EEPSA Meeting Agenda – Oct. 15, 2018

In attendance: Neal, Christy, Meghan, Anne-Marie, Michael W., Anita, Dawn

1. Revisit our mission statement (unpack the meaning of our mission statement)

* Community building, communication and advocacy seem to be the main themes of the mission statement and give us clear directives

1. Review minutes from previous meeting: reviewed
2. Goals– set some actionable items. Big Ideas: How will we achieve a presence in the district? How will we achieve these goals?

* In the next few year: a focused afternoon on a Pro-d day focused on sustainability with 10 (?) different workshops
* Continue to communicate with the district’s energy coordinators
* REED invite/pay First Nations elder (Mr. Terry Point?) to discuss local land use or maybe take a walk somewhere with him for us to learn
* Local or provincial network: Twitter feed or Fb or another networking event. For consideration: a format allowing for members to take time to respond and think – a space to share research and “actioned-on” items
* Other networking ideas including: C2C/Ignite style initiatives
* Continue discussing and pondering the question “How do we reach the unconverted? And across district…”
* Create a Poster/brochure/Icon for conference tables
* Promote outdoors *learning* **and** outdoor *play*
* Tackle the topic of the increasingly restrictive field trip policies coming our way: one possibility is to create a “Training certificate” for teachers who want to take their students outside which may include first aid and hazard assessment tools (note: difference between risks (personal choice) and hazards (responsibility of adult to avoid). Meghan has decided to tackle this task and will be doing her PhD. on the topic and creating a hazard assessment tool; Surrey has a training course for ‘outdoor educators’ and we could try to create something similar in Richmond
* support Mud kitchen initiative with high school students

1. How do we want to support teachers in our district?

* District Pro-D day (Feb. 15, 2019)
* Are we interested as an EEPSA group in presenting
  + Release of a mentors guide: Michael Wolfe (50 copies)
  + Christie/Brittani Hyslop – beyond gardening
  + Richmond PSA table – BCTF table sign up table Dawn/Anita
    - Draw to bring people in… $ for resources, and sign up sheet to visit various classes (see list at end of minutes)
    - Topics for the table
      * Gardens
      * Outdoor learning/play
      * Place based learning
      * iNaturalist/Seek
      * Better practices guide e-version
      * Twitter feed?! Or Fb group sign-in
* Pro-D: Connected to District Initiatives
* Eco-wise grants: Energy and sustainability grants to be rolling out shortly – 3 campaigns and can make $1000, including a new plug-load program
* Eco wise cafes: November in Richmond Nature park, and January at Ferris
* REaDY Summit: April 8th (?)
* Green Ambassadors: City of Richmond trains high school students who come up with topics for REaDY summit
* Classroom visits: map with the closest school that has a REED member and offer visits to new members

Other items of discussion:

* Yearly budget: ($440.00. We can apply for more funds for specific events)
* EECOM conference in the Kootenays: poster/brochure about our chapter to share at EEPSA table – the conference was sold out in two weeks
* Outdoor classroom guidelines: meet with Grounds department and Board office staff: including Rodney establishing best practices in the district so that these garden spaces continue to be well managed
  + - Raised beds
    - Delivery of soil – need a new contractor with cleaner soil
    - School garden policy created by us – i.e. this is the process and the specs including the price of the mulch etc. so that schools know what to expect and how much to fundraise
    - Ask district for release time to help write the policy
* Fire pits in outdoor classrooms/ loose parts– can increase risk without proper training and one incident can ‘ruin’ it for everyone: fire pit needs to be movable
* Mud kitchen inquiry project: collaboration between secondary Tech Ed and primary classes

To Do:

1. Dawn/Anita: to create a table for Feb 15th district pro-d.

* People willing to share their classroom for new members of REED/groups with money for district initiatives.
* Sign up new members and create a calendar for these new members to sign-up for an outdoor experience
  + Meghan could share her time with a class on Monday’s with a class or not (K- 5)
  + Christy – Garden City and surrounding area (M-F) Gr 5/6
  + Michael – any day is fine High school
  + Anne- Marie- Wed/Thurs/Fri
  + Dawn – Thursday mornings (gr 3 – 5)
* Facebook page
* Follow-up with Michael’s logo idea with an open source design company (or students)

1. Neal
   1. Book a space for a table at the district day on Feb 15 for REED
   2. Talk to RTA and other admin about scheduling a conversation around school greening policies and field trip standards while continuing to practice his diplomatic skills such as defining the difference between developing policy to giving policy feedback
   3. Ignore the fact that this list is lettered instead of bulleted like everyone else’s
2. Christy – prepare for workshop on Feb 15 while also assisting an ailing family member and work full time
3. Michael – print 50 brochures and prepare a workshop for Feb 15 as well as getting elected on Richmond council – assist with an updated greening policy manual; further develop unknown talents as a logo designer
4. Anne-Marie – continue connecting with various schools and their needs
5. Meghan – something about a PhD and fighting the powers that be ;)

Next meeting: January 23, 2018 at McNair