

Sustainability Committee Meeting – Tuesday, 5 December 2023

Present:

School: Daniella Schmitt, Marcus Adams, Alexandra Bebb, Erneke Robinson, Paul Weir

PA: Janina Wiebols, Sophia Gross, Jana Fach, Marion Bambach

Environmental Stewards: Emily Bach, Iain Smith

Agenda / Tagesordnung

MA: Welcomes those present

Minutes of the previous meeting follows.

School's Agenda Points

1. Environmental Stewards Club

(Emily Bach, Iain Smith) Presentation

- a) Post tips weekly the secondary school students' MS Teams account and Friday Flyer. (eg. environmentally friendly Christmas crafts with eg. pine cones, water saving, choosing eco-friendly stationery and supplies, recycling tips including proper e-waste, etc.). Upcoming tips include: benefits of real v. artificial Christmas trees, and reusing gift bags and wrapping paper, etc.)
- b) Mark and celebrate eco holidays, eg. Soil Day, once a month
- c) Interactive activities
- d) Improve sustainability awareness in school
- e) 12-13 members
- f) school and PA try to make the club better known and provide support when help is needed. Maybe another meeting time (not only small break) would be better?!

Slogan: **STEWARD – acronym** - incorporating the aims and activities of the Club

The school dance motto this year was 'Deep Sea Disco' – €2 from each ticket sold, totalling €300 was earmarked for donation to the NGO 'The Ocean Cleanup'. This NGO aims to stop plastic reaching our oceans, as well as developing new tech for cleaning up garbage patches in the ocean, with a view of removing 90% of all ocean plastic by 2040.

(Upcoming Science Symposium in ESRM – tie up?)

Planned:

- New Year's resolutions, tips and engaging students more
- Earth Hour – like last year, turn off lights at school to raise awareness re energy use
- School clean-up day –to collaborate with the Parents' Association (PA) to include parents' participation in clean up of school (1st of March 2024) and the Brunnen Centre.
- World Water Day
- The Environmental Stewards Club have a bulletin board near the Fish Tank detailing current topics and activities – change every month.

PA commended the Environmental Stewards on their presentation and hard work.

PA asked about engagement by the student community with all the tips and activities put out by the club and how we could boost student participation and application. EBach said that apart from a few likes on posts on social media it was hard to measure how concretely pupils were putting their tips into practice. Cooperation with Primary (P5 or student council) helpful to get more participation of the upcoming year-groups. Announcements on the tannoys were discussed.

2. Umweltschule Award – plan for 2025

ABebb: ESRM has again been awarded ‘Hessen Umweltschule’ certification in July 2023, valid for 2 years. Looking forward to ESRM’s fresh application to be submitted in May 2025, the school will have to present 2 projects that meet specific UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Tiny Forest project, which was part of the previous applications is likely not be put forward again, so we need ideas for new projects. Suggestions for new projects with student and parent involvement welcome.

- Living/ green wall idea
- Concept “vollenergie autarke Schule”
- Cleanup Day

Parents’ Agenda Points

1. New projects and how parents can help
(refer to previous discussion)

2. Melomi lunch packs – reducing the amount of aluminium foil and single use packaging. Options to have children bring a lunchbox to place sandwich in, but there might be some food health and safety issues to be addressed in this regard; improvements to be discussed at the Jour Fixe with school management; and then discussed with Mr Arsenic of MELOMI. PA- feasibility of the nationally used REBOWL scheme, for example, or similar deposit. scheme for containers, that can be instituted by MELOMI.

3. Green/ living wall – feasibility within the school building and outside fences to be explored. Perhaps this can form a part of a project for the Umweltschule application? PA will do research and show the ideas (what?, where?, Fundraising) in the next sustainability committee meeting.

4. Tiny Forest Open Day – parents would like to see progress. Mr Weir said it should be possible and will look into an appropriate date in May.

5. AOB

- What is the status of the installation of solar panels on the roof. PA will check with the Directors about the Stadtwerke’s progress in this regard

- E-Charging Stations – progress? There is currently one charging station installed in the teachers’ parking lot, but not accessible to parents and public. PA to ask on the status of the additional charging stations that were to be installed.
- Emily Bach asked about whether the benches discussed in the previous meeting have since been installed in the Tiny Forest. ABebb confirmed this was done last year. Further, whether the sponsors names displayed on plaques?
- Erneke Robinson – the garden is being used also for Pre Pimary student activities, gardening in European Hours for Primary classes