a green school. Mission Hill Middle School is midway through the process.

She also spoke about the need to educate students on what items can be recycled. Younger students are often in a hurry to get out to the playground after lunch. Kerasha Durham of the GSCFT commented that some teachers do not feel they have the time to sort through recycling barrels to separate materials. Leslie suggested that better labeling of recycle bins may help. Recycling of school supplies at the end of the school year could provide needed supplies for students and/or communities who cannot afford them. The District's Food Services Department has met with Leslie to discuss ways to reduce the amount of trash generated and about use of recyclable tableware, packaging and serving supplies. Leslie offered to come speak to classes, faculty and/or parent groups about "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle."

#### Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Meyer-Johnson  
Administrative Assistant  
Business Services

Patrick K. Gaffney  
Asst. Superintendent  
Business Services