



## HEALTHY & GREEN SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

Minutes

October 12, 2017

4:00 p.m.

Albert Einstein Room



1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Superintendent Dave Creswell**
2. **PRESENT:** Dave Creswell, Letty Alvaraz, Ann Marie Bidlingmaier, Mary Crandall Plansencia, Anna Flores (BHS), Betsy George, Matt Godfrey, David Goldstein, Josiah Guzick, Mary Haffner, Todd Jespersen, Brandon Kaysen, Dave Marshall, Chris Masa, Haili Matsukawa, Michael Montanez, Kara Muniz, Val Pfeifer (VHS) Peyton Reynolds (VHS), Joe Richards, Richard Saint, Vineta Sonders (FTHS), Sara Viscarra, Kurt Sowa and Kristie Wallace

3. **SCHOOLSITE UPDATES FROM OUR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**  
**Buena, El Camino, Foothill and Ventura High Schools**

Ventura HS President of GWAT (Greener World Action Team), Peyton Reynolds shared that their environmental club is collecting native seeds and are working with Ventura Water to remove grass at the school site and replace it with native, more drought tolerant plants. In November, the Club is going to the Ventura Botanical Gardens. They are also working to promote Thrift store shopping as it is a way to conserve energy and a great way to recycle. They are involved in the "I Matter" Youth Environmental Club and they have been involved in passing a resolution regarding a Climate Action Plan. They plan to have a Club activity monthly and will keep us posted.

Foothill HS Student Rep, Vineta Sonders, shared that they have 2.5 raised garden beds at the schoolsite that raises food for their salad bar. Every Monday, their environmental club goes over to the Ventura College Student Parking lot, where the swap meet is held, and they clean up the parking lot of the trash left behind. They are also asking for another Hydration station at the school as they only have one and it is in the cafeteria and it gets locked and students cannot always access. They have raised \$800 from their Thrift Store Gala to go towards that expense. They are involved in the Ventura Hillside Conservancy and have plans to go to Anacapa Island on November 17 to continue the work of removing ice plant and replacing it with native plants.

BHS student rep, Anna Flores shared that they are also involved in the "I Matter" Youth Environmental Club. They fundraise for the club by recycling cans and bottles. They have made a video announcement for BHS water bottles. They are also planning a trip out to the local islands.

#### 4. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS -GOALS AND UPDATES –

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

Dave Marshall reported the District is still using the remaining funds from Prop 39. They are in the fourth of a five year plan. Some of the funds went to HVAC at 12 different school sites, all new LED Energy lighting district-wide, FTHS, BHS and all Middle schools will receive more hydration stations with these funds.

**Solar Update:** They have a company that evaluates solar needs in the District. They have looked at the baseline energy use and we have the lowest energy use in the area. We have very little Capital budget and they are working on a masterplan for those funds.

- **Reducing Waste/Environmental Education – Courtney Lindberg/Brandon Kaysen/Hali Matsukawa/Mary Haffner**

Brandon kicked off the Green Schools Program. This year they have two presentations for each grade level. Over the past year, they have outfitted all elementary schools with recycle bins. The city has free recycle bins for whoever wants. They plan to work more with the Middle and High School sites. The school sites need to contact Brandon to meet with their Enviro Clubs and brainstorm together. He will be doing a food waste audit at Balboa MS soon and more down the road. Worm bins are available at the City for \$10.

Haili shared information regarding the K-5 curriculum specific to water conservation and at the MS level, the science leads have access to a suggested curriculum. The City is offering a rebate program for residents.

- **Health and Wellness Update – Kara Muniz/Ann Marie Bidlingmaier**

Kara Muniz, Director of Food and Nutrition Services, is working on evaluating and updating the current District Wellness Policy with the help from a team of people like community members, students, staff and parents. The meetings will be once a month for a few times to make the necessary revisions. We currently have a good policy, just need to update. Contact Kara if you are interested in assisting.

- **Integrated Pest Management – Richard Saint/Michael Montanez**

Rich Saint updated the committee with past practices and progress. We have a 50% savings on water use, removal of inappropriate plants and trees and replace them with more drought tolerant species. Heavy use of mulch to keep things hydrated.

- **Environmental Preferable Purchasing - Mary Crandall Plasencia**

The Ruckus Collection Grant Recipient- This grant will provide an entire classroom with new furniture, promoting flexible learning environments. Sit/standing. They will study the classroom learning to see if the change in furniture and positioning impacts learning. The Spring of 2018 will complete the study and it will be very interesting to see the results.

#### **FUTURE MEETING DATES:**

Please save the future meeting dates below on your calendar.

- January 25, 2018
- March 15, 2018
- May 24, 2018