

November Board Meeting Report

Good Evening Board Members and Attendees, I am Leamon Crooms, your Superintendent's Student Advisory Council President. We held our second meeting of the year on October 17th at Santa Rita High School. This meeting focused on the environment and how our schools interact with it.

We started our meeting with an activity on leadership. We asked each member to discuss and write down what being a good leader meant and how they could achieve that. We then asked them to compare their idea with others and present the best ones. This activity was designed to introduce the council to their roles as leaders this coming year as well as get them talking and sharing ideas with one another. We then transitioned to a presentation from a science teacher at Santa Rita who also leads the aquaponics program there. He talked about the importance of protecting the environment and how Santa Rita started their environmental conservation projects. We then went around the school and saw their aquaponics project, a rain collection tank, and plans for a school garden. All these projects were built completely by the students at Santa Rita and some of them produce food and other items that are sold to help fund their program. I was very impressed by what was being accomplished by the students. Santa Rita is a great example of how simple it is to start these kinds of programs and how much good they can do. At Santa Rita, they collect water to feed their gardens, produce self-sustaining produce and even create products like soaps and paper that is sold to support the program. It is a great example of the potential of our schools and why it's so important to invest in them. We concluded our meeting by discussing the kinds of environmental changes that each member would like to see in their own schools. Some of the most common answers were more focus on recycling and trash collection and more support for campus clean up.

I then ended the meeting by asking each of them to take the changes they came up with during the meeting and do what they could to make them a reality, whether it's starting an environmental club or just picking up a piece of trash, we all need to do our part. I will tell you the same thing I told the council, I encourage each and every one of you to take charge of changing your schools for the better. Many of our schools could greatly benefit from even the smallest of improvements, we must do our part to be the change we want. That's why we all are here today, because we care about our schools and communities, and that's what really matters. Thank You.