

**Santa Cruz City Schools**

**Green Schools Committee**

**Meeting of March 7, 2024 from 4 to 5pm Via Zoom**

**ZOOM LINK HERE:**

<https://sccs-net.zoom.us/j/82530823843>

**Meeting ID: 825 3082 3843**

**Passcode: green**

**Minutes**

**Call to Order**

Assistant Superintendent Jim Monreal welcomed the committee and called the meeting to order at 4:08pm.

**Attendance at Meeting:**

Jim Monreal, Assistant Supt. of Business Services  
Hannah Weikel, Executive Assistant  
Amy Hedrick-Farr, Director of Food Services & Nutrition  
Chris Soriano, Museum of Natural History  
Derek Kendall, Secondary Principal (Mission Hill Middle School)  
Stu Branoff, SCCS Teacher (BayView)  
Tiffany Wise-West, City of Santa Cruz Climate Action Program  
Colin Jarvis, Santa Cruz County Office of Education  
Mary Ann LoBalbo, Santa Cruz County  
Pauline Seales, Santa Cruz Climate Action Network and Youth for Climate Justice  
Janice Kelly, City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction  
Keresha Durham, SCCS Teacher (ARK)

**Absent from the Meeting:**

Christina Horvat, Santa Cruz County  
Sam Rolens, SCCS Communications Officer  
Kyle Kelly, SCCS Trustee  
John Owen, SCCS Trustee (Board President)  
Melissa Schilling, SCCS Teacher (Harbor High Climate Justice Club)  
Nola Salazar, Soquel High Student (Youth for Environmental Action)  
Leslie O'Malley, City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction  
Trevor Miller, Maintenance and Operations Facility Services Director  
Zav Hershfield, Composting Business Owner

Dorothee Ledbetter, SCCS Teacher (AFE)  
Amity Sandage, Santa Cruz County Office of Education  
Veronica Zahela, SCCS Librarian (SCHS)  
Cayley Soon, City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction  
Zeke Bean, City of Santa Cruz  
Maryna Sedoryk, City of Santa Cruz  
Daris Jasper, Director of Engagement at the Seymour Discovery Center

### **Welcome and Updates**

Assistant Superintendent Jim Monreal welcomed the Committee and introduced the Committee members once the meeting was called to order.

### **Minutes of October 19, 2023 Meeting**

Jim Monreal shared the minutes from the January 18, 2024 meeting, there were no corrections.

### **SCCS District Update - Jim Monreal**

Jim Monreal shared a video showcasing the District's efforts with reduced energy use and sustainability, including the installation of solar panels at several sites. Mr. Monreal explained that their partner Climatec has been working to make new construction in the District greener and more efficient.

Linked video:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1U1f2ijfhJTzgW9hdJQJtGMYGxCNGW-Zi/view?usp=sharing>

### **Mission Hill Middle Update - Derek Kendall**

Two Mission Hill teachers are the recipients of the Education Foundation's green award for their work with a float device tracking data in the ocean off of South America and investigating climate change with students. New energy efficient windows will be installed this summer.

Discussion ensued, with SCCS teacher Keresha Durham asking if there have been any efforts to curb single-occupancy cars dropping kids off at school each morning. Stu Branoff said at Bayview there have been efforts to incentivize kids to bike, walk or bus to school. Jim Monreal added that the District's new electric buses and van will make field trips more energy efficient as well.

### **Chris Soriano-Nature Club at SC Museum of Natural History**

Students have removed half a ton of invasive species from natural spaces in Watsonville and Santa Cruz. They have also planted more than 350 plants across the county.

### **Janice Kelly-City of Santa Cruz Waste Reduction**

The City of Santa Cruz Waste Management is hosting its annual poster contest for students to expressively share their ideas and understanding of waste reduction and recycling through artwork. All students will have the opportunity to have their art on our garbage trucks! This is also an opportunity for us to visit classrooms to talk about recycling and waste management; teachers can sign up for that on our website.

Flyer for poster contest:

<https://www.cityofsantacruz.com/home/showpublisheddocument/58755/636238964464730000>

Sign-up for classroom talks:

<https://www.cityofsantacruz.com/government/city-departments/public-works/resource-recovery-garbage-recycling-sweeping/recycling-and-waste-reduction/school-recycling-waste-reduction-p>

### **Mary Ann LoBalbo, Santa Cruz County**

Mary Ann LoBalbo said the county has been working with schools on food waste, and have been weighing refuse after lunch times. They've also developed a corn-hole game with separate holes for recycling, organics, household waste and trash. The objective is to have kids collect items and determine how it should be disposed of. The county has also been campaigning for people to buy less.

### **Tiffany Wise-West:**

Public meeting coming up on March 14 about new leaf blower rules – gas powered leaf blowers may be regulated in the City of Santa Cruz in the future. The city realizes this will be a challenge for some city partners, including the District's maintenance and facilities staff, and is trying to help access funding that would ease the transition.

Link to leaf blower ordinance:

<https://www.cityofsantacruz.com/Home/Components/Topic/Topic/11316/3916>

Tiffany Wise-West also shared with the committee the city's 50-year West Cliff community vision, which was developed after last year's winter storm damage.

Link to community vision:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1U1f2ijfhJTzgW9hdJQJtGMYGxCNGW-Zi/view?usp=sharing>

### **Pauline Seales-Santa Cruz Climate Action Network and Youth for Climate Justice**

Recently updated materials for shoreline and PCS educational presentations.

### **Colin Jarvis-Green Schools Working Group**

Getting ready for the green classroom celebration at the Seymour Marine Discovery Center on April 20. The event is open to students, staff and the public. As part of that, the county is doing one last push for their green classrooms challenge.

Event link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Yq5cl6vkv1vzKzpzFKay2TlzhBv0k4Jq/view?usp=sharing>

### **Stu Brandoff, Bay View Elementary Teacher**

We've been doing the green classroom challenge in 11 of our classrooms from K-5. They are great and easy, honoring what students already do and finding new things to work on.

### **Discussion**

Keresha Durham asked whether schools getting their green certification are asked about replacing toilets with low flow toilets. She also mentioned that gas leaf blowers have been a discussion item in the local Sierra Club.

Jim Monreal said the District is working with Climatec to come up with the next stage of plans to implement in schools.

Keresha said that some places give money to employees who get around by alternative means, and asked if that was something the District could consider.

### **Next Meetings**

4/18/2024

Annual Report Submitted to the Board: 5/15/2024

### **Adjournment**

Jim Monreal thanked the committee for their time and input and adjourned the meeting at 4:54pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Monreal

Hannah Weikel

Assistant Superintendent  
Business Services

Executive Assistant  
Business Services