

Environmental Education (Online) Committee

1/15/26 Agenda/Minutes

Present:

Becky Gilbertson
Cristin Hardy
Scott Hetherington
MaryKay Moe
Isabelle Morris
Jennifer Muller
Angela Oleszko
Cathy Priest
Rebecca Sutherland
Alyssa Swan

Absent: Toddy Endersbe (retired this week), William Toney, Brittany Burkel, Clare Thompson, Melanie Donley

Minutes - MaryKay reviewed the minutes from the past two meetings (regular and MESS-E focus)

Reports:

Environmental Education (EE) Coordinator/Environmental Literacy Plan (ELP) - Becky - PD - Part 2 will begin Feb 1. EE science fair - more information needed as far as grade levels and timelines. Discussed at the District EE Committee meeting.

Earth Day - "Our Power, Our Planet," focusing on collective action to drive sustainable, equitable progress, moving beyond awareness to tangible responsibility and emphasizing individual and community power to protect the Earth. ([EarthDay.org](https://www.earthday.org))

Collaboration opportunity - collect trash and share pictures with our seat based program.

Osprey Wilds Trip - 6-12 is doing registration this week and we will see if there is space for K-5. We may do a trip to Long Lake instead.

K-5 - Muller - K-5 newsletter with the EE section will be sent out on January 30th 2026.

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Middle School - Alyssa - Started a weekly science meeting with the middle school students where the plan is to go through some environmental education topics

EE Connection (MESS-E) Project

Ready for Semester 2 - MaryKay - Salt Watch is ready to post Friday with Steps 6-9 (midway survey, 2nd two readings, reflection).

Project Final Reflection - also post Friday; Using what you have learned from the topics in the EE Connection (MESS-E) project, and other resources if needed, **discuss 2 major challenges** to diverse food production. (Discuss with anyone)

Elective - Isabelle - (MaryKay) Slow food and Tierra Madre posted in Google Classroom before winter break, and embedded in Spanish and French courses in Edgenuity for semester 2.

Intro Assignment - MaryKay - 233 Graded

Math - Cathy - 159 graded out of 305 or 52% completed

English - Cathy - 83 out of 306 or 27% completed. This is also graded as an English assignment and will run through semester 2.

ELP goal for the English portion: ELP Performance Indicator: Knowledge Strategy 2 (**Amy**)

Students in grades 9-12 will learn about the community and global impacts of the dairy industry through a multimedia farm-to-table lesson embedded in their Mess-e course.

Evaluation Method 2

At least 50% of students in grades 9-12 will complete this portion of the Mess-e curriculum. Of those students 60% will achieve an overall score of 75% or higher. [English Farm to Fridge assignment](#)

Science - Scott and Will - 213 science students completed Field to Fridge

Social Studies and Stream - Rebecca - 264 submissions between the Local (139) and Global (125) assignments; additions to stream about set for the semester, a few more to go, and waiting for the info from MNDOT about the Snowplow naming contest voting.

SPED - Cristin and Angela - Nothing to report.

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Reflection - MaryKay - Ready to post for semester 2; due May 15; info sent to staff

Learning Coaches - Brittany - not present

Salt Watch - MaryKay - 161 kits ordered, 17 first readings, 6 second readings

SY27 Plan

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

Intro, Math, English, Science, Social Studies, Art, Final Reflection, all included in the archived course. Salt Watch will be added. Steam of positive EE will be added.

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

Four parts - Intro to Final Advertisement

Final Reflection: 5 questions; will be changed to a discussion.

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

Cathy to check with Math teachers - Both Angie Kemp and Theodore Casparian expressed interest. Even if not on the committee, helping with updating the math portion for next school year.

Reach out to Emily for Orientation Materials check-in, and English Teachers for participation next school year and committee. MaryKay meeting with English teachers on Jan 28. Meeting with Emily in the next week or so.

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

Other:

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

EE Valedictorian/additional recognition - Discussion

Prior meeting:

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

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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?

Could we create a sticker to celebrate the students who participated and stand out? Less expensive to mail and provides recognition. * Added later - what about a 9-12 sticker designing contest as an Earth Day activity? Students who meet a certain threshold get one of the stickers? Then students who receive a sticker all 4 years get a green cord.

School Orientation Materials - Any volunteers to help? Becky offered, if there's anything she can help with. Can we transfer information from the student handbook into orientation?

New Business (ideas, discussion, etc.) ?

Will we re-enter the Mn charter school innovation award contest? Yes, but it will be for work with ReGroup and staff, not for the EE Connection project.

Should we embed the course in seminar? What is the participation rate in seminar?

Placement of the project in courses and having it in Seminar? - Angela will connect with Olivia to gather information, report back to the group, and invite Olivia to a discussion.

Next Meeting: February 5, 2026 9:00 a.m.

