

Environmental Education (Online) Committee

12/18/25 Agenda/Minutes

This meeting is focused on the SY27 EE Connection Project

Everyone was welcome to attend, but it is optional for members not working with High School students.

Present:

Melanie Donley

Todd Endersbe

Cristin Hardy

Scott Hetherington

MaryKay Moe

Angela Oleszko

Cathy Priest

Rebecca Sutherland

Alyssa Swan

William Toney

SY27 EE Connection (MESS-E) Plan

(Year 1: Waste management/Human Consumption/Pollution - CLOTHING POLLUTION)

Overview and explanation of the fact that for SY27 we are back to year 1 of the four year cycle for the project.

We went through the activities in the archived Google Classroom for Clothing Pollution:

<https://classroom.google.com/w/NTMxOTE0OTM4MzYx/t/all>

Starts with contact **information for the MESS-E teachers.**

Introduction:

- A question: Do you or your family recycle anything?
- Worksheet: 3 question survey; read article and answer questions; watch short video, answer questions
- ScreenCastify recording of the reading of the worksheet (by Angela)

Math: 5 parts (4 worksheets); Karen Teff was lead teacher (Cathy will pose to Math teachers for SY27)

Intro document

Environmental Education (Online) Committee

Worksheets: Number sense and conversions, Percentages and conversions, Scientific notation, Scatterplots (for extra credit)

Science and English together: Monique VonEnde was the teacher (will need to get an ELA teacher for SY27)

Science - Clothing Pollution Investigation and Report (your conclusions)

English - Continues off of the Science Investigation. Intro and 4 steps (4 docs)

For the English portion, you will write a paper that is a combination of a personal narrative essay and a research paper, based on the I-search paper format.

An I-Search paper is usually less formal than a traditional research paper but more formal than a personal narrative. It tells the story of the writer's personal search for information, as well as what the writer learned about the topic.

Your paper will consist of three parts, the Search Story, the Search Results, and the Search Reflection.

The last question in the Science portion of this project was:

"Now that you know what the frequency of wear is and how it compares to others, the next question is why do you think you wear your clothing as often as you do and...what are you going to do with these items after you no longer want/need them?"

For this portion of the project, you are going to find out where you can donate clothing in your community and what happens to it after it leaves your hands.

Todd enjoyed working through the investigation with students.

Social Studies: Where to get help and then 5 lessons (worksheets)

-History of Ready Fashion

-Recycling Fashion...

-The True Cost of...

-Nike Sweatshop...

-Clothing Recycling...

Rebecca will plan to shorten a bit, and make more like the last few years' projects.

Art Elective: Emily Stull Richardson was the teacher for this (will check with her for SY27)

Four parts - Intro to Final Advertisement

Introduction

As we look at the impact that fast fashion and clothing pollution has on our environment, it is easy to feel lost or become overwhelmed with what to do. One action we can take that has a positive effect is to communicate to others **how** to change our habits. And advertising is one of the most effective ways to reach a large audience.

Environmental Education (Online) Committee

In this art unit, we will examine different components of an advertisement, identify communication goals and methods, and create a poster or video to increase the public's awareness of clothing pollution and steps individuals can take to make improvements in the fast fashion cycle.

Final Reflection: 5 questions

Meeting Discussion:

Melanie noted she discovered moving north, it being more difficult to recycle; it takes some work. MaryKay talked about knowing due to growing up in the north country. It really depends on the county, including how educated the residents are and how much information is put out by the county (same for a city). Scott talked about how there used to be great recycling service in his area, but it was just not cost effective for the company. Melanie - from a field trip to a recycling center learned that it only takes 20% of the recycling dumpster being trash to make the whole load trash.

William noted clothing pollution is not really a type of pollution. But agreed it is probably reasonable for students to relate to thus keeping it as the project title. Could actually be helpful in a landfill as a barrier to liquid percolation to the liner.

Talked about placement of the project in courses and having it in Seminar. Angela suggested having an EE Connection one subject overview each month.

Will plan to keep the project in Google Classroom for next year, but to be looking at Canvas with the rollout of Canvas and FlexPoint coming.

The positive environmental news will be added in (stream) for the Clothing Pollution project.

Follow-up:

Bring thoughts to next meeting

Reach out to Emily and English Teachers, Olivia for discussion about involvement with Seminar
Cathy to check with Math teachers

Check in with Rose about having an Environmental Education class (etc.) required for credit. (Is anything different since Holly?)

Next meeting: January 15, 2026 9:00 a.m.

Environmental Education (Online) Committee

Environmental Education (Online) Committee

12/4/25 Agenda/Minutes

Present:

Todd	Endersbe
Becky	Gilbertson
Cristin	Hardy
Scott	Hetherington
MaryKay	Moe
Jennifer	Muller
Angela	Oleszko
Cathy	Priest
Rebecca	Sutherland
Alyssa	Swan
William	Toney

Absent: Brittany Burkel, Isabelle Morris, (Clare Thompson)

Minutes - MaryKay reviewed

Reports:

Environmental Education (EE) Coordinator/Environmental Literacy Plan (ELP) - Becky - First section of our online PD will be completed by Jan 30. We will then start section 2, where learning coaches will review the virtual field trips. Brain worm- maybe have a virtual field trip event for **Earth Day**. Each teacher picks a virtual field trip to present, and then students can pick which one to go to. Get students to participate in the field trip with response form. **Will T - Museum of Natural History virtual field trip. Maybe have a few live virtual field trips and some organizations, ex. nuclear power, power plants, etc**

What do we want to do as the EE Committee for the online program for Earth Day?

10-15 teachers do field trips for earth day - depends on complexity

Last year - Olivia presentation; seeds to everyone with note from EE Committee;

Environmental Education (Online) Committee

Earth day is whole week now. Will - being in NYC at American Museum of Natural History and Smithsonian around earth day; virtual field trips from Will. Combine with Seminar. Maybe Becky at other live field trip same day? This year's theme is power(?).

Osprey Wilds Trip - 7 students (4 families) from K-5 have expressed interest in attending the spring trip.

K-5 - Muller - November K-5 newsletter highlighted the offer for the K-5 students to join the Ospreywild field trip in April. Becky has had 6 or more families respond to the initial inquiry.

Middle School - Alyssa - Working with Clare's Nature Class to get ideas for content/activities for the middle schoolers. Also plan on going through parts of my Master's thesis with the students (to give them some background on Salt Watch.)

EE Connection (MESS-E) Project

Intro Assignment - MaryKay - 234 submissions; Going well, students enrolling with us are good at doing intro and getting into salt watch right away. (Cathy) Students get math credit for doing the intro assignment.

Math - Cathy - 119 graded, +10 needed to be graded; noticed students are resubmitting assignments already graded. No students reporting difficulties.

Alert students in the course to check out their math assignment (for engaging in google classroom) and later is a prompt to complete it.

English - Cathy - 77 graded

(Via Amy) Some do well, others not seriously, skip the writing, earn 66% or higher or don't pass; is the English dual credit for the ELP? Writing getting graded on for tracking ELP - discuss challenges around food growth and production. - discuss two major challenges: poor performance last year in English, low percentage of students completed. Getting credit in English for doing? Becky will reach out to Amy. The requirement is for the whole year. More clarity for ELP.

Science - Scott and Will - 183 submissions in Field to Fridge; placement of activity in the course is at least $\frac{1}{3}$ of the way in all sciences. Just now getting there. Expect number to jump over the next couple weeks. Doing fine on the work.

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Social Studies and Stream - Rebecca - Going fine. Getting more submissions about now. Same as Science with the activities further along in the course.

Added some text to the stream indicating that postings are supplemental. Has enough scheduled for this semester and will work on scheduling some more during JTerm.

SPED - Cristin and Angela - Working with the counselors regarding naming courses, where housed, who is teaching, new students - sent out reminders, how to embed in the courses. Meet with counselors, no change or clarity, continuing; No concerns from students about issues or with the work.

Lots of submission across subjects, let Angela know if any issues.

Scott is being asked if they can skip for IEP. There should be no exemptions from MESS-E. All are expected to try it. Not in charge of 504. A few exemptions are there, but is not being written into 504s any longer.

Elective - Isabelle - not present, still planned for semester 2

Reflection - MaryKay - Second Semester

Learning Coaches - Brittany - not present

Salt Watch - MaryKay - 164 kits ordered, 12 readings (11 + 1). Due dates - 1st reading end of December, others in May.

Asked if helpful

Scott - students like to do all the readings the one day at 4 locations

Cathy - can put reminders in Google Classroom? Rebecca - put in the stream once a month and is embedded in Edgenuity courses.

S2 Prep - What info do you need from MaryKay for the second semester?

Cathy - all the details for the Salt Watch reflection and EE Connections reflection.

Other:

Environmental Education (Online) Committee

Green Cord - Tracking Field Trips **Becky will own field trips and track participation**

EE Valedictorian/additional recognition - Discussion

Angela - great idea, wonder if we could market completion; make sense to do before end of school year to help engage/encourage students

Becky - tie to Earth Day? - get a tree for top three participants; state park pass - promoting outdoor activity; Other kids see, let's get this stuff done.

Certain threshold at any point - get extra recognition at any point

Cathy - ask the pool of green cord participants, who would present

Cristin - Are there students that are sticking out right now? Or will it be oh gosh, who will we give this to?

Cathy - underclassmen have written poetry, done other things, above and beyond; Outstanding environmentalist or something.

Promote completion. All students 9-12 on track to finish - put in hat for drawing - to give 3-4. Can we recognize the top 5 seniors in the running for the special honor?

Will - request - get to the SY27 Plan.

Tabled:

School Orientation Materials - Any volunteers to help?

On the Radar - SY27 Plan

(Year 1: Waste management/Human Consumption/Pollution - CLOTHING POLLUTION)

New Business (ideas, discussion, etc.) ?

Next Meeting: December 18, 2025 9:00 a.m. for EE Connections focus.

Then January 15, 2026 9:00 a.m. for everyone.

Environmental Education (Online) Committee

11/6/25 Agenda/Minutes

Present:

Brittany	Burkel
Todd	Endersbe
Becky	Gilbertson
Cristin	Hardy
Scott	Hetherington
MaryKay	Moe
Jennifer	Muller
Angela	Oleszko
Cathy	Priest
Rebecca	Sutherland
Alyssa	Swan
William	Toney

Absent: Isabelle Morris

Minutes - MaryKay reviewed the 10/2/25 minutes.

Reports:

EE Connection (MESS-E) Project

Seminar presentation given by MaryKay on October 15, 2025 at Seminar (x2) - [Slides Presentation](#)

Intro - MaryKay - 215 submissions

Math - Cathy - 90 graded, 3 to be graded out of 206 - 45% participation rate

English - Cathy - 64 turned in/graded out of 235 - 27% participation rate

Science - Scott and Will - Scott (124 Biodiversity submissions)

Social Studies and Stream - Rebecca -

Environmental Education (Online) Committee

SPED - Cristin and Angela - Nothing new to report, should have been embedded into special ed courses, will remind the team again.

Students have some questions on the math portion, but all is well.

Elective - Isabelle - Not present (prep for S2); MaryKay to check-in with her.

Reflection - MaryKay - Second Semester

Learning Coaches - Brittany - Nothing new.

Salt Watch - MaryKay - 148 kits ordered, 4 readings.

Environmental Education (EE) Coordinator/Environmental Literacy Plan (ELP) - Becky -

EE professional development went out and I have had a few questions but let me know if there was anything that needed clarification.

Q: Who is managing the English for the EE Connection (MESS-E) project since it is an EE goal for the school? Amy Scheumann

K-5 - Muller - The K-5 monthly newsletter went out <https://secure.smore.com/n/k5efx>

Take me outside student pictures for our K-5 poster below. Created by Becky!

Will be doing the EE Survey.



Environmental Education (Online) Committee

Middle School - Alyssa - Nothing new to report. Will embed into classes soon!

Unfinished Business

~~How can we help increase our impact on the community as a whole, not reinventing the wheel.~~
~~Some ideas - Clothing Drive, Meals or ingredients provided to schools from local farms, Seed libraries. What is Crosslake Seat-based already doing (Kathy Foust?)? Raising fish? The field trips.~~

Green Cord

Draft requirements decided on by MaryKay, Karen Teff (former teacher at CCS) and Becky for earning a green cord.

Reviewed the document: [!\[\]\(30072721fe92392a2d7c953be68f714a_img.jpg\) Green Cord Criteria](#)

Note: Awareness, Knowledge, Attitude, Skills, and Action are the indicators for the Environmental Literacy Plan.

MaryKay's suggestion given to Molly last spring: Students receiving this cord have **awareness** and **knowledge** of the relationship between the systems and processes of the natural environment and human life. They show an **attitude** of appreciation and concern for the environment. They have demonstrated **skill** in problem solving and critical thinking related to the environment and human life. And have **acted** individually and collectively toward sustaining a healthy natural environment. Their skills and actions have been demonstrated through their active participation in the high school environmental connection project and their contributions to the nationwide community science project to study the changes in chloride levels in our waterways.

Discussion how field trips are being tracked - MaryKay will track with information provided by those leading the field trips.

Document approved.

17 recipients at graduation 2025; what Molly had in the program: Green Cord - Denotes Excellence in Environmental Literacy - Students receiving this cord have demonstrated environmental awareness, knowledge, attitude, skill, and action.

Environmental Education (Online) Committee

Q: Should we have something in it about the avenue for attaining the green cord? Such as through written and hands-on activities. Field trips.

Think about this more.

2026 EE Valedictorian or some other recognition? Think about this some more.

What would the requirements be? A benefit could be “automatically” having a second student speaker if they are willing.

School Orientation Materials

MaryKay and Karen Teff were to come up with a presentation outlining MESS-E, Salt Watch, and Earning a Green cord, that can be ‘the’ one to be used. To be shared with the MESS-E Committee for review. (Now the EE (Online) Committee)

MaryKay briefly overviewed the status of this and asked for volunteers to help. Think about whether you are willing to help.

New Business

None

No need for a second November meeting.

Next Meeting: December 4, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Environmental Education (Online) Committee

10/2/25 Agenda/MINUTES

Meeting of the Environmental Education (Online) Committee

First Thursday of the Month at 9 a.m. with the 3rd Thursday as needed.

Present:

Brittany	Burkel
Todd	Endersbe
Becky	Gilbertson
Cristin	Hardy
Scott	Hetherington
MaryKay	Moe
Isabelle	Morris
Jennifer	Muller
Angela	Oleszko
Cathy	Priest
Rebecca	Sutherland
Alyssa	Swan
Clare	Thompson
William	Toney

Absent: None

Committee Member List

Introductions - Name and position

Chair: **MaryKay Moe** - Science Teacher - Biology, Environmental Science, Health Science Concepts

Becky Gilbertson - EE Coordinator, Elementary Teacher

Cathy Priest - EE and MESSE Committees, 8th year at CCS, MS Math prior, SY25 HS Math, Currently HS Math + 7 and 8 Math

Alyssa Swan - MS Science

Angela Oleszko - SPED, 5th Yr at CCS, MESSE

Environmental Education (Online) Committee

Brittany Burkel - Learning Coach former Online HS Science

Cristin Hardy - SPED High School, 3rd yr at CCS

Jennifer Muller - K-2, 3rd yr on EE, 8th yr at CCS

Scott Hetherington - MESSE, EE, 6th yr at CCS, Physics, Chem, Physical Science remnants, Forensics

Todd Endersbe - 6th yr at CCS, SPED, Work-based Learning

William Toney - 3rd yr at CCS, Earth/Space Science, 17 yrs online, Env Consulting

Clare Thompson (Optional) - 7th year at CCS, Whitefish Homeowners Association Water, work in the Boundary Waters

Rebecca Sutherland - 6th yr at CCS, HS SS, World History, Economics, MESSE

Isabelle Morris - French and Spanish, 3rd yr at CCS, College Readiness, Keyboarding, Mental Health, Academic Success

Assign Secretary - Becky if no other volunteers

Committee Overview

Purpose: The Environmental Education (Online) Committee leads our efforts to integrate environmental education into all grade levels and subject areas. This includes projects like Salt Watch, MESS-E, and other hands-on opportunities that connect students to the environment.

Background

Former Environmental Education Committee/ELP/EE Coordinator - Becky

Track Environmental Literacy Plan; grow environmentally literate learners, how fit in enviro, impact enviro, what already doing, choose things to track, choices for numbers to track, awareness,knowledge, access,impact

Update board, submit ELP (gave date), Professional Development

Former MESS-E Committee

Environmental Education Connection (MESS-E) Project created because of interest, excitement, and need to fulfill ELP goals for High School, and being an Environmental Education School.

Four year cycle:

Year 1: Waste management/Human Consumption/Pollution - CLOTHING POLLUTION

Environmental Education (Online) Committee

Year 2: Watershed (salt watch) - WATER POLLUTION AND THE EFFECTS ON FISH

Year 3: Global Warming - GLOBAL TEMPERATURE CHANGE

Year 4: Biodiversity (animals) - FIELD TO FRIDGE

Scott - Tried doing River Watch at former seat-based school - little participation, great here

Becky - EE Coord for online school - little participation, amazing here esp. For an Online school

Cathy - Dream to at least combine Science and Math in a course (mom was an English teacher), difficult to get buy-in at former school; discovered need - now was the time; teachers great at ideas, work, great moving forward

Clare - love interdisciplinary learning, school makes it possible; getting kids out in nature - they won't care if they don't know, nature journaling; taking time to think "go outside"; more and more participation in school MESSE and other activities, small group engagement and moving to the culture of school

Clare requested to be added to all Google Classrooms - Rebecca helping with that.

Former Salt Watch Committee

MaryKay described Salt Watch earlier in the agenda.

Minutes from last EE meeting - Becky

Monday, May 12, 2025

- Time to start collecting EE data for goals. As you finish up please add your data to the appropriate document. Have data in by May 29th.
 - [MaryKay Indicator 1 Awareness](#)
 - [Will Indictor 1 Awareness](#)
 - [Will Indicator 2 Knowledge](#)
 - Monique/[Amy Indicator 2 Knowledge](#)
 - [Becky/Jennifer Indicator 3 Attitudes](#)
 - [Becky Indicator 3 Attitudes](#)
 - [Clare Indicator 4 Skills](#)
MaryKay [Indicator 4 Skills](#)
 - [MaryKay Indicator 5 Action](#)
 - [Clare Indicator 5 Action](#)

Environmental Education (Online) Committee

Minutes from last MESS-E meeting - MaryKay

Field to Fridge

Intro - MaryKay went over what the Intro entails and 87 students have submitted so far. Thus students are getting to the Google Classroom and starting the project. MaryKay will do the tracking of completion.

Math - Cathy took on the Math role. 24 students have submitted. She met with the new math teachers and the prompts and links are in the math courses. Prompts for math and reflection and salt watch. Reflection is in first semester; question of whether to have it there or not, but can be turned off if needed.

English - Amy reported 12 submissions. Met with the English teachers. The information for the MESS-E project is in the courses. A prompt for grading is not. Will be put in second semester.

Science - Scott overviewed what the science activity entails. 4 submissions so far, but the link to the activity in the Science courses is a bit further down in the curriculum. At least after the first unit.

SPED - Angela reports that the program for the resources classes has changed. If students have a regular (word?) teacher for their course the links are there. How the links get put into other resource classes is being worked out. Angela has a meeting soon with SPED to discuss. Cathy noted that Karen developed Essentials classes for Edgenuity.

Social Studies - Becca is out getting married ;). MaryKay reported she met with her. Becca met with the other Social Studies teachers. She also has the weekly articles set to go.

Elective - No update.

Final Reflection - To be developed like last year's, with options for submissions.

Salt Watch - MaryKay reports it is getting done. Some hiccups with changes to the Izaak Walton League's website and inability to access a few things. They have been getting fixed. Send students her way if there are questions needing answers.

Completion Spreadsheet

-Should partial credit be given? Up to teacher discretion.

-Put EXEMPT if there are students to be exempt. Discussion - there should be very few. Is there somewhere to look? Amy will look into and label the spreadsheet with exemptions. Likely a very few 504 students and one SpEd.

Environmental Education (Online) Committee

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-Amy provided information on the new committee development. One goal is to have fewer committees. This one “combines” the MESS-E, EE, and Salt Watch committees. Discussion about additional representation. Cathy felt Math is needed. We had discussed in the spring a need for Learning Coach. And need English.

-Hope is to get some folks on the committee this year to learn, especially for following years.

-Also discussion whether it should be an open call for members. Mainly no, rather determined in the prior spring/by who is teaching the subject matter. But also depends on whether there are staff that need committees to be on.

MN Charter School Innovation Award

Sustainability and Impact

-Understanding that we will be submitting the project for this year.

-Discussed how we could help increase our impact on the community as a whole. Ideas are to not reinvent the wheel, but work to partner with relevant programs already in place. Some ideas

- Clothing Drive, Meals or ingredients provided to schools from local farms, Seed libraries. What is Crosslake Seat-based already doing (Kathy Foust?)? Raising fish? The field trips.

-Will continue to discuss at following meetings.

Tabled

From 5/1/25 Minutes:

Green Cord - Karen

Went over draft requirements decided on for earning a green cord.

Document for review: [!\[\]\(6b8ddf5a301e60c23c01bc9ae5a64dc3_img.jpg\) Green Cord Criteria](#)

MaryKay and Karen will decide this school year who gets the green cord.

From 5/1/25 Minutes:

School Orientation Materials

MaryKay and Karen will come up with a presentation outlining MESS-E, Salt Watch, and Earning a Green cord, that can be ‘the’ one to be used. To be shared with the MESS-E Committee for review.

Environmental Education (Online) Committee

Updates

Discussed format for meeting reports going forward and assigned reporters.

MESS-E

Intro - MaryKay - 170 (submissions so far)

Math - Cathy - 59 (submission so far)

English - Cathy will check in with Amy Scheuman prior to meetings and report. 42 (submissions so far)

Science - Scott and Will will both report (MaryKay is also Science) Will reports 7 (submissions so far)

Social Studies - Becca will report.

SPED - Cristin and Angela will both report.

Elective - Isabelle will report.

Reflection - MaryKay - Not posted till later in semester or second semester.

Learning Coaches - Brittany will report.

Seminar - MaryKay will present about MESS-E and Salt Watch on October 15, 2025 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Asked for any helpers to let her know if interested.

Salt Watch

Salt Watch - MaryKay - 91 (Submissions so far, just of kit ordered worksheet)

EE Coordinator/ELP

EE/ELP - Becky will report.

K-5

K-5 - Muller will report.

Environmental Education (Online) Committee

Middle School

MS - Alyssa will report.

TABLED

Unfinished Business

MN Charter School Innovation Award

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New Business

None

No October 16th meeting - No School (MEA)

Next Meeting: November 6, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Environmental Education (Online) Committee

MESS-E Committee

9/4/25 Agenda/Minutes

9:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Becky Gilbertson

Cristin Hardy

Scott Hetherington

MaryKay Moe

Angela Oleszko

Cathy Priest

Amy Scheuman

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Seminar

Next meeting

October 2, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjourn

Environmental Education (Online) Committee

MESS-E Committee

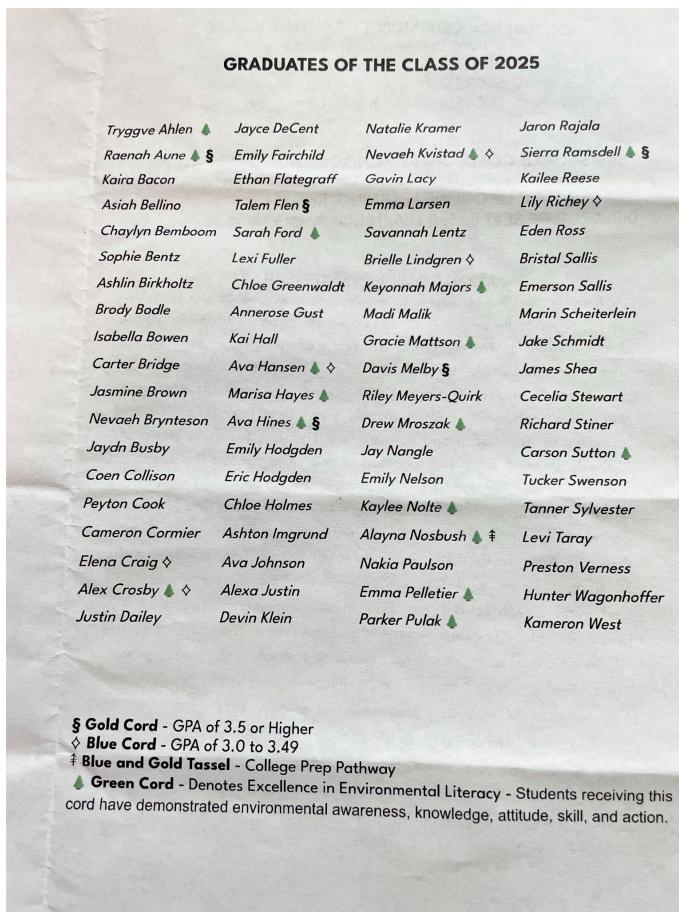
8/25/25 Agenda/Minutes

Attendees:

Becky	Gilbertson
Cristin	Hardy
Scott	Hetherington
MaryKay	Moe
Angela	Oleszko
Amy	Scheuman
Clare	Thompson

Time: 2:15 p.m.

Graduation SY25: Green Cords



Environmental Education (Online) Committee

Math (talk to Cathy)

(Spoke with Cathy after - will take ownership of the Math portion.)

English - Amy will take ownership this year. Someone else next school year.

Science - Scott posted the Science portion in Classroom.

Social Studies - Assignments are in Google Classroom.

Elective (MaryKay will connect with Isabelle to prep for delayed or second semester posting.)

Intro (MaryKay and Angela will work on it) MaryKay prepped and posted an Intro assignment.

Final Reflection (MaryKay and Angela will work on it)

Salt Watch

Get directions to the teachers to put in their classes.

Posts in Classroom this fall to get kits ordered before water freezes.

MaryKay posted resources and steps 1-3

Decided to meet the same as last year:

First Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m. with additional meetings the third Thursday on an as needed basis.

Adjournment/Adjourned

Next meeting

September 4, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.