

GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE
TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT
May 5, 2022

The Green Schools Committee met three times during the 2021-22 school year: 1/13/22, 3/16/22 and 5/5/22

Attendees included:

Community Experts & Parents

Amity Sandage, SC County Office of Education
Dan Lazarus, Santa Cruz County Parks
Caylie Soon, City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction
Chris Soriano, Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History
Christina Horvat, Santa Cruz County
Leslie O'Malley, City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction
Mary Ann LoBalbo, Santa Cruz County
Pauline Seales, Climate Action Network
Tiffany Wise-West, City of Santa Cruz Climate Action Program
Zeke Bean, Santa Cruz Water Resources
Maryna Sedoryk, Santa Cruz Water Department

District Staff

Amy Hedrick-Farr, Director, Food Services
Amy Estuesta, Executive Assistant, Educational Services
Wednesday Manners, Executive Assistant, Human Resources & Business Services
Jim Monreal, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Kris Munro Superintendent
Trevor Miller Director, Facility Services
Sam Roles, Chief of Communications

Classified and Teachers

Dorothee Ledbetter, AFE Resource Librarian
Elnora Lewis, Harbor High Special Day Class teacher & Harbor High Recycle Club
Keresha Durham, Ark Independent Studies Teacher
Stu Branoff, Bay View teacher

SCCS School Board

Jeremy Shonick, SCCS Trustee
Patricia Threet, SCCS Trustee
John Owen, SCCS Trustee

Students

Nicola Hall, Student
Tamarah Minami, Student
Gloria Panttaja, Student
Mara Barnett, Student
Shea Egan, Student
Kameryn Hawes, Student

SUMMARY

The committee met according to schedule this year. The highlights included:

- Throughout the year Mr. Miller gave updates on projects, including the brand new project involving the implementation of solar sunshades at numerous SCCS sites. He also reported that Bay View Elementary is projected to be the first net-zero campus at SCCS.
- Amy Hedrick-Farr gave updates on Food Services' efforts to reduce packaging waste, their work to expand the farm to table project and the add of new food stands at our school sites. They are continuing to promote proper recycling and composting with their employees.
- Chris Soriano from the SC Museum of Natural History updated the committee that they have resumed in-person projects with several community organizations including three local high schools. He reported that Nature Club has also resumed and students can earn volunteer hours by volunteering at Saturdays in the Soil.
- Leslie O'Malley from City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction gave updates throughout the year including about the new legislation with SB1383 which details that residents are not permitted to put food scraps in yard waste bins in Santa Cruz. Leslie also informed the committee that the Resource Recovery Facility is looking to restart tours and educate about food waste reduction.
- Pauline Seales from Youth for Climate Justice updated the committee on the effort put forth by students to support bill AB1919 that would give youth bus passes for all students in the county. This work on legislation helps to advocate for expanding Green progress within schools.
- Amity Sandage from the Green Schools Working Group shared that the SCCOE launched their county-wide Green Schools Working Group that supports districts county-wide by focusing on environmental health, environmental education, and greening of facilities. Ms. Sandage also invited three students from the county to share their experiences with environmental efforts at schools. Ms. Sandage shared with the committee how the Green Schools Working Group at the COE has been collaborating with students.
- At committee meetings, Tiffany Wise-West with the City of Santa Cruz Climate Action Program shared progress on the Community Climate Action Plan 2030 development and invited committee members to provide input at various points in the process. The City conducted 3 focus groups with city youth on the plan and hosted a session on improving collaboration to increase collective impact at the Earth Day Youth Environmental Action summit. The City also produced two local youth climate justice videos to support the climate action plan development.

- Elnora Lewis shared that the Harbor High Recycle Club continued throughout the year to support the blue recycle cans throughout their campus. They also promoted having a recycle bin in each classroom on campus. The Recycle Club discussed the school's information on masks and their slogan "Masks Are Trash" was presented to staff and students at Harbor High School. Students were also presented with information from Santa Cruz City Waste Management about food waste. Students read articles, watched Youtube videos and held discussions on how to stop food waste in school and in the community.
- The committee also welcomed valuable input from students who expressed interest in being more involved with the implementation of green initiatives and projects. They have helped to prepare for the future and inspire their fellow students to be greener community members.

The Green Schools Committee endorses the report above, and wishes to reaffirm the mission statement of the Green Schools Committee:

"to develop and recommend to the Board policies that meet State standards, lighten the District's environmental footprint and integrate environmental education and student participation in environmental initiatives using partnerships with environmental education and public and non-profit agencies."

Respectfully Submitted,



Jim Monreal
Assistant Superintendent
Business Services



Wednesday Manners
Executive Assistant
Human Resources & Business Services