

MEMO

TO: Superintendent Gina Butters, Board President Jon Ritchie, WSD Board Members

FROM: Sheri Heiter

DATE: August 29, 2022

SUBJECT: Curriculum Presentation - Smart Foodscapes and School Gardens

Michelle Parslow, a long-time teacher at Wahlquist Junior High, began working with Utah State University in October of 2021 to create a school garden project to offer students insight into biodiversity and sustainability and also to generate interest in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) careers. Students in grades seven through nine may participate and classroom teachers can choose to integrate related environmental concepts and activities into their curriculum.

Student-managed gardens were installed at Wahlquist in the fall of 2021 and Ms. Parslow began promoting involvement across the school. Some students participate in stewardship of the garden through courses, while others are only involved during non-school hours. There is also a very popular summer project in which students continue planting, growing and harvesting crops throughout the summer months.

Ms. Parslow will share the positive outcomes of the school-based garden project with the Board, students will offer their personal insights and the data collected from this research will be discussed. Please turn the time to Sheri Heiter for a brief introduction.