



Caption: The Climate Action Team from Woodland Hills High School was invited to speak at the Climate Action Summit held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in October 2019.

Woodland Hills School District to Host Frank Niepold of NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) to Kick-off Implementation of Climate Change Curriculum K-12

On Wednesday, July 17, 2019, the Trustees of Woodland Hills School District (WHSD) unanimously passed *Resolution 540.19: Call to Climate Change Action*. The passing of this resolution makes them the first in the state to recognize climate change as a “generational justice and human rights issue” as well as a “social justice and equity issue.”

Responsibility for the district-wide effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is spearheaded by the newly formed district Climate Change Committee, who will provide quarterly reports to the board with recommendations for taking action on climate change that are within the purview of the district. Such actions may include curricular and educational opportunities like climate-literacy and climate-advocacy, sustainable facilities and operational projects, climate-friendly food service, and engagement and non-partisan advocacy with local, state, and federal jurisdictions for “commonsense climate policies that protect current and future students.”

The Climate Change Committee meets monthly. During their initial vision and goal-setting meeting in January 2020, the committee named “increasing climate literacy” among students to be a number-one priority. In order to maximize efforts moving forward, the committee has enlisted Frank Niepold, the national Climate Education Coordinator at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Literacy Office in Silver Springs, MD, to help oversee the implementation. In addition to being responsible for national initiatives to increase climate literacy, Niepold is also the Senior Climate Education Program Manager for the Communication, Education and Engagement (CEE) program run by NOAA. Its goal is to foster a climate-literate public that understands its vulnerabilities to a changing climate and makes informed decisions.

Niepold will visit Woodland Hills on Tuesday, Feb. 4, to meet students, teachers, and administrators. He'll spend the morning touring various classrooms and district buildings, hold Q&A sessions, and help disseminate information and build enthusiasm for the new initiative. In the afternoon, Niepold will attend sessions with key climate change experts throughout the region to gain insight into ways to use regional assets, like our higher education institutions, in order to implement climate curriculum in the district. He'll be meeting with educators at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, as well as faculty, staff and students from five local universities. He'll spend the evening hours with the Woodland Hills Climate Change Committee, talking strategy and next steps for moving the district forward to introducing climate change curriculum in the fall of 2020.

**The general public is invited to attend Niepold's session on Tuesday, Jan. 4, from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Woodland Hills High School - Library Media Center. Event page and registration at:*

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/climate-advocacy-with-noaas-frank-niepold-and-whsd-tickets-90147390271>