

NHS GREENHOUSE STEWARDS MEETING - May 12, 2015

IN ATTENDANCE: Alison Boudreau, Brenda Eaves, Carolyn Kelly, Rachel Robie, Peter Sweet

April Minutes were read and accepted.

February Minutes were read again and accepted.

Growing Project Updates

As teachers are planning for the upcoming school year we will identify those who will use the greenhouse in the fall and those who will do so in the spring. We've gained invaluable insight from this first year and there is much to learn from the teachers who have integrated the greenhouse. Brenda thought it would be helpful for teachers who have already used the greenhouse to meet with the "fall group" to share what they've learned from their growing projects and give helpful hints. This mentoring would happen in the spring as well.

Lettuce grown in the greenhouse by Sharon Marquis' class was served for lunch one day this week and the salad dressing that accompanied was scratch made by them as well.

The children in Kerri Coronato & Stephanie Sherman's third grade class enjoyed kale chips from the kale they grew. The class picked and prepared the kale. The caf. seasoned and baked it for the class.

Herbs grown in the greenhouse have been used in at least 5 lunch meals. Paula will dry all remaining herbs to use in the caf. throughout the winter. Perhaps a grade or classroom could grow vegetables and herbs for the caf. during the upcoming school year.

The growing beds used for the 3rd grade square foot gardening project pilot were constructed by Bob Hamilton. He generously donated all necessary materials for the project.

Supplies/Tools & Furnishings

It would be beneficial to have a shelf or a cabinet (perhaps rubbermaid) in the greenhouse for community growing supplies.

To accommodate younger students, it would be helpful to shorten the legs on a few of the growing tables. Wondering if that is possible? Will talk with John Gamache. Alison mentioned that the Seacoast School of Technology has a welding department so perhaps we could contact them to help.

Supplies needed for the greenhouse:

- drip irrigation
- wands for watering
- track system for hanging plants
- sink with bigger counter surface
- handicap accessible grow bench
- ventilation to bring in outside air - would need to contact Rimol

The goal is to finalize the list and purchase the items this summer (after July 1st) so as teachers return in August the greenhouse will be equipped with all the necessary supplies/tools for the fall growing projects. During one of the teacher work days in August, staff will meet in the greenhouse to go over the space and supplies.

8th Grade Memory Garden

As part of their Power & Action social studies project, a group of 8th grade students have plans to regenerate the garden space near the greenhouse which was created last year by a small group of 8th grade students for their Power & Action project. Their plans may include painting the bench in memory of Sam Thomas.

Presentation to the School Board

Our committee will present at the May 28th School Board meeting. Presentation will include: how teachers have integrated the greenhouse, grade level plans for utilizing the greenhouse in the upcoming school year and the cost of utilities & supplies. Our committee will meet on Tuesday, May 19th at 3pm to prepare for the presentation.

Ron Christie's Visit

Ron Christie is available and interested in meeting with teachers during one of their June work days. That date will be confirmed after speaking to Rich.

Summer Task Force for Greenhouse Curriculum

It was suggested that interested teachers work together on greenhouse curriculum during the summer. This opportunity will be shared at the next school council meeting and brought back to teams.

Next meeting date is June 9th.