



GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 24, 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; Don Race, Facilities Manager; Principal; Dr. Kristen Higgins, Principal; Sharon Moffat, Principal; Sarah Pauch, Supervisor of Math, Science and Technology

Other Members: Betsy Freeman, Sustainability Coordinator; Gargi Adhikari, Teacher; Denise Birmingham, Teacher; Blair Alber, Teacher; Neil Hendrickson, Readington Township; Steve Foster, Readington Township; Marlene Orlandi, Readington Township; David Livingston, Readington Township; Christina Albrecht, Readington Township

1. EcoAmbassador Student Update - *Betsy Freeman / RMS Students*

- EcoAmbassador Friends Action Read Alouds
- Student Food Waste Audit

Ms. Freeman's students delivered two presentations regarding clean water and food waste. Ms. Albrecht (public member) noted her interest in the food waste issue and her intention to get involved.

2. Energy Conservation / Solar Expansion - *Jason Bohm / Don Race*

Mr. Bohm gave an update on his research into the potential for expanding solar installations in the district. He met with a consultant from ACES+ (an NJSBA sponsored program) who is looking into current market conditions (SREC program, vendors, etc.) to provide an economic analysis of the options going forward for various configurations of installations (e.g., roof-mount, ground, canopy). An installation on the new roof at HBS is certainly viable, and the consultant will walk the roof when the construction schedule is known. Alternative bid(s) will be prepared to include additional/other locations and types of installations if the district decides they are meritorious for consideration. Financially, much depends on the SREC program which will be announced by the BPU in the fall. A letter to the BPU supporting the SREC program could help. Mr. Bohm outlined additional next steps and a potential timeline for this project. The Green Committee voted to have Mr. Bohm proceed with his research, and forward our recommendation to the finance Committee.

3. Sustainability Curriculum & Priorities Moving Forward - *Board Members / Dr. Hart / Ms. Pauch*
 - Attachment 3a Curriculum Writing Budget 2022-23

Dr. Hart and Ms. Pauch discussed a line item in the budget funding \$2140 for Green/Sustainability curriculum writing and virtual field trips.
4. Sustainable Hunterdon Schools Hub - *Dr. Kristen Higgins*

Ms. Higgins noted that she had joined the Hub through which she shares information regarding the green initiatives of TBS.
5. TBS Detention Basin Proposed Project Update & Timelines - *David Livingston / Dr. Kristen Higgins*

Mr. Livingston provided a funding update. \$11,000 has been secured for this project towards a proposed budget of \$20k. Another \$5k is committed, pending securing an additional \$4k. There is a grant application outstanding for that amount, the decision will come in April. Other budget levels were briefly discussed, as was an additional follow-up meeting at TBS.

There was a brief discussion of the benefits of the project: environmental (on-site and off-site); educational; and, community partnerships.
6. Website Updates - *Board Members / Administration*

Dr. Hart noted that the new website is up. There was discussion that proposed amendments/updates/suggestions to the website will be shared through Google Documents and then Dr. Hart will review, and post as appropriate.
7. Transportation Electric Bus / Charging Station Grants - *Jason Bohm*

Mr. Bohm noted that there is a lot of grant money available for electric busses, and while he has not yet been successful, hope and effort springs eternal.
8. Walking Trails at the School - *Neil Hendrickson/Betsy Freeman*

The potential for this initiative was briefly discussed.
9. National Wildlife Federation Certified Habitat - *Board Members / Administration/Betsy Freeman*

The fenced enclosure behind HBS, which was constructed with the solar installations, was intended by the Board to be a National Wildlife Federation Certified Schoolyard Habitat, amongst other possibilities. Several months ago, a group of Girl Scouts approached Ms. Freeman and Dr. Hart to discuss the potential of basing a Silver Award project on that habitat. Ms. Freeman confirmed their continued interest, and Mr. Zwerling reconfirmed his family's commitment to funding towards a well-considered plan.
10. Postponed to 4th Quarterly Meeting
 - Cafeteria Waste - *Jason Bohm / Don Race / Christina Albrecht*
 - Energy Updates - *Don Race*
 - Sustainable Jersey Update - *District Administration*
11. Our 4th quarter meeting is to be held May 4, 2022.