

School Garden Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

The meeting began at 3:10 PM with 7 stakeholders present: Kelley Ivett, Oliver Kohler, Cindy Snyder, Terry Brown, Jill Kenney, Kelly Zimmerman, and Scott Payne

The garden format was discussed and will be raised bed style. The Chautauqua County Health Network (CCHN) has offered to donate materials for four raised beds (4 x 12'-12" high) that will be made by Hewes BOCES students. The materials will need to be picked up at Hewes BOCES and put together here on our campus. Kelley Ivett will contact Shelly Wells, CCHN, so we will get on the list for the raised beds.

Rebekah Farrow volunteered, via email, to infuse her 8th grade math curriculum. She hopes to engage students through the use of statistical data. A few of her ideas included using a survey to decide on the items to be grown and the plotting out of the best location by taking into consideration the amount of sunlight an area gets daily.

Several locations were discussed for both buildings. The location will need to have easy access to water. Other considerations will be the upcoming building project and the impact construction will have. The location will also need to be approved by Mr. Tim Brunswick, buildings and grounds.

Terry Brown talked about the need for a separate bin in the kitchen area to sort compostable material into. We discussed checking with our Career & Technical department about the possibility of getting compost bins made by the students. No location was discussed for the composting project.

Kelly Z. brought up the fact that there may be regulations that need to be met for the State Health Department regarding serving food grown on campus. Kelley I. will check with our CCHN contact, Brady Deuink, to see if he knows if it is permissible for Terry and staff to serve from our school garden. Terry mentioned that farmers have to be approved prior to being able to sell local produce to schools. Terry will also get in touch with her contact at SUNY Fredonia because they have campus raised beds that they serve food from.

The plan is to keep the garden simple this year. The stakeholders present at the meeting want this initiative to succeed. Hopefully, next year we can expand the program to include other styles of gardening such as straw bale or bucket gardening. Scott Payne suggested having grade levels adopt a section of the garden plot to care for during science time.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 9th, from 3-4 PM in the high school study hall. Oliver will put this on the announcements at the high school to solicit interest from the student body. Oliver will also put up fliers at the high school announcing the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM.