

Madison Elementary School - Green & Healthy Schools Team Meeting
Wednesday, September 4, 2019 / 4:00-5:00pm
Library, Madison Elementary

Attendees: Susan Schuller, Lyn Martens, Cathy Schroeckenthaler, Schyler Petz, Karl Bancker, Stacy Foster, LeeAnna Potoka

NOTES:

- Discuss team leader/chair -- Susan will do it.
- Norwex in all classes (Stacy) -- Susan and Stacy will meet Emy Js Saturday at 9am to create instructions on the clothes. (feel free to join us) Two clothes will be given to each class. They will be collected bi-weekly to wash. We can use the students volunteering with SnapShot Wisconsin bi-weekly to help collect Wednesday afternoon and wash.
- Garden needs (Susan) -- Two of the gardens look great and are going well. We will need to get plant plugs/seeds for the 3rd garden. Cathy has some seeds she can give us to spread this year and help seed the bed. We have pumpkins growing despite the weeds. If anyone has students interested in helping to weed, please send them out!
- Portage County GHS Challenge (Susan) There is not much incentive tied to this program for us to join. We already meet monthly and do what we can. FOLLOW-UP: Susan emailed Leslie Sheridan, the program coordinator. I went ahead and signed us up. It doesn't change what we are doing. I will just be sure to send her an update on the GHS work we are doing in Madison throughout the year.
- Regular Newsletter Column on GHS Updates and Events at the school (all) Establish a ½ of GHS information with upcoming meeting times in every newsletter. Susan will talk with Nicole to get a regular/monthly update. (Anyone want to write it each month?)
- Restorative Justice Staff Training and how it fits with Healthy/Wellness at Madison (Staff give update) Schyler and Karl gave an update on what is happening. We are really excited and think this will be perfect for updating the Health and Wellness section of our GHS application.
- Should we bring back the "Classroom Critters" for each class? YES! Seems like a great idea to revive. Stacy and Susan will work on getting "critters" throughout the fall. In January or next semester we will launch with every classroom.
- Science Fair idea??? Susan will contact Rachel Gottlieb to see if she wants help.
- Updates: 5 microscopes purchased for 4th grade (personal donation) and Susan will work with a small group of students this year for SnapShot Wisconsin the 2nd and 4th Thursday from 8-8:30am each month. Any conflicts with staff meetings in the library? Yes. Staff meetings are the 4th Thursday each month. Therefore, Susan will switch our days and do camera checks on the 4th Thursday and be in the library the 2nd Thursdays to avoid this conflict.
- Who can give update at next PTO? Tuesday evenings 1x a month. Stacy may be able to be there. Schyler will be there anyway and can give an update. Susan will send notes and talking points to the Stacy and Schyler to share.
- Other thoughts -- we may need updated stumps in the outdoor classroom. With the recent storms, it might be a good time to ask a tree cutting company or Boston School

Forest. -- Anyone want to take on this task of asking around? We didn't assign to anyone.

- The School Picnic is Tuesday, 9/10. Lyn can be at a table to encourage more parents and families to be involved with our team. Susan will help set the table up, but she cannot stay. Have sign-up sheet to gather emails and contact info. Info on Green & Healthy Schools. Our GHS Board (susan has it), maybe GHS Tattoos if Susan can get them.
- Should we continue with the shoe collecting? We decided not to. Instead we will bring back the Trex Recycling Bins that are in the shed anyway. Susan can use the students in the morning (SnapShot WI Team) to help when we need to rotate bags out.

Budget: ~\$200 left over and \$500 allocated for next year through PTO

Can we offer the Local Food Fundraiser this fall with PTO Campaign moved to spring? We would like to get funding for updating the bike racks. Trevor Rorak can give us a fundraising target based off the proposal he created last year. We can ask PTO if we can do the Local Food Fundraiser this fall to help fund bike racks. Stacy/Schlyer make this ask at the next PTO meeting.

NEXT MEETING: October 2, 2019 4pm-5pm.

The 2018-19 Accomplishments!

Successful Family Walk and seed sale
Expansion of our horseshoe area (2 more prairie plots and 3 trees)
Upkeep of our trail system
Smokey Bear visited school
Rainy school work day spring (and one back in the fall too--not as rainy :-)
Continued Shoe Recycling Program
Classroom presentations on energy and on prairie plants/native plants
Norwex pilot with 2nd grade

GHS Project Accomplishments since 2014:

- Survey to teachers/staff in 2014 to set priorities and again in 2018/19?
- Outdoor Classroom (2 acres):
- Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant and Green Building Alliance Grant (2014-15) to purchase:
 - shed, wheelbarrow, trees, binoculars, field guides, insect nets, hand magnifiers, clipboards,
 - pails, trowels, etc.
 - Work day ~2x year.
 - Trail Cameras, one with DNR's Snapshot WI.
 - GIS Map of the area. Trail expansion marked (may need to be updated).
 - Buckthorn removal (need another work day).
 - New sign.
 - Bluebird Boxes and monitoring.

- Anthem Watch Us Sprout Grant for Fruit Trees – 16 trees and 6 blueberries. (~60% survival I think)
- Annual Family Walk for Health and Wellness
- Local Food Fundraiser (on hold for 2017)
- GECKOS Club (on hold—may start again)
- Continue to post accomplishments on Facebook page
- School highlighted at the National Green Schools Conference in Atlanta (March 2017) and
- continue to share with an elementary school in Australia
- Trex Plastic Film Recycling Challenge. www.trex.com (don't done in 2017) 1,700 lbs. plastic
- diverted from landfill in 2 years (2014-15 and 2015-16)
- ShoeBox Recycling Program (www.communityrecycling.biz) to collect gently used shoes for
- reuse. School markers are recycled through Crayola's ColorCycle Program.
- www.croyola.com/colorcycle
- Milk carton recycling now diverts more than 1,500 milk cartons from the landfill each week.