



**Eco Action Team Minutes**

**Date: 10/14/2016; Start Time: 2:00 pm - End Time: 2:40pm**

**Location: Lower Elementary**

Note Taker: Dissemination of Information Team

PARTICIPANTS: Adults: 20; Students: 26
Parent Volunteers: Gabriela Singer, Robert Ripple, Margie El Moussa , Qian Song, Hannah Ottosson, Louise Wilson, Sergey Skvortsov, Amira Ledroz, Abigail Cheung, Sandra Anders, Giri Shamugan, Dipa Brahmhatt, Monica Estrada, Jacobus Delescen
Educators: Aruna Alluri, Liyuan Jin, Gordon Robertson, Angela Pawlak, Alma Lloyd
Administration: Barbara Nelson
Upper Elementary School Students: Alexa Rivas Gassan, Aya Dbouk, Melissa Ripple, Eric Ubarana, Allison Ripple
Lower Elementary School Students: Hamana Pestana, Lucy Wilson, Jasper El Mogazi, Julia Singer, Kavya Mudunuri, Safiya Bouska, Iker Samaniego-Estrada, Lars Zhang, James Delescen, Alaa Dbouk, Tristan Bouska, Graysen El-Moussa, Mateo Ledroz, Aleks Lukic, Alisa Skvortsova, Stefan Lukic, Eva Mackie, Liam Luque, Ixchel Mendoza, Melissa Ubarana

**A. Old business:**

- Mr. Adrian agreed to lead the Consumption & Waste group
- Margie agreed to lead the Curriculum group
- Dropbox is set up and team needs to use this to share information. We are going paperless
  - i. If anyone has not received invitation for drop box let Dipa know ASAP.

**B. Goals for Eco Team:** clarified to team by Dipa

- a. Biodiversity: Lead Angela
  - i. Complete audit
  - ii. Help Reisha with “field of dreams
- b. Consumption and Waste
  - i. Weight dates: Talk to Ms. Angela and Mr. Gordon
  - ii. Sustain ongoing recycling efforts
- c. Curriculum
  - i. Support Biodiversity in making nature journal
  - ii. Support consumption and waste

- d. Community: Lead Robert
    - i. Support school in making network directory
    - ii. Support Reisha in funding for “field of dreams
  - e. Dissemination of Information: Lead Gordon
    - i. Inform school of eco action activities – Friday news blast
    - ii. Display eco school logo
    - iii. Work on Eco Code
- Team member changes
    - Liam Luque moved to biodiversity from curriculum group
    - Ixchel Mendoza and Melissa Ubarana joined curriculum group
    - Abigail Cheung joined Dissemination of Information group
    - Sandra Anders joined Consumption and Waste group
    - Giri shamugan and Amira Ledroz represented their partners in the groups
    - Milo Roberson will not be in meetings
  - Groups Broke up for discussions and below are the updates

### C. BIODIVERSITY

- a. A **Nature Journal** will be developed during the Nature class. The journal will be kept by the Curriculum committee and Angela is responsible for passing out the information to them.
- b. Draw a **map of the garden**
  - i. Measuring:
  - ii. Drawing:
- c. The second part of the pre-biodiversity audit is **Quantification**. The data from the Biodiversity pre-audit will be quantified and incorporated into the map.

### D. CONSUMPTION AND WASTE

Attendees: All the team but Adrian Ledroz.

## AGENDA TOPICS

### 1. Weighing waste in school

*Remarks:* The date for weighing the waste will be set once the team speak with Mr. Gordon about it (coordination with the Dissemination of information team).

- a. Maria has spoken with Mr. Gordon so both teams can set the date and the procedure.

## 2. Old Business

### Discussions:

#### 1. Disposal of everyday waste (compost)

*Remarks:*

- a. The green cone seems a good option for a family, but not for a small school because the waste is more in quantity. Further research must be done to see how to have a better system.

## E. CURRICULUM

- a. Biodiversity curriculum: Ideas discussed for making the nature journal:
  - Use the journal for making plans, showing what we would like to do (vision book)
  - Use the journal to document what we have done
  - Decorate the cover showing all of the different species
  - Use composition notebooks that have top half of page blank (for drawing) and bottom half lined for writing.
  - Cut out pictures from used magazines to making art collage
  - Add pictures of the garden areas
- b. Consumption and Waste curriculum
  - We did not remember what was discussed in our last meeting for this topic. No new ideas were generated.

## F. COMMUNITY

### Meeting Minutes

*October 14, 2016*

*Present:*

**Adults:**

Robert Ripple, Giri Shanmugam (filling in for Anitha)

**Students:**

Erik Ubarana, Mateo Ledroz, Aleks Lukic

*Next meeting:*

10/28/16 – Location will be at the school

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### I. Discussion

Giri and Robert conducted a meeting outside with the Student Team members. This involved a discussion of overall progress/direction. Erik U. mentioned of his family's efforts during visits to Home Depot.

Assignments Designated (regarding the Katy Magazine effort)

Giri and Robert asked the Student Team to assist with information on:

Erik: Plants on the school grounds (types/quantity/etc.)

Aleks: Rainwater gathering (benefits/system)

Mateo: Animal inventory on the school grounds (insects/reptiles/etc.)

It is noted that these task may have been started, or even completed, by the other groups. However, each Community Student Team member's task is to gather this information for a potential publication in the Katy Magazine.

Action Items:

Robert will produce the minutes from this meeting. (Giri, please add any info I may have missed).

We must determine what is the existing involvement with MHFC and local businesses.

When we next meet, we will:

1. Understand existing efforts of the Eco School
2. Have five options from each Team member for Community outreach/involvement
3. Pursuit of battery recycling options, discuss with vendors

## II. Roundtable

S No	Business Name	Assigned To
1	Trader Joes	TBD
2	Walmart	TBD
3	Houston Garden Center (Sugarland)	All personnel with close proximity to HGC.
4	Texas A&M Agrilife	Robert/Angela P.
5	Master Naturalist	Robert/Angela P.

No Discussion

## G. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

- A. The new flyer for "Field of Dreams" has been updated with the students' input and will be communicated via 3 channels
  - a. MHFC school-wide Friday news blast
  - b. Email to elementary parents
  - c. Email to Eco Action team
- B. In order to make the eco school logo more prominent, we can make it bigger, colorful and frame it with natural elements
- C. **ACTION ITEM:** think of phrases and slogans for a biodiversity Eco Code

#### H. Closing Remarks

- a. Send minutes by Monday 17<sup>th</sup> to [dbrahmbh@yahoo.com](mailto:dbrahmbh@yahoo.com)
- b. Next meeting: Friday October 28<sup>th</sup>
- c. If interested in PVA meeting attendance: Tuesday 11/01/2016, 5-6 P let Dipa know via e-mail

## I. ACTION PLAN FOR TEAM

	Person	Action Plan	Tentative Date Completed	Date Completed	Comments
<b>10/14/2016</b>					
	Dipa	Made document changes. Removed Mr. Rishforth from group as requested, entered changes requested by team members and updated contact list	10/17/2016	10/19/2016	
	Dipa	Send e-mail to Barbara about member changes to change for dropbox	10/17/2016	10/18/2016	
<b>Biodiversity</b>					
	Angela	Nature Journal with collaboration from Curriculum committee. Angela will provide information to the curriculum group.	12/5/2016		
	Team	Map of Garden for pre-audit - measuring	11/18/2016 in nature class from 1:00 pm - 1:45 pm		
	Team	Map of Garden for pre-audit - drawing	10/21/2016		
	Reisha, Barbara, Monica, Dipa	Action Plan for Biodiversity: Field of Dreams -DIY enrichment structures for elementary garden	10/22/2016		
	Dipa	Quantification of pre-audit biodiversity survey	12/10/2016		
<b>Consumption and Waste</b>					
	Monica	Determine with Mr. Gordon best time for weight date	10/20/2016		

	Person	Action Plan	Tentative Date Completed	Date Completed	COMMENTS
	Group	Organize and complete weighing waste	12/5/2016		
	Group	Sustain ongoing recycling program in school	11/28/2016		
<b>Curriculum</b>					
	Group	Make nature journal with collaboration of Angela	12/10/2016		
	Margie	Collaborate with Consumption and Waste	10/28/2016		
<b>Community</b>	Anitha	Reach out to Katy Magazine to see if they would be interested in covering an article on the school for the Eco Program.	10/14/2016	10/14/2016	Waiting for response
	Grace	Brainstorm & Identify other media outlets to create awareness.	10/28/2015		
	Manisha	Identify opportunities for Buffalo Bayou Conservancy to conduct events in school	10/28/2016		
	Anitha	Identify opportunities for the Audubon society to conduct seminars and educational events at school	10/14/2016	10/14/2016	Waiting for response
	Anitha and Grace	Establish contacts directory	12/5/2016		
	Robert	Work with Mr. Gordon to assist students in projects: Erik for plants in school grounds; Aleks in rainwater harvesting; Mateo on animal inventory			
<b>Dissemination of Information</b>					
	Dipa	"Field of Dreams" flyer completed and send out via newsblast, elementary parents and eco action team	10/14/2016	10/17/2016	
	Gordon and students	Make Eco Action logo more prominent, colorful and frame with natural elements	10/28/2016		
	Group	Come up with phrases and slogans for biodiversity eco code	10/28/2016		
	Dipa	Make Eco School pamphlet for Community Group	10/28/2016		