



GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 14, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Committee Members: Jodi Bettermann, Chair
Elizabeth Fiore

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

1. Strategic Focus for 2023-2024 School Year

Each member of the committee shared their thoughts and observations about input provided by Green Committee members during our brainstorming session in June 2023 and agreed on the following focus areas for the upcoming school year:

- Pillar I: Reduce environmental impact and costs
 - Focus on energy including solar expansion, electric charging, and other energy efficiency efforts to reduce overall environmental impact
 - Reduction of food waste was discussed, but unsure if achievable in the upcoming year. Potential for exploration as opportunities allow.
- Pillar II: Improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff
 - Importance of experiencing nature and being outside for the school community including nature & outside focused activities and programs. Examples might include field trips, outdoor class, walking paths, storyboard/news productions by students, etc.
 - Implementation of policies to cement focus to create themes and focus long-term
- Pillar III: Provide environmental education (STEM, civic skills, green career pathways, etc.)
 - Utilize the natural world and being outside as opportunities to learn about the environment.
 - Continue to pursue Sustainable Jersey certification and resources such as grants
 - Implementation of policies to cement focus to create themes and focus in long-term
 - Green Coordinator(s) develops own passion project and implements with district/board support
 1. Bring discussion to Finance Committee due to potential cost perspective
 2. Re-structure Green Committee meetings to focus on Green Coordinator(s)

2. Solar Array Expansion Update

The project continues although at a slower pace than expected. Options for the solar panel locations at Whitehouse Schools are being considered so the detention basin and associated run-off area are not negatively impacted. Drafting of a Request for Proposals will begin in the fall.

3. Other Capital Projects with Sustainability Focus Update

LED lighting phase 1 (RMS/HBS), Outdoor Gardens (WHS), Water Bottle Fillers (RMS) projects are being completed this summer.

4. New Business

Information was discussed regarding implementation of the focus areas for the upcoming year including a Safe Routes to School grant (deadline November 17, 2023), a “bike bus” to allow adult led bicycling for groups of students to travel to school, and food waste reduction resources including a food dehydrator.

5. Next Meeting

Our next Green Committee meeting shall be held in the fall of 2023. Meeting invitations shall be sent out for the full school year shortly. Refer to June 2023 Green Committee meeting minutes [here](#).