

## ECO-SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

18/01/07

Thursday Period 6



#### **PRESENT: Pupils**

S3: RYAN DOWNS, SARAH LENNON, EMMA MACKIE

S4: JOHN CONNELLY, EUAN M<sup>C</sup>CALL

S5: MARK BOULES

#### **Staff**

DHT (UPPER SCHOOL): MRS. M. MULHOLLAND

SCHOOL LRC MANAGER: MRS. J. MACFADYEN

1. The meeting opened with an introduction by Mrs. Mulholland.
2. Mrs. Mulholland then outlined the purposes of having an eco-schools committee and explained the various responsibilities of its members. We discussed what previous committees had achieved (such as fundraising events like Bags to school) and Mrs. Mulholland explained why the old committee had to be dissolved.
3. We then looked at the Eco-schools web page on the school site and discussed the "Review" for the green flag. There were three main areas: litter, school grounds and healthy living. Significant changes had already been achieved in the school grounds area, healthy living was OK because the Health Promoting committee had done a lot of work already; the main problem, however, was litter. We decided to come back to this later when discussing the evidence required for a green flag.
4. The Sensory Garden was next on the agenda; this had come to a halt because of lack of funds. Mrs. Mulholland explained that there had been two main problems: getting NLC to do the first phase landscaping and money for security such as a fence and security lighting. All of the physical materials (benches/ plant pots etc) for the garden have already been bought and Mrs. Mulholland has £500 from Irvine's coaches for a water feature plus another donation from Lloyds TSB. All tools (spades/hard hats/glasses etc) for the construction have already been purchased as well. Mrs. Mulholland also informed the committee that OLHS/ Bothwellpark HS School

Boards/PTA's have raised funds. Various other fundraising ideas were also discussed. We also decided to pay a visit to Sandyholme garden centre later in the year.

5. The organisation of the committee was also discussed; Mrs. Mulholland and Mrs. Macfadyen both agreed that they should only act in an advisory capacity and that the pupil members should take the lead role. It was decided that John (S4) would be the chairperson and that the duty of taking minutes would be rotated. The committee decided that the members from S3 - S5 would not be added to, that S6 would not be included but that new representatives would have to come from S1 and S2 and preferably Andrew house since there are currently no reps from that house - Mrs Macfadyen will approach classes 1A and 2A about this. We also decided to meet once every three/four weeks and that there would have to be an action plan agreed at each meeting.
6. Mrs. Mulholland then informed the committee that the school had already won a Green Flag - Silver award, however we would like a gold one. There will be several requirements for this:
  - A survey will have to be taken; Mrs Mulholland and Mrs Macfadyen will organise this in accordance with Mrs. King and the Young Scot staff who have technology for inputting the results directly to the computer. The committee decided to take the survey through the house councils.
  - Evidence (photos/ videos etc) will have to be gathered. This will come in a variety of forms: before/after photos of the sensory garden, litter videos for different times, photos showing good/bad areas for litter (again for both before and after). It was agreed that Emma (S3) would do the video, and that Sarah (S3) and Euan (S4) would do the photos.
  - Two notice boards will have to be organised and decorated (one board should show the eco mind map and meeting minutes and the other show some of the photos of the litter/fundraising initiatives). It was agreed that John should take charge of these.
  - Regular committee minutes will have to be kept, organised and published on the website.
7. We also discussed publicity for the eco-schools project. Mrs. Mulholland also informed the committee about the upcoming school newsletter in which the eco-schools can have regular mention. Mrs Macfadyen also demonstrated the website and offered to make sure the project got a place in that and the press articles. We also decided that the house councils should be updated about the eco-schools committee at every meeting.

**8. A.O.C.B.**

- a) The committee also discussed the water fountains and requested they be repaired ASAP to encourage people not to use the bottle machines as much.
- b) We also discussed the possibilities of recycling plastic bottles; Emma agreed to check which types of bottle could be recycled.
- c) Euan said that he would investigate the possibility of recycling aluminium.
- d) Mrs. Mulholland also mentioned the possibility of recycling glasses in conjunction with St. Brendan's PS and other schools in the area.
- e) We also discussed what other schools did for their own eco-schools projects.
- f) We also decided that the eco-code would have to be simplified, put onto posters and displayed all over the school. The task of simplifying the code was given to Mark (S5).

**9. Finally we summarised the tasks set for everyone to be done for the next meeting:**

Ryan Downs - Distribute surveys to House Councils

Emma Mackie - Take videos for evidence/research bottle recycling

Sarah Lennon - Take photos for evidence

John Connelly - Organise notice board/type minutes

Euan M<sup>c</sup>Call - Take photos for evidence/research aluminium recycling

Mark Boules - Simplify eco-code

Mrs. Mulholland - Organise survey and speak to Mrs. King re. Glasses recycling

Mrs. Macfadyen - Organise survey and speak to 1A and 2A to find lower school representatives.

**The date of the next meeting was set:**

**16<sup>th</sup> February 2007**

**Friday Period 6**