

# Environmental Education Committee Agenda/Minutes 2022-2023

**Date: Tuesday, October 27 , 2022**  
**Environmental Education Committee**  
**Time: 3:30-4:30**

**Members Present:** Melanie Donley, Abi Swenson, Lance Swanson, Mindy Glazier, Beth Duffy

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

**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-**

**Recorder- Abi**

**Facilitator-Melanie**

**EE Committee Meeting Goals:**

**-monitor EE goals monthly**

**-initiatives**

**Norms:**

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

**Goals discussion:**

We got some feedback from Osprey Wilds about our Environmental Learning Plan- A few wording changes need to be made and then it will be resubmitted to Osprey Wilds.

- Has anyone started working toward their goals?

**Solarium:**

Plants have been planted in the soil beds and the aquaponics system. I believe the mold issue has been resolved, however it needs to be monitored closely.

Aquaponics system is up and running. EE class is going to monitor and help maintain. Classes will also come to help water the plants. Whitepine trees? We have lettuce, tomatoes, and peppers in the Solarium.

**School Forest:**

The paths in the school forest still need to be looked at. Is there any class/classes that we could get to volunteer? Help is needed with this. Middle School said it is fine, might be trickier to see for the primary kids. Thought: families come in and help for spring cleanup.

**Composting-**

Our compost actually looks pretty good. The bins will be ready in the spring for the EE class for their EE goal.

I'd like to move the other bin closer to the school so it can be used too. (I can ask Jake to help with this.)

### **Recycling-**

Melanie printed up information about our garbage company's recycling program for 1-2 to use to create their posters. Ideal Recycling: \$12/year and can recycle "anything"-Melanie look into it. Talk with Kathy about storage space to do so. Possibly have a truck come in and grab them, rather than someone bringing them.

### **One Book One School-**

Create a sub committee to look at options for projects. Thinking that we start with a few "kits" that can be checked out by families. (That is where we ended our discussion the last time we looked at this) Plan a project (subcommittee) and figure out how to make that happen. Thoughts about having a home connection activity to go along with a book that the whole school would use (basic supply: crayons and scissors)

### **Other Initiatives: (Ideas)**

- Monarch Way Station
  - Monarchs are on the engaged species list now. We would need to plant milkweed and get a designated sign to show what it is. Location TBD, maybe the swampy area in the school forest. We can get seeds from Jeffers for free, no to low cost total for the project.
- MN Academy of Science- Citizens Network,
  - **Minnesota Phenology Network**
    - Share your observations with fellow naturalists. Join Nature's Notebook to help build a valuable database of information about climate change and learn about its impact.
  - **Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network**
    - Participants measure precipitation right in their own backyards. It's easy to join, takes only five minutes a day and is a fun way to learn about this wonderful natural resource that falls from the sky. Observations continue to give scientists an ever clearer picture of where and how much precipitation falls throughout our communities.
  - **Citizen Water Monitoring**
    - Volunteers measure the water clarity of lakes and streams, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency uses that valuable data to make decisions on watershed protection and restoration.

Melanie presented ideas and thought that we should maybe focus on one and see how it goes so it's not too much. The group thought that maybe the Minnesota Phenology Network would fit in with what we are currently doing.

Anything else? - No one had anything else that we needed to discuss.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 17, 2022

**Meeting adjourned at 4:20**