

## School Garden Minutes-May 23, 2016

The PVCS Gardens Club meeting began at 3:05pm with eight stakeholders present: Cindy Snyder, Isaac Habermehl, Elizabeth Hesse, Jill Kenney, Adam Lukasik, Heidi Moss, and Madison Mosher. Stephanie Caputo from Chautauqua County Health Network, was also in attendance.

Terry Brown, Cafeteria Manager, wasn't able to attend the meeting, but does support our school gardens and will help with the composting efforts in the fall. Terry is also on board with the 'garden to table' initiative that will take place over the summer, and a back to school harvest.

Stakeholders established a location for the four school garden beds. It was determined that the raised beds will be placed together at the elementary school, near the watershed, where exposure to daily sun is needed for vegetable plants to thrive. This centrally located spot is where all invested stakeholders can easily access water. A seventy-five foot garden hose with reel will be stationed outside of the water shed.

The committee decided upon to staple fabricated cloth on the bottoms of the garden beds to deter moles, prevent weeds, loss of soil and to hold in moisture. It hasn't yet been decided as to where the garden tools will be housed.

The PVCS Garden Club Committee discussed the possibility of extending the school garden into a Summer Enrichment program. We are hoping to implement the "Dig In!" Curriculum this summer with our students and teachers. Stephanie Caputo, from Chautauqua County Health Network mentioned how each lesson teaches the child the importance of how vegetables are grown, tasting and food preparation activities, life skills, food safety, and information about food allergies. Stephanie provided us with an array of educational resources "Planting the Seeds for a Successful Educational Journey" and Garden Based learning activities. She will be following up, sometime next week.

The PVCS Garden Club will be organizing a workday with Mr. Habermehls FFA students. Isaacs AG class has been busy with the planting of beets, beans and corn seed. The beets have emerged and are about 2-3 inches tall. It was also discussed what the PVCS Garden Club would plant. Collaboration as a group, will be needed to plant the beets, popcorn, carrots, potatoes, beans, peas, spaghetti squash, spinach, lettuce, mint and basil.

The community work day for the PVCS Garden Club is set for May 31, 2016 starting at 3:00PM. We hope to see you all there to assist, in the beginning stages, where we are learning together to grow food for our school and community.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45PM.