

PART B – Summary of 2014-2015 Green School Activities

I. SCHOOL GROUND ENHANCEMENT – Each month, organized monthly campus clean ups are held at H.L. Johnson Elementary. Staff, students, and parents are welcomed to join in and participate. We also initiated, planned “Beautification” Saturday events. Each event had specific goals in mind and out administration was key in the planning. PTO was responsible for getting the word out and the parents, staff, students, along with administration and one of our business partners did all the physical work which went into the “Beautification” of the select areas. Some of the tasks but not limited to were weeding, trimming, placement of new railroad ties to enhance borders, debris was bagged and hauled. Our butterfly garden was cleared and re-established. A new garden club began utilizing existing beds for the purpose of a flower garden and such. New large, self-standing flower pots were placed along each side of the schools’ entrance with native plants.

II. SCHOOL SUSTAINABILITY- H.L. Johnson Elementary has maintain a strong recycling program consisting of paper, comingled items, cardboard, glue sticks/glue bottles, ink toners, cartridges, cell phones, juice pouches. Each classroom has a recycling box and the green patrols empty these boxes into a centralized location as needed. Our P.T.O., front office, and administration offices also help in supporting the recycling lifestyle. Comingled materials are collected daily and picked up weekly. Cardboard is recycled each week at H.L. Johnson Elementary School which, like paper, saves energy, water, and fuel. All copy machines, and printers at H.L. Johnson utilize the Toner Save and sleep features to shut down when not in use, as do the computers. H.L. Johnson participates with TerraCycle with several collection brigades, to name a few there are the Glue Crew, Scotch Tape, drink pouch brigades. TerraCycle allows us to earn funds with each brigade we participate in. There is continued success in reduction of energy consumption from the District Energy and Incentive Program. The “No Idling” zone located at the student drop off/pick up areas are still in place and being carried out which continue to help clear the air we breathe while dismissing our students.

III. CURRICULUM INTEGRATION - The curriculum integration of being green is found every day in the class lessons. H.L. Johnson Elementary has several areas where the curriculum focuses on environmental themes, concepts, and projects. The water cycle is taught throughout the grade levels the lessons help to apply reading, math, writing, and science and the courtyard is used as their outdoor weather lab. Third graders participate in a recycling fashion show where their outfits and accessories are made of recycled materials. A fashion show is held and parents are invited to attend to observe the latest recycled creations from the cat walk. Fourth grades take field trips to Grassy Waters Preserve where they learn the importance of water improvement, restoration, conservation and its impact on the eco-system. This year a Garden Club was established and works with all grade levels at various stages in the growing process. Beautiful new gardens have been learned about while having hands on learning.

IV. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - Community Involvement is one of H.L. Johnson’s strengths especially when it comes to being green. Team Green has volunteered their time and energy for projects and services beyond the school grounds. Several members of Team Green meet at various local parks to do clean-ups while having a bit of fun at the park. A running club has been on-going and meets on Wednesday of each week to run. These same students participate in running events within the community as available, including the South Florida Fairgrounds. Students participate along with parents and staff members at the Susan B. Komen Walk for Breast Cancer, Light the Night walk for Leukemia, and the Annual Walk for the Animals. Monthly we collect specific items to assist with our reduction of waste in our landfills. Every year on Arbor Day, Team Green members partner with our native nursery business partner who donates seedlings to the school. Students select their seedling, plant it in a biodegradable pot, and take it home to care for and nurture. H.L. Johnson also collects food and supplies for Peggy Adams Animal Shelter and holds an annual food drive during Thanksgiving. Caps and lids along with pop tops collection is on-going throughout the school year, raising awareness and funding for children’s cancer. Team Green students and staff collaborated to utilize a newly

built garden area for growing and harvesting cabbages. Native tree plantings are being maintained by the students with the guidance from their teachers. Students attend and assist with the Cypress Harvest Collection, which is held each year at the Arthur Marshall National Wildlife Refuge. Also, during our 30th Anniversary of H.L. Johnson Elementary we will be having H.L. Johnson Jr. speak on behalf of his father's vision for our elementary school. The topic of our school's efforts to maintain our Green School of Excellence would be something Mr. Johnson would be quite proud of we are certain.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT - Administrative support is evident in all of the special programs, including school-wide events (Jump for Heart, Earth Day, Field Day, and Monthly "Green Day" Collections), green fundraising, and lessons which have gone on and are on-going. There is support with changing the way students are rewarded from food items which come with packaging to handing out Spirit Sticks, which are collected, traded, and held on to by the students. A policy of no cupcakes being allowed to be sent in for birthdays has been instituted and instead parents are allowed to send in healthier alternatives. Students are outside every day. Physical Education classes are attended two times every six days and on the other four days the classroom teacher is taking the students outside. Using the backside of paper, less paper, and encouraging recycling is also supported by the administration. Administration puts the word out in support of our monthly green day, along with our green week of activities, and Earth Day/Arbor Day events. Each year there has been a Walk-A-Thon fundraiser but this year reading and recycling have been incorporated into this Triathlon event, this would not have happened without administrative support. When Team Green wanted to bring in plants for each and every classroom, office, and room at H.L. Johnson the administration was once again right on-board. It is H.L. Johnson's principal, Dr. Patti Lucas who has lead the way for the school-wide emails and call outs replacing the use of paper flyers. This has impacted our school, positively in many ways. Ms. Cyndie Wolf has been a supporter, listener, organizer, and encourager when it comes to green projects, plans, or ideas. Without the administrative support there would not be a Team Green.

VI. INNOVATION - H.L.J. along with their Team Green determine what can be done better for the greening of the school, for the next year. This year the innovative ideas were plentiful. Two main focus points were "Beautification" days and going "paperless" digital. The events which were held H.L.J. beautify the campus in stages with dates throughout the year. The work includes pulling weeds and non-native plants from areas where they should not be, putting in new mulch, helping with the xeriscaping concept. Dead plants and branches are pulled or cut and new native foliage planted. Railroad ties cut and placed to control areas for mulching and marking. One event date the butterfly garden was completely revamped. Volunteers consisting of teachers, students, parents, staff, and administration all come together to "beautify". Paperless and Digital Communication is a full on functioning program. We can now state H.L.J has gone digital. Communication between school and H.L.J families is done digitally through Edline, texts, and emails, greatly reducing paper consumption. The impact has affected the landfills and recycling but also we have had greater responses from parents through our new communication methods making our school even more successful.