

10/11/17 Meeting Notes

Hillary Bialek (Wms)

Karen Bray

Heather Friedman

Becca (Peirce)

Anne Carey (Peirce, previously Underwood, started recycling with Andy x 18 yrs!)

Andy Gluck (Underwood, 6 streams of recycling!)

Janhavi Wadhvari, parent at Burr, Green Team phased out about 2 years ago

Sunwoo

Claudine

Marcia

Carolyn

Someone mentioned "wishcycling" -- tossing things into the recycle bin that we wish could get recycled. What really goes in there?

How to revive the Green Team at Burr?

Heather is a parent at Mason Rice and NSHS, a grad of Peirce. Mason Rice used to have an active Green Team (parent-run) and would like to get it off the ground again. Staff is otherwise occupied.

Hard to figure out greening our schools on a school-by-school basis. It would be great if we had an advocate at the city level for recycling ed, composting ed.

Struggling to move forward at Wms. Now reaching out to 3rd, 4th, 5th graders. Green Week was successful and engaging last year, but can we do better?

Thots on increasing recycling in schools: provide signage, hold an assembly on what CAN and can't be recycled. Have older kids teach younger. How to get compost going, too?

Peirce School's Salad Garden: let the plants go to seed, collect seeds to replant. Challenge kids to find the seeds, and teach plant life cycle through observing the salad garden. Becca wants to teach sustainability, and expand the salad garden into a tasting garden, a place of inquiry. 300 kids; 3 raised beds. 5th grade plants, but kids are excited before 5th grade. Buddies for planting. Funded by \$500 annually from PTO. The garden has morphed into a community garden. They buy plants annually. Every kid puts a shovel in the ground.

Through Whole Foods grant and a Newton Schools grant, \$2000 each for garden.

Joana C is curious about worm boxes and how to get started.

Marcia: As a whole group, we need to come up with strategies for how to start, and then how to perpetuate.

Can GN come up with seed money? Possibly to pay a teacher? Green Teams often end when motivated parent or teacher moves on.

How can we pursue a CAS (Creative Arts and Sciences) equivalent for greening our schools? As their website states:

Newton Public Schools Creative Arts and Sciences, an organization within each school's PTO, brings high-quality, highly relevant and carefully planned arts and sciences programming to students in Newton's schools.

<https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/751>

Perhaps within CAS we could gear 1 program toward sustainability?

How can city support efforts to green Newton schools? Co-directors of sustainability Ann Berwick and Andy Savitz may have thoughts on this.

Jenny Kradick, science coordinator K-8, says environmental emphasis within a school depends on the principal. Curriculum is city-wide, does not vary school-by-school. The state has passed enviro curric standards for 8th grade (and 7th?).

8th grade: Earth Systems: ESS3-5: Earth and Human Activity: Examine and interpret data to describe the role that human activities have played in causing the rise in global temperatures over the past century. Clarification Statements: • Examples of human activities include fossil fuel combustion, deforestation, and agricultural activity

<https://www.nextgenscience.org/search-standards>

Helpful if team members can write up what they have been doing and how, what has been successful. Green Newton will make these resources available to all.

Perhaps Green Teams need to start with a team of 3: a parent, a teacher and an admin. This might help spread responsibility/ownership, and help to institutionalize Green Team progress?

Underwood Overview:

Classrooms have green bins for paper. These bins were provided by the city.

Classrooms have a separate "curbside" basket to keep down insects. Kids deliver this basket (daily?) to a central spot for dumping.

Classrooms have a compost container that is dumped in the larger receptacle in the cafeteria.

Classrooms have a small container for stretchy plastic (like saran wrap)

Classrooms have a small container for foil wrappers; Andy sends those in bulk to Terracycle.

<http://www.terracycle.com/en-US/>

5th grade teachers train their kids. 5th grade then takes responsibility for training other grades.

At lunch, the cafeteria has 2 large buckets. One is for dumping uneaten food. The other is for rinsing trays. Student helpers (5th graders?) do the rinsing. Trays go into recycling. (?)

Compost is dumped in larger outdoor compost bin daily. Bin was built by Andy and a parent with PTO funds. It is covered. Front removes for access to compost. Flies are present, and sometimes the smell rises to the classrooms above on warm days. The cold knocks back both issues. Andy doesn't worry about mixing "greens" (food waste, high in nitrogen) with "browns" (dead leaves, paper, high in carbon).

One thought: families could deliver a bag of leaves from their yard to the area near the compost. Students could then top the food with leaves each day to help control flies and odor.

