



## HEALTHY AND GREEN SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Minutes

May 26, 2016

4:00 p.m.

Albert Einstein Room



**PRESENT:** Michael Babb, Brian Brennan, Rob Duran, David Goldstein, Mary Haffner, Lynn Harrison, Dave Marshall, Chris Massa, Joe Richards, Richard Saint, Jill Santos, Deby Tygell, Kristie Wallace, Michael York, Lauren Zaragoza

### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Dr. Michael Babb, Superintendent

### 2. SCHOOLSITE UPDATES FROM OUR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

#### **Buena, El Camino, Foothill and Ventura High Schools**

Buena Student Rep, Lauren Zaragoza shared the end of year green activities at Buena HS. They held a garden work day with a recycle component and a Beach Hang Out Day.

### 3. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS -GOALS AND UPDATES

#### • **Energy Conservation - Joe Richards/Dave Marshall**

**Dave Marshall will share data on Solar energy, cost? What Districts are using it? How that is working for them? VUSD?** Dave contacted every school district in the county and only three districts have entered into using solar power. They are Oxnard High School District, Oxnard Elementary School District and Simi Valley Unified School District. They are either using the parking lot style one has the roof mount.

Oxnard HS District is comprised of 6 high schools and uses a solar farm on the property. They began solar installation in 2010 and it was completed in 2012. They will produce approximately 6 million kilowatt hours of clean renewable energy a year. They will save \$36 million over 25 years and the financial cost was \$25 million. They used a few ways to pay for this, a Conservation Bond and Measure H General Obligation Bond, both are Federal programs and additionally some funding from a local bond. General maintenance of cleaning was included but all other repairs are at the responsibility of the District. We were not able to obtain real information regarding the actual energy savings.

Oxnard Elementary District is comprised of 25 sites, of which 4 sites are equipped with solar. They use a PPA, Power Purchase Agreement, to fund the expense which is long term agreement paid off by the amount of energy saved.

Simi Valley Unified is comprised of 26 school sites of which all have solar power. They were not forthcoming with information for us. They have had solar for about 2 years and they expect to save \$16 million over the next 20 years. \$300,000 in savings over the first year. No cost of the solar was shared or could be found in public records and no information as to how they financed was given.

In 2012, VUSD had an energy efficiency survey done at all of our 27 sites and took a full year to obtain all data. 23 of those sites were operating at an Energy Star rating, without doing anything. Most recommendations were completed except for a few we are still working on. We are now in the process of replacing air conditioning units at a few sites and the cost is \$1.6 million from Prop 39 funds. It will begin on June 13 and should be completed by the start of next school year. Lighting upgrades have been done at 9 of our larger sites. Phase II of the Lighting Upgrades are now being planned involving 16 sites using On Go Financing. The cost for this phase is approx. \$1.7 million and we will save about \$240,000 the first year and \$150,000 the following years with a 7 year payback. The remainder of Prop 39 funds are \$1.7 million and could be used for Phase II.

The next steps for VUSD is to complete Phase II of the lighting project, perform a new energy survey to calculate our current savings since the upgrades and then factor in the solar options. We are getting ready to speak to an energy consultant to design a system that best fits our needs and then put out to bid with other solar companies as to what we need.

- **Reducing Waste/Environmental Education - Jill Santos/Mary Haffner**

Jill Santos of the City, shared that Mound Elementary was given the Watershed Hero Award and Buena High School was given Green Schools Award. The City won the nationwide Mayors Challenge for water conservation. The city is partnering with Hansen Agriculture Center at Faulkner Farms for a week long camp- cost \$25. Jill has completed the K-5 lunchtime recycling waste assessment program with the help of the VUSD custodial staff, Dave Marshall, Rob Duran and EJ Harrison. Additionally two of our high schools and two middle schools have completed the Lunchtime Waste Assessment which leaves us with eight schools remaining. Jill would like to see them completed before the Winter Break next school year. Sadly for us, Jill is leaving her position at the city at the end of June and is going to work for Food Forward. This is an amazing opportunity for her and we wish her all the best!!! She will be greatly missed.

- **Health and Wellness Update** – Chris Massa shared information regarding a School Garden project for Cafeteria use and it's called "Salad Bar Farms". This will teach students to eat what they take and how what you eat affects your wellbeing and how it affects the world. Chris will spend about 15 hours per week at Balboa MS. He will be working with the cafeteria staff, eating lunch with the students and using educational opportunities at the site farm. He will begin June 20, 2016 and pilot it for one year. He estimates that he can grow 100 lbs of lettuce and 50 lbs of carrots every 10 days. He would also like to increase composting at the site. Food produced from the garden could also be shared at both Mound and BHS. Cost of the program is estimated at \$5000 to implement and additionally they will need to build a fence around the garden area. Jill Santos shared that the city could donate irrigation supplies for this project. Chris will also focus on composting the fruits and veggies with straw and use the "Berkley" compost method, which is very labor intensive in the need to stir every couple days. With the high energy level of the MS kids, he feels that this labor intense style will work just fine! Chris is working on the schedule for the students to come to him for garden/composting education and will possibly involve Mound Elementary school students too. The size of the lot is about ½ acre, 90x100 ft.

- **Integrated Pest Management** – Richard Saint

Richard shared, they are in the process of interviewing and hiring the second IPM person. They continue to work on the gopher population which is almost completely under control. They are repairing/replacing the skirting on the portable classrooms, as animals tend to get trapped and die under them causing a horrible smell to those in the classrooms. In the summer, they will be working on the aeration of the soil and to keep the sites clean and safe.

- **Environmental Preferable Purchasing** – No Report

#### **4. Vehicles Idling - Deby Tygell of ATLAS Elementary School**

Deby shared that in 2009 ATLAS received the Climate Change Award due to the Valet Service offered there. The Valet service works like this: the students stand along the curbside and do not step off, they open the car door, the student exits the vehicle, door is shut and the car continues to move away. Deby would like to see ATLAS be the model school for the Valet program for all the schools in the district. A documentary entitled "An Idle Threat" shares the health hazards when idling cars are allowed for lengths of time. She would like to see this presented at a Principal's meeting. Mary Haffner suggested that the first step is to educate the Board on the serious health concerns resulting from idling cars and then the possibility to adopt a policy on idling vehicles at school sites.

#### **5. NEXT MEETING DATES for 2016-17 School Year: TBD**

Thursdays are still the best for the group. Dates will be determined and shared with the committee.