

Virtual Meeting Minutes Tuesday, March 29rd, 2022 | 7 p.m.

Attendance: Mary Ann T, Stephenie W., Megan G., Christina A., Emily A., Josie B., Beth R.

I. Call to Order: Welcome called to order at 7:03pm by President Stephenie West.

This is a brief meeting to just discuss the garden project and then will conclude with a vote.

At this time, all teachers and Grant Watts staff who are not members of GWPO will be asked to leave per the organization's bylaws.

The membership of this organization will be open to any interested parents, guardians or persons directly affiliated with a Grant Watts student. Educators will be allowed to attend the full duration of meetings, as long as they have a child at Grant Watts. They will be expected to recuse themselves from any vote that may present a conflict of interest. Board officers are also eligible to vote, with the exception of the president who only votes when a tie takes place. Board officers are asked to abstain from voting that may include a conflict of interest and will state as such.

II. Emergency Meeting Item: Garden Space in Corridor - Beth Rajski

Presentation

Staff have expressed a desire to have a garden space, and at the faculty meeting GWPO discussed with staff about having a smaller garden space, separate from the Scappoose Learning Sprouts Garden. This smaller project would be implemented immediately, and would not take any funds from the larger Garden Project. The reason for this meeting is to confirm that GWPO would like to present GWE with a garden space by First, Kinder, and the Library, and to utilize funds from contingency to create this space in the next few weeks.

*Presentation details at bottom of minutes.

Discussion

Josie asked clarifying questions on maintenance. Beth confirmed that there are families willing to help during the summer, and there is even community conversations to be involved.

Josie asked about liability and responsibility. Beth answered that this would be a gift to GWE, so the overall liability falls within district, and the responsibility as well, however, there are volunteers willing to assist with the care of the space.

Questions were asked about the quality of the two garden beds. Mary Ann expressed with her knowledge of engineering, the difference wouldn't be significant. Wear and weathering is expected, but at the lower price point, it would be manageable for the organization and school for any future upkeep.

Questions about the connection of the corridor garden to the Sprouts Learning Garden. The board clarified that the Learning Garden is a very large discussion, and one to have with staff, district, the board, and members of the community before moving forward. The corridor garden is a way to implement a garden immediately, while the larger scale option is discussed and worked on.

The timeline of the current garden was addressed by Beth, stating that this weekend there would be bark chips delivered and spread on the space, if the project is approved at this meeting. Garden beds would be immediately ordered, and the coordination of soil delivery would also be discussed.

Vote to use contingency

Stephenie presented the contingency request.

- Would GWPO like to create the garden space between First / Kinder / Library utilizing half of the space with bark chips, and garden beds?
 - Unanimous pass
- Should GWPO spend up to \$2200 for garden beds and supplies? With the intention of purchasing the less expensive beds, and using the remaining funds for supplies.
 - Unanimous approval.

It has been decided that Beth will purchase garden beds, supplies, and coordinate with the school, and district, to get this garden space set up in the next few weeks, ideally completely ready and in use by students on Earth Day, Friday, April 22nd.

• Thursday, April 7th, 2022

IV. Adjournment: Stephenie West adjourned at 7:45pm

Garden Corridor

Faculty meeting on March 15th with discussion on garden spaces.

Sprouts Learning Garden is a large project, and continues further discussions, and is separate from current discussion.

Space between First, Kinder, and Library, green space corridor.

The Idea: Fill in half of the space, with bark chips and garden boxes. Create a garden area to get students outside, learning, and growing within this school year. Multiple garden boxes, to share between classes. Volunteers to help implement, and also work with classes to take care of their space. Can be simple, low maintenance. An opportunity for classes to go outside, utilize the space, grow something for the environment/nutrition/education. A bridging moment while the Sprouts Learning Garden is still in the works.

Support: At the 3/15 meeting staff were receptive, comments of approval, and an overall yes vote without direct count. Survey went out to staff before Spring Break, with 89.5% approval of the corridor garden space. (GWPO will reach out to no votes to communicate, address concerns, and hear their thoughts)

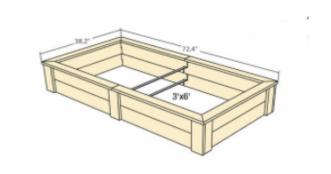
Plan: Utilize Contingency to create a garden space in time for Earth Day, and for students to use the space this year.

Options:

Order online through EarthEasy.com

https://eartheasy.com/natural-cedar-raised-garden-beds/#full-description

- -High quality
- -Ships in 2-3 business days
- -Made in Oregon
- -3'x6'x11"
- \$274.95 each x 8 boxes (approx. 2 per each grade) = \$2,199.60



Shop in store: Wilco (in Cornelius)

https://www.farmstore.com/product/3ft-x-6ft-cedar-raised-bed-garden-kit/

- 3'x6'x10.5"
- Good Quality (not as thick as EarthEasy garden beds, but still cedar)
- Able to pickup within the week
- -\$69.99 each x 8 boxes = \$559.92

Thoughts:

- With less expensive beds we could buy a few extras, to have on hand for backup/replacement/increase in need as soon as next year
 - (2 extra beds \$139.98)
- Depending on discussion, with less expensive beds, still allocate some funds for accessories:
 - Lockable outdoor storage box \$100-\$350 (bin or vertical)
 Principal Small commented that we could utilize the locking storage of the outdoor classroom.
 - Classroom set of garden gloves \$100



- Supplies: watering cans, trowels, digging forks, labels, spray nozzle, hose, hosebox, etc.
 - Community Outreach asks
 - Budget under \$500
- Seeds, starts, plants: work with teachers, community ask, Seed Library

Compare options

- 1. EarthEasy garden beds only \$2,199.60
- 2. Wilco garden beds + supplies \$1299.90 estimate (round to a high budget of \$1,300 with the notion that items could be less)