

# **Environmental Education Committee Agenda/Minutes 2023-2024**

**EE Committee Mission- To support EE Goals and Initiatives**

**Meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month.**

**Norms:**

**Stay on task, if off task put drink or prop in the middle of table**

**Be on time, if not you will be clapped for**

**Time keeper- Claire**

**Recorder- Melanie**

**Attendance Taker- Melanie**

**Facilitator-Melanie**

**EE Committee Meeting Goals:**

**-monitor EE goals monthly**

**-initiatives**

**Norms:**

**Be on time. Stay on task. Assume positive intent. Have fun!**

**April 9, 2024**

**Attendance- Lance,Rachael, Joe, Melanie, Beth, Lisa Steffen, Colin**

**Solarium-** There are a few new gardening projects going on in the solarium, so that's great to see. Overall everything is running smoothly. We did lose a fish over the weekend, but as of now everything else is looking good. Students have eaten lettuce from the aquaponics system at least twice for lunch.

**School Forest-** I've seen classes outside utilizing our school forest so that's great to see. Keep getting those kids outside. Could we plant more trees? There is so much dead stuff can we get rid of some of it? We should keep it natural so that they are there to demonstrate that there is life to the trees after they are no longer green and dead.

**Solar Power-** I heard from CERT and had a very encouraging Zoom meeting with them. They did a test using our address and a software that said that it appears that we are in an optimal spot to get solar panels. He also said that there is a federal rebate out there for nonprofits to get 30% of our costs. He passed on our information to Heidi Auel who is our local contact. She is a former science teacher at Discovery Woods so she is familiar with charter schools and Osprey Wilds. She is willing to help us in any way that we need. He also suggested that we reach out to the church and see who installed their solar panels. He also suggested that we get a few bids so that we can get an estimate on costs and go from there. The other thing that he suggested is that we get some energy bills to see how much energy that we are actually consuming.

**EE Goals-** Teachers are working on their EE goals and I've had a few already turned in. As you complete your goal, go ahead and turn things in as you can.

**Earth Week-** Melanie is reaching out to the Lions to see about getting on their clean- up schedule. Look at doing it Tuesday, April 23rd to do roadside cleanup so that the bus is available. Melanie will organize some additional EE activities.

**Composting-** I am working on this, I just haven't had a chance to make it happen yet.

**Naturalist-** Lisa Steffen's cousin would be willing to come out to identify trees and plants in our school forest- We think that would be great. Maybe Bud or The Lakes Foundation would be willing to make us signs once things are identified. Maybe even plant some native plants.