

Santa Cruz City Schools
GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE
Meeting of 1/12/16

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:

Bret Johnson, City of Santa Cruz
Jeremy Shonick, Board of Trustees
Jim Monreal, Asst. Supt., Business Services
Joanne Brown, Alternative Family Education
Julia Davenport, City of Santa Cruz
Ken Wagman, Community Member
Mark Thomas, Branciforte Small Schools, GSCFT
Peter Wampler, Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History
Stu Branoff, Bay View Elementary School
Trevor Miller, Facility Services
Wyeth Wunderlich, Global Student Embassy

Welcome and Introductions

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

Minutes of GSC Meeting of 10/13/15

The minutes of the last GSC meeting were reviewed and were approved unanimously (M/S/P, Wagman/Brown).

SCCS Update

Jim Monreal said that the passage of Parcel Tax Measure O, approved by voters in the November 2015 election, will provide funding for after school programs and career technical education, integrating science, technology, engineering and math. Staff are now working on how to add those funds into the District budget.

District staff will attend a conference on 1/13/16 regarding the Governor's proposed budget for 2016-17. The news looks positive – as State revenues grow, the Governor will send out funds as one-time money. Funds will come to districts as increases or decreases according to the Local Control Funding Plans. The initial goal was to return districts to their 2007-08 purchasing power, but it is doubtful that this goal will be totally realized as expenses continue to increase. In May, the Governor will present a revised budget proposal.

Community meetings are being held at school sites to determine priorities for facility needs. Input received will be incorporated into a Long Range Master Facilities Plan (LRMFP), which will be used in developing a master plan for a November bond campaign. The input being sought is not about current repairs needed, but regarding big picture/long range needs. The District's architects visited sites to assess them, then met with school administrators and their staff for input. The LRMFP should be able to be followed by future administrators.

On the Prop. 39 front (energy efficiency), a Request for Proposals was published, firms were interviewed and one was selected. They will address lighting efficiency on school sites.

Facility Services Director Trevor Miller updated the Committee on transportation. At present, the average age of buses is 19 years, with high mileages. A grant application has been submitted to the Monterey Air Pollution Control Board to purchase two new 84 passenger buses. However, the smaller Special Ed buses will not be eligible for grants to replace them for five years, and there are concerns that the District does not have adequate back-up buses to provide transportation if there are breakdowns. Staff is looking for funding to buy two small buses to fill this need. A new bus costs approximately \$164,000. Diesel buses are being phased out as they cause high maintenance costs. Electric buses are not yet a viable option.

DROPS Water Conservation Grant – Bay View Elementary

Trevor reported that discussions are continuing with the Water Resource Control Board engineer. The grant may be scaled down from the initial estimate of \$486,000, and modifications will need to be made. Trevor met with UCSC and said that two volunteers will return to work on the project, together with potentially four more volunteers. He will meet with Agnes Topp and one of the UCSC volunteers on how to start. Work will commence in late spring/summer, as design plans must first be approved by the Dept. of the State Architect. Student volunteers will work with engineers on the design phase. Stu Branoff offered to help get Bay View student volunteers. It was suggested that this project could possibly be incorporated into the Green Schools Day of Service.

Watershed Curriculum

Julia Davenport reported that this is the fifth year of the Watershed Curriculum at District elementary schools. 12 classes will attend this year - 4th graders at Gault, Delaveaga and Westlake, and 5th graders at Bay View. The City Water Dept. will now take over this program from Julia. Jessica Missaghian of the City may attend the next GSC meeting. Schools will have assemblies in February instead of class presentations, followed by in-class activities and field trips in March. Buses will be paid for by the Water Dept., at the rate \$1100 per day for a large bus from Michael's Transportation and \$310 for an SCCS bus. Heather Murphy will coordinate watershed curriculum for the high schools. Stu Branoff informed members that Julia had built four boxes filled with all the supplies needed for the elementary field trips. Julia commented that this model program had been developed from the start at the Green Schools Committee and is now fully funded by the community.

Updates from the City of Santa Cruz

Bret Jensen of the City of SC reported that this spring, Mary Simmons and the waste reduction team will start tours of the recycle center and landfill for Delaveaga and Gault.

For Earth Day, school science projects are needed. Bret asked for help getting the word out to teachers. Jim Monreal asked him to email details which can be broadcasted to teachers,

The Teen Fashion Show will take place on 4/15, the day before Earth Day. It is open to middle and high school students. This event has been very popular at Mission Hill Middle School.

Bret said he is available to give classroom presentations on a variety of topics, such as food composting the 4 R's at elementary schools. With older students, topics include food waste, economics and the environmental impacts of food waste and pollution. He can also tailor presentations to teacher's preferences.

Only a few entries were received last year for the Santa Cruz Recycles poster contest. There were two winners from Delaveaga School. It was suggested that this information be sent out to teachers at both elementary and high schools. Winners will be chosen in different divisions.

Dory poles can be reserved from the City for graduation events.

Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History Update

Peter Wampler announced that the Museum has hired a new education manager, Felicia van Stolk. Ohlone tours are now being offered at the Museum. Museum staff are working with the Santa Cruz tribes to clarify their language. Neary Lagoon programs are being offered for 3rd and 5th graders. In partnership with City Rangers, AFE students and teacher Joanne Brown recently went on a bird walk at Neary Lagoon, during which 13 species of birds were sighted. The same group is going to Pogonip, where they will pull invasives and learn about native plants.

The newest exhibit at the Museum, entitled "One Tree, Many Stories" (the "Car Tree" of Big Basin), will open on 1/16/16. Geologist Frank Perry will speak on redwood ecology.

Global Students Embassy Update

Wyeth Wunderlich of Global Students Embassy updated the Committee on GSE activities:

- Harbor High: GSE is planting edibles in the Grow Quad. GSE is hosting Ecuadorian and Costa Rican students and leaders at a workday on 2/6/16, at which, weather permitting, the mural will be finished, fruit trees planted and informative signage created. GSE is working on bioswales on the east end of campus to divert water away from the staircase. An Ocean's Guardian grant is contributing to funding these projects.
- Santa Cruz High: A big garden space is being prepared, with plans for fruit trees on the northern end. The southern end is heavy decomposed granite, and will be used differently. Water catchment is a future possibility.
- Soquel High School: GSE's first project is almost complete - a renovation of the 2nd Quad with drought-resistant plantings and graded walkways has replaced bermuda grass. GSE is working in partnership with GMCE students to build a gazebo in the center. Fruit trees may be planted in the quad.

Wyeth works at a different school site each weekday, holding lunch and after school meetings. His work ties in with reciprocal student exchange programs in Ecuador and Nicaragua. Students build networks and work on projects for which they earn community service credit hours.

U.S. Green Building Council Update

Gretchen Bach will rejoin the Green Schools Committee on behalf of the US Green Building Council.

Committee Updates & Plans

- Student Subcommittee: No students were in attendance at tonight's meeting. Students usually meet with the Asst. Supt., Business Services and the Board Member rep to GSC half an hour before the regular meeting. Ken Wagman will send the names of the students who participated last year on GSC. Joanne Brown will post a notice at AFE inviting students to get involved with GSC. Jim will communicate with leadership.
- Jim Monreal will begin work on the Earth Day Report.

Meeting Dates

The next meeting of the GSC will take place on 4/12/16 at the Harbor High School Library from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Member Comments

Joanne Brown stated that she would love to see a project that spans all the schools in the District, as a way to unify the schools. Jeremy Shonick commented on the improved appearance of Soquel High Quad #2. Wyeth Wunderlich said that he had enjoyed the collaborative project at Soquel High. Ken Wagman expressed his appreciation for the efforts of teachers and Trevor Miller and the Facility Services Dept. Julie Davenport reported that when she had visited elementary sites last week she had noted several areas leaking from storm moisture, including the Gault "swamp", the Westlake multipurpose room and the Bay View Lead Teacher's classroom. Mark Thomas commented on the non-functional sinks in Santa Cruz High. Trevor responded that sites need to notify them so problems can be addressed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Meyer-Johnson
Administrative Assistant
Business Services

Jim Monreal
Asst. Superintendent
Business Services