



GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

2022-2023 School Year Strategic Planning

Thursday, August 4, 2022

3:00 p.m.

Committee Members: Eric Zwerling, Chair
Jodi Bettermann, Elizabeth Fiore

Administrative Staff: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent; Jason M. Bohm, SBA/Board Secretary

1. Format of Meetings / Strategic Topics for 2022-23

There was a discussion about the preferred format for the 22-23 meetings, including: time of day; length of meeting; participant groups and Sustainable Jersey requirements; student presentations in Committee v. in front of Board; format of meetings (e.g., administration update with questions/comments, interactive format, or other), etc.

- Overall goals to keep in mind during meetings
 - Reduce impact (energy, food waste, recycling, etc.)
 - Improve health and wellness
 - Effective curriculum

2. Update on 2022-23 Green Capital Projects

- Outdoor Classrooms - All 4 schools - updates
- Outdoor Wifi - All 4 schools – supply chain issues, late fall, early winter
- Sensory Garden – TBS - done
- Girl Scout Project - HBS Wildlife Habitat – discussed, no update
- Bioswale Project – TBS – on Schedule - September 10
- Salem Oak and Tree Nursery / Readington Environmental Commission – RMS – moving forward

3. 2023-24 Green Capital Projects Discussion and Focus

- Solar expansion
 - Existing sites / goal of expansion / focus areas.
The committee recommended seeking expansion/installation in all locations that were economically feasible, based upon consultant financial analysis. This could include locations that previously had no panels such as car ports.
 - Process options:
 1. RFP consultant/bid project
 2. Architect of Record/bid project
 3. NJSBA ACES+(Gabel)/bid project
 4. ~~Expansion of existing contract with negotiation (not feasible per attorney)~~
 5. ~~Using state contract/cooperative with no bid (not advisable per attorney)~~

The Green Committee decided to recommend going forward with #2, engaging our architect Settembrino, based upon the recommendation and analysis of the Business Administrator. He was asked to inquire as to their familiarity with the financial aspects of such a project.

- Electric school bus and electric charging stations (if grant awarded). There is a higher probability for successful funding of this grant application than in the past. Solar panels above electric busses could be attractive STEM demonstration.

4. Climate Change Education and Sustainability Curriculum

- Curriculum Department and curriculum writing
- Sustainability Coordinator and 4 schools
- Teaching Towards Green Schools: Transforming K-12 Education through Sustainable Practices

5. Website – new content submitted for review. Transitions the website from energy-centric to representing the district's holistic approach to sustainability and integration into the environment of the community as a whole.