



Joint Sustainability Committee Gemeinsamer Nachhaltigkeitsausschuss

Tuesday, 22.10.2024, 16:15 to 16:47

Present: Fiona Hartmann, Chanelle Boeldt, Martina Rinneberg, Gokhan Kocakaya, Juan Serrano, Paul Weir, Allie Bebb, Tom Zijlstra, Lara Deyerling Cruz, Aiwen Han, Vanessa Schlüter-Haag, Jana Fach, Jürgen Brüning, Ilka Emig, Okkert Havenga

Minutes: Parents' Association

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1. Secondary topics

1.1. Plans for the year

ESRM will once again apply for the Hessian Environmental School certificate. The application deadline is March 2025 and the award is expected in July. The preparations are underway.

<https://www.hessen-nachhaltig.de/auszeichnung-umweltschule.html>

Although the topic of bees was also brought up by the parents, it is already discussed at this point. The bee keeping project is planned and will be realised during the school year. As the bee season is now over, the bees will not move into the school until around March.



As the bee topic is very interesting, sustainable, and valuable, the parents' association offers its support. Ms Bebb mentioned that support is needed, for example, through the sale of honey at the end of the year.

The beehives will be placed around the Tiny Wood, which will be surrounded by a low hedge to direct the bees' flight path upwards and not towards the gardening pupils. A bee educator will teach the pupils how to handle the bees. She will work with groups of up to 12 pupils in the fenced bee area.

Maybe there will be a Bienen-AG.

There can be additional lessons when it shows up to be a success.

Various events can be organised as part of the introduction of the bees. The parents' association suggests showing the film "B-Movie" at a film evening. Ms Emig suggests that the Primary could come to school dressed as bees.

When the time comes, the Parents' Association will be happy to support the realisation of the bee events.

In this context, Mr Zijlstra asks how the schools feel about bees and whether bees have ever been an issue. This is answered in the affirmative by the primary school teachers.

1.2. More projects:

Organic gardening Club – takes place on Friday afternoon.

Outdoor classroom will be used more frequently. Most classes have access to the outdoor classroom.

Primary topics

1.3. Gardening

There are Gardening lessons in primary for the students. Mr McLea supervises Gardening during the European hours. The students are currently building hedgehog houses for the autumn.

1.4. Broken pen campaign:

There is a collection campaign in the Primary.

https://www.pilotpen.de/media/d3/fb/88/1727075561/PILOT_Schubladeauf_InfoSheet_TwoP_ager.pdf

Broken, no longer refillable pens of all brands are collected:

- mechanical pencils, ballpoint pens, gel pens, rollerballs
- Replacement refills and empty pen cartridges



- correction rollers
- Felt-tip pens
- fountain pens

The broken pens are recycled by TerraCycle. The collected writing instruments undergo various processes that convert the materials into secondary raw materials. The collected pens are converted into new raw materials. These raw materials, such as fibres and plastics from the collected pens, are used by manufacturers to produce a wide range of items. This helps to ensure that fewer new raw materials enter the cycle. The materials find a new life as garden furniture, transport pallets or playground surfacing, for example.

Broken pens will be collected until December 15. Each class has a collection box in which the children collect broken pens. The school with the most pens receives €1,500.

As there are no classrooms in the Sec, it is difficult to find a place for collection bins. Experience shows that such things quickly get littered

How can parents, students and others support the primary school?

2. Topics of the parents' association

2.1. drinking water fountains:

- Are they well received?
- How many are there currently?
- Are they connected to the water supply or filled with containers?

There are currently 3 water dispensers in the building and one dispenser in the entrance area of the Mensa. Water comes from the tap, the water dispensers are much more convenient as you don't always have to walk into the Mensa. The water pressure is low, so it takes a little longer to fill bottles.

Mr Zijlstra will speak to the Hausmeister about optimising the water pressure.

2.2. Project week "Nachhaltigkeit"

See idea/example 'Sustainable consumption project week' (see appendix).

The parents suggest a project week on the topic of sustainability. This could be an opportunity to organize the last two weeks of school before the summer vacations.

Answer by Ms Bebb: It is more complicated in the Secondary, as there is no single person responsible for this.

There is a MINT coordinator, Mr Botella.

This year, projects and excursions in the Second are to focus on space and astrophysics. Some things are already being planned.



Europäische Schule RheinMain
The European School

This year's theme is astrophysics, maybe it's possible to focus one day on earth.

The students like the idea. Friends on public schools do this too. They will include sustainability themes in student council.

Project week is not an issue in secondary school.

An entire project week is not feasible in secondary school due to the organizational effort involved.

The IB curriculum provides project work and projects in the form of collaborative science projects. Mr Kocakaya proposes to open these projects to all secondary students.

2.3. Miscellaneous

Mr Zijlstra wants to thank the students that they use the building in the way they do. With no big mess. Rubbish prevention works.

Mr Zijlstra is looking for pond owners because the school pond has too many fish in it. Who would like to have fish (one of 6 carp) for the pond, not for the pan?

End: 16:47

