



## Green Committee Minutes

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

3:30 p.m.

---

Committee Members: Eric Zwerling, Chair  
Elizabeth Fiore

Administrative Staff: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent; Jason M. Bohm, SBA/Board Secretary; Don Race, Facilities Manager; Principal; Kristen Higgins, Principal; Sharon Moffat, Principal; Sarah Pauch, Supervisor of Math, Science and Technology

Other Members: Betsy Freeman, Coordinator of Green Initiatives and Sustainability; Steve Foster, Township of Readington; Neil Hendrickson, Township of Readington; Township of Readington; Marlene Orlandi, Township of Readington

### 1. Green Initiatives, Sustainable Jersey Updates – *Betsy Freeman, Students Riya Gupta / Bani Meghadri*

There was a lively student presentation regarding Earth Week activities in the schools: announcements; school displays; promotion of Go Green website; intersectional alliances; and, Activist Art Exhibition. Other topics were the students' campaign on cafeteria waste and UN Global Goals.

Principals gave Earth Week roundups. There is a remarkable and inspiring amount of activities in the schools.

Activist Art Exhibition brought up the possibility of a touring exhibit in the schools (it's virtual now, so printing would be an issue, but the images could be shown on monitors in the schools). Also discussed was partnering with the Township. Representatives suggested the Bowman-Stickney Farmhouse as a possible exhibit venue. Partnering with the Township discussions ranged from working with the Museum Society, the redevelopment of the native garden at RMS, a stream cleanup, tree plantings, "Tree Campus K-12" (Arbor day Foundation), and promotion of Readington's Single Use Plastics Ban.

### 2. Energy Update - *Don Race*

Mr. Race discussed the trends in electricity and gas consumption since 2008. There has been a significant reduction in both cost (dollars) and usage (kWH electricity and therms natural gas) as a result of our sustained conservation efforts. For instance, in 2008-2009, the District spent \$1.18mm on total energy and in 2019-2020 it was \$483k. While discussing the overall trends he did note however that the data from the past year will be an outlier due to the reduced usage of the buildings. He provided detail on why the District established a new baseline data year in 2018-2019 for comparative purposes going forward.

### 3. Food Service Request for Proposals - *Jason Bohm*

Mr. Bohm discussed the sustainability provisions within the RFP, including: reusable trays and no plastic straws or foam service items.

### 4. Cafeteria Food Waste Handling - *Jason Bohm*

Mr. Bohm discussed the progress on investigating the suitability of contracting with Trenton Renewables to receive the organic fraction of our cafeteria waste. He will also be presenting on the initiative at a meeting for representatives of other county schools (Readington leading the way...)

5. Sustainability Websites - *Dr. Jonathan Hart / Jim Belske*

Dr. Hart and Mr. Belske discussed progress on the websites. There was a brief discussion about how to organize the websites, including whether to develop a flowchart to organize links based upon the end user (e.g., student, parent, teacher, outside school district looking for guidance)

6. Strategic Plan Update *Dr. Jonathan Hart*

Dr. Hart requested discussed the development of the Strategic Plan and asked for input. Mr. Zwerling suggested that the Social Awareness goal/component be expanded to promote an awareness of “the environment” in addition to “self and others”:

Every individual will develop skills that promote an awareness of self, ~~and~~ others, and the environment, including the ability to understand the impact of their decisions.

Mr. Zwerling commented that society and the world would be more livable, just and sustainable if people simply respected themselves, others as individuals and cultures, and other species and their ecosystems. This is entirely consistent with the larger goal of promoting Social Awareness. He suggested the development of a sustainability subgoal under Social Awareness and proposed language.

Dr. Hart, Ms. Freeman and other members engaged in wordsmithing. There was further discussion regarding the inclusion of sustainability goals elsewhere in the Strategic Plan, and the appropriate places to do so. Dr. Hart made several suggestions and Ms. Fiore suggested that these efforts are ripe for inclusion in the Partnership goals.

7. Our next meeting shall be held in the fall of 2021.