

From: Rebekah Smillie <smillier@newton.k12.ma.us>

Sent: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 11:01 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Andrea Vargas <vargasa@newton.k12.ma.us>; Kathleen Smith <smithkath@newton.k12.ma.us>; Stephanie Gilman <gilmans@newton.k12.ma.us>; Amy Mistrot <mistrota@newton.k12.ma.us>; Alison M. Leary <aleary@newtonma.gov>; Waneta Trabert <wtrabert@newtonma.gov>; Allison L. Kelley <alkelley@newtonma.gov>; [REDACTED]

Subject: letter from the Peirce Green Team about reducing plastics

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Below is the body of a letter written by the 4th grade Green Team to our food service provider, Whitsons, about reducing single-use plastics in school lunches. A copy of the letter with signatures is attached.

Dear Ms. Flutie and Whitsons staff,

At Peirce School, we are aware that we use a lot of single-use plastic. We also know that very little of this plastic can be and will be recycled. Most of this plastic will end up in landfills where it creates toxic gas or it will make its way to the ocean where it kills sea animals and birds and also enters our food system. To help with this problem, we are asking you to take following single-use plastics out of our school lunches:

Plastic

utensils wrapped in plastic:

instead we would like compostable utensils in baskets so you only take what you need.

Packaged

sauces (like ketchup

and syrup): instead we would like a sauce dispenser with paper cups.

Plastic

clam shells: instead

we could use more paper boats.

Fruit

cups in plastic:

instead we would like fruit salad in biodegradable plastic cups or paper cups.

Whole

fruit wrapped in plastic:

we don't need each apple to be in a plastic bag. In fact, we all prefer whole fruits to the cut-up apples and carrots in plastic bags. They are much tastier!

Finally, we would like to be able to choose our own sides. We see so much food waste when side dishes are placed in a container with the main food item. The uneaten sides often get thrown away (or composted). Even if we wanted to donate them to the Freedge, they are often too sticky to be given away. The more choice we have, the more responsible we can be with our food.

We know we are asking for a lot, but we think that this is really important. There is so much plastic on the earth right now, and more than 10 million tons of plastic is added to the ocean every year! Plastic is a threat to our world, and we want to start doing something about it now. Will you do something with us?

Thank you,

Pierce 4th Grade Green Team

CC: Andrea Vargas, Peirce Elementary School Principal

Dr. Kathleen Smith, Interim Superintendent

Stephanie Gilman, Director of Planning, Project Management & Sustainability

Amy Mistrot, Director of Business Operations

Alison M. Leary, City Councilor

Waneta Trebert, Director of Sustainable Materials Management

Allison Kelley, Waste Diversion Coordinator

Deanna Hoffman, Green Newton School Connections

Rebekah Smillie
Peirce Elementary School