

Green Newton School Connections  
Meeting Notes  
Nov 14, 2018

Attendance: Carolyn Lattin, Sunwoo Kahng, Marcia Cooper, Joana Canedo, Hilary Bialek, Kelly Dissing-Oleson, Kate Esbenshade, Amy Mah Sangiolo

**WE WILL PRESENT LETTERS TO SCHOOL COMMITTEE ON Monday, Dec 10, at 7pm. 100 Walnut St, room 210. It would be great to get several Green Newton School Connections members to turn out. Also, please print out copies of the letter and continue to get them signed! PDF is attached.**

**We have TWO Newton South students who are eager to help facilitate green clubs or activities in elementary schools -- such as the Mason Rice after school enviro club. Contact Audrey and Kate at [greenpowerment@gmail.com](mailto:greenpowerment@gmail.com).**

Please respond to renewable energy link to Mayor's survey:

<https://www.greennewton.org/how-much-would-you-pay-for-clean-renewable-electricity-take-the-mayors-survey/>

Or [this link](#)

Kelly -- update on composting at Zervas -- very exciting! Angier is also launching.

Zervas is launching composting. Save that Stuff is company that will pick up 2x/wk. Kids' lunches as well as cafeteria. Anaerobic digester. Teaching 5th graders how to sort. Assembly on Nov 30th. Bins are arriving this week. Student council will educate each classroom. Should be up and running in Dec or new year. Waneta has funding for Angier and Zervas. Company works in Cambridge. Starting with new schools. Plastic lined bins. Plastic is compostable too. All food waste and liquids. Meats, etc. Push bin out to curb so no lifting for custodians? Pick up 2x/wk. Worries about pests. Will be kept in storage area between pickups. They will make handout to go home with kids to introduce composting at home.

Book rec: Fostering Sustainable Behavior. Have families pledge to compost -- actually changes behavior. Doug McKenzie-Mohr. Zervas is creating a video of kids sorting. Marcia would like Zervas to share that video at the student presentation at the library in May.

Zervas is thinking about how to quantify it. Weigh bags? Count bags? Company that is picking up can also weigh it. Not about increasing compost, but about decreasing waste. Administration is strongly involved at Zervas. Supportive but busy at Angier.

(Kelly) Zervas and (Meg) Angier should talk to Andy Gluck -- look for synergies.

Recycling at Zervas and Angier. Zervas will re-sign all the classrooms. No composting in the classrooms. 3 signs in caf over each bin. Will use Waneta's signs.

Any bodies policing during 1st week? At Angier, PTO will help for 1st week.

How to get admin involved? Waneta met with Dr. Beck and Angier principal in the summer. Discussed recycling rooms at new schools. How to use them? They weren't in use. Dr. Beck has become more enthusiastic over time. Overcame initial reluctance.

Where did funding come from? Is there funding to roll out to other schools? Kickoff at just 2 schools is difficult. Costs have continued to grow. Waneta in fiscal year 20 will include more services for the schools in her budget. Funding now is Mass DEP grants. Pickups of 3 containers 2x/wk is \$7000 to \$8000 for remainder of year. Pilot for Dec thru June.

#### Signage for recycling and waste in schools

From Caitlyn at Oak Hill: more about the signage we could use here at school, as the cafeteria is still a very challenging place for people to recycle.

How do we get signs out to schools? No system in place yet. Waneta is working toward that. At Bigelow, Joana will explore possibility of PTO sponsoring signs. Could schools get PDFs from Waneta? Size it uniformly? Let schools print and laminate?

Arlington: applied for MASS DEP school district grant. Half-time person is partially funded by grant, partially by city. Best practices for all of their classrooms is a doc on their website.

If a teacher reaches out to Waneta, she sets something up. She would like to be more uniform. Also, not much bandwidth for. Primarily residentially focused. Can only give 5% of time to schools. Recycling IQ program. When it ends, new hire will be more focused on schools. Conni is now full-time. Won't be able to give 50% of time to schools.

Key will be funding. Waneta is requesting funding in her budget to launch more pilot efforts for schools. Get away from model of solely relying on grant funding.

Waste Management contract is up next year. Not 100% sure that Zervas and Angier will have funding for next year. Need to get it up and running,

**Waneta will make PDFs available. She'll post on Newton City website by Friday, November 16.** Along with guidelines for best practices from Arlington. Some schools don't allow for posting on walls. Schools can print and post -- or print on stickers and stick on bins? Waneta is also having some printed by Newton City Hall print shop, but hasn't heard back from them yet.

#### Letters for School Committee -- update and PLAN for delivery

From Andy at Underwood: How many letters did we end up sending to School Committee advocating for a Sustainability Coordinator. **We will count.**

Marcia: Don't deliver letters now?

MC has spoken to some school committee members; Margaret Albright and DFG feel that the budget is very tight. Even a part-time position might take away an aide in a classroom. It's a long-shot to get anything. We could apply for a grant. Textile recycling -- get funding back for schools? We need to look around for alternate sources of funding.

Heather, Marcia and Amy went to workshop in Wellesley. Follow their model? Program is food re-use program. Maybe includes compost, too? MC will set up meeting with Sydexo? In Wellesley, is volunteer run, adds no cost to school budget, has lightened the trash, so custodians are on board.

Understanding Wellesley's model might be next step. How many schools in Wellesley? 3? Got Wellesley College onboard. Service picks up recovered food. Food for Free picks up. Distributes to food pantries, Mass Bay community college?

GN will invite Wellesley vols to present at library program in Newton.  
Marcia will set up meeting in early December. Heather, Amy, Marcia, Sunwoo will represent GN.  
Schools don't need to attend.

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Waneta could get curriculum to use in KG from VT (Recycling Rhonda) for free.  
She tailored the lessons to meet standards.  
MA Green Team website might have some similars.

**EXPLORE Creative Arts and Sciences as means of getting green education in to schools, given how**

Other Business

Anndy: Circular Energy

Karen Bray

\$5000 possibly available from GN: what to do?