

9/13/17 Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Hillary Bialek, parent at Williams; working with 3rd, 4th, 5th Green Team. Undertook greater recycling effort within the school last year with Green Newton support to get more recycling bins. Older kids are educating younger kids around recycling. This year is interested in no waste lunches, a Green Week, a "Green Wall".

Becka Smiley, K-5 at Peirce; runs the school garden; planting lettuce now. Had a super successful salad garden earlier. Runs the "Green Team" for 4th and 5th grades. Hard to find a Green Team meeting time. May be one morning before school or maybe one day at lunch.

Heather Friedman, Green Team at Mason Rice. It's somewhat dormant; some composting going on. Wondering when teams meet, how to get activities going.

Sunwoo Kahng, Green Newton Board, previous Mason-Rice parent; involved with composting at PTO. Parent now at NSHS. From experience knows it's nice to have support, share ideas, exchange programs and plans; each school has specific conditions. Would be nice if this group could be about presenting successful ideas/programs/plans, which others can duplicate elsewhere.

Andy Dannenberg, teaches sustainability at NNHS. Has been enviro club advisor, focus has been on recycling. Recycling is often tossed out with the trash, as the janitorial staff has been cut by 1/2. How can we stream it out of the building? Working also on a "food unit" with the Culinary Arts team in the Tiger's Loft. They've encountered city roadblocks to composting, as well as to growing and using produce. Is sustainable agriculture possible at NNHS? They did get a Whole Foods grant for agriculture. They used it for cold frames for raised beds. The carpentry program was also involved.

Joana Canedo, parent at Underwood and Bigelow. New to Newton, getting to know the schools. She is happy with Underwood's enviro efforts, but sees little movement at Bigelow. In Brazil, she experienced a school supplies recycling program, so kids would re-use existing supplies and not have to buy new ones each year. Could something similar be introduced in Newton? A city-wide school supply swap: lunch bags, backpacks. As teachers clean out their classrooms, they discard supplies. Organize kids into a sustainability group that can organize, collect materials. This could also be a job for a summer intern. We could use the Newton Food Pantry to distribute materials?

Claudine Ellyin, Green Newton Board, interested in helping schools reduce solid waste, moving toward zero waste model

Karen Bray, Green Newton Board, interested in using dance and the arts to educate students about the environment and enhance awareness of our impact on the planet

Marcia Cooper
Carolyn Lattin

Katherine Teissier du Cros, teaches at NNHS, co-teaching the Sustainability class. Mom to a 2nd grader at Williams. Joined the Williams Green Team. Sister teaches KG at Underwood.

Andy Gluck, Green Team Organizer Extraordinaire at Underwood. Has streamlined the collection and disposal of recyclables and compostables throughout Underwood. Also, "Terracycle" member. (If you haven't explored terracycle.com, go there now and check it out! It's amazing!) Among Andy's other remarkable achievements are his ability to recycle silvery snack packages, dry erase markers,

styrofoam and stretch plastic.... Go, Andy! (Andy will host in October so we can witness his work at Underwood.) He will also tell us about Green Wednesday. Wear green every Wed to raise awareness. Encourage biking/walking. Kids have bought in. Underwood does not seek to educate the PTO. Also, the Green Team does not have in-class curriculum.

At Williams, Green Team meets before school on the 1st Friday in the art room, so it's art-focused. At Peirce it has usually met at lunch.

One suggestion:

Might be worthwhile to do an inventory of recycling bins at Newton Public Schools. City should be willing to provide them free-of-charge to schools, since we are funded by the city. Under the new director of operations, this might become a higher priority.