

## Green Committee Minutes

March 14, 2019

Members Present: Jim Foudy, Deirdre Abrams, Melissa Coriell, Kim Thompson, Matt Hellhake

Absent: Sara Wolf, Judy Anderson

Minutes: Deirdre

### 1. Jim Foudy-Green Schools Initiative Policy 9115

- After meeting with the Policy Committee, Mr. Foudy brought to our attention that the Teach, Learn, Engage goal of Policy 9115 may not be a good fit for “policy”, but rather should perhaps live in “curriculum”. He wondered if the NGSS standards, recently adopted by our district, perhaps contain the concepts in our Ecoliteracy Framework that is the center of the Teach, Learn, Engage goal, and if we could use NGSS standards in place of the Ecoliteracy Framework?
- In terms of the Ecoliteracy Framework, Mr. Foudy and the policy committee had questions about the origin and purpose of the “Precautionary Principal” in Policy 9115. Mrs. Coriell explained that its purpose is to serve as a method of evaluating alternative choices in meeting the policy goals, wherein the burden of proof is on the proponent of the activity and not the students or staff of the district. For example, if the maintenance department wanted to use a toxic chemical on school grounds during the time that students and staff are present, it would be proposed that an alternative be used unless, or until the time when, the maintenance department could prove that the chemical is not harmful to human health when exposed. In other words, the burden of proof would be on the maintenance department in that situation, rather than the students or staff. With regard to the Precautionary Principal’s origin, Mrs. Coriell will send a link to the source of this principal to Mr. Foudy.
- It was agreed that at the next district Green Committee meeting, the members will begin work to revise the Green Schools Initiative Policy 9115 to retain the three goals relating to the health of MDSB buildings, environment, and people (Healthy School Grounds, Healthy Food; Reduce Resource and Energy Consumption; and Minimize Toxins), and eliminate the Teach, Learn, Engage goal. The committee will also discuss where the Ecoliteracy Framework document should reside, instead of it “living” in the Green School Initiative Policy. Perhaps it can be imbedded in the NGSS science curriculum? Because of the age of the policy, members will also work on updating the policy as needed.

### 2. Recap of 2018-19 building-level green committee meetings:

McCall Donnelly High School:

- Mr. Hellhake said that MDHS has been working on a goal to reduce use of plastic water bottles, which are available for sale at the high school. To meet that goal, they have purchased and

installed a “water bottle filling station” at the school. He mentioned that in between classes there tends to be a line to fill bottles, so some students still purchase the prefilled plastic bottles. The filling station is quite expensive so they are not sure if they can add another at this time. Mr. Hellhake had the idea of giving out Vandal,

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- Nalgene type of bottles at the beginning of each year as impetus to limit the purchase of single use plastic water bottles. Mrs. Abrams suggested placing student made posters above the vending machine showing that it takes about 500 years for the single use plastic bottles to break down.
- Mr. Hellhake also reminded the group that other schools can deposit their recycling in the high school container if they can get it there.
- Mrs. Coriell asked Mr. Foudy a couple questions about purchasing local potatoes (from Everything Potatoes in Donnelly) for our school cafeterias. She wondered if kitchens need to request more money for their budget for something like that, and if that would possibly be approved. Mr. Foudy said he would welcome a reasonable request for budget increase to accommodate local food purchase, as it also meets the Reduce Resource and Energy Consumption policy goal by reducing carbon footprint of transportation, as well as the Healthy School Grounds, Healthy Food goal in “...procurement from local producers”. Mrs. Coriell will bring this up to Lisa Howes, our Food Services Manager.
- Mr. Hellhake reported that they are considering bringing back the milk machines to reduce milk cartons.

#### Payette Lakes Middle School:

- Mrs. Thompson reported that her building committee has spent most of their time building their committee since she is the new representative this year. So far her team has focused on a goal for reducing paper waste in their building. They will be purchasing a new printer for students to use with their own codes to help them be responsible about printing economically.

#### Barbara Morgan Elementary:

- Mrs. Wolf was not present, but she emailed the results of a survey she sent to her staff regarding the understanding and need for more professional development in ecoliteracy. 55% of staff responded that they were not familiar with ecoliteracy and 57.9% responded that they do not want additional PD on this topic.
- Mrs. Wolf will email information to Mrs. Abrams regarding goals their building has for reduction of single use plastic.

#### Donnelly Elementary School:

- The DES Green Committee discussed how single-use plastic reduction in the kitchen is going. Mrs. Lafee said that she can continue to eliminate use of the single serve little cups by having student servers to serve contents of the cup onto trays instead. This is happening maybe 2 times per week. The rest of the time, plastic cups are still being used for now.

To further eliminate the plastic containers more often, some ideas were offered:

- For grapes, which need to be exactly a half cup serving, students can use a half cup measuring cup to scoop the grapes from the bowl, and then place them onto student trays as they come through the line.
- for lunches with salads, usually placed in plastic clamshells, we could use paper box to-go containers (the kind with lids hinged), if cost effective.
- for parfaits and smoothies we could use paper cups with plastic lids.
- For smoothies we could use paper straws, metal straws, or reusable plastic straws.
- Jesse, our student representative, will research costs of these alternatives to give to the kitchen.
- Space/size constraints were mentioned by Mrs. Lafee for switching from single use plastic cereal containers/plastic spoons for breakfast to dispensers with either paper bowls or reusable plastic bowls and metal spoons. She feels we don't have the space in our small kitchen. However, Lisa Howes offered to begin to purchase bulk cereal and use washable bowls, as soon as the single use cereal containers have been exhausted.
- Action: Jesse will research prices for the alternatives to single use plastic above and give the list to Mrs. LaFee.