



GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

3:30 p.m.

Committee Members: Jodi Bettermann, Chair; Elizabeth Fiore, Board member

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

Other Members: Betsy Freeman, Teacher; Gargi Adhikari, Teacher; Dr. Neil Hendrickson, Readington Township; Steve Foster, Readington Township; Marlene Orlandi, Readington Township; Christina Albrecht, Readington Township

1. Strategic Focus for 2023-2024 School Year

- Over the summer, Board members and administration met to review input from the Green Committee provided at the June meeting. The input was consolidated into several focus areas for this year including
 1. Continued focus on energy efficiency and solar expansion project
 2. Using nature/outdoor activities for health and wellness as well as learning about the environment
 3. Updating policies to create long term focus and themes
 4. Continue to pursue Sustainable Jersey certification and resources
 5. Explore possibilities for food waste reduction as opportunities arise
- Team members provided ideas on resources available through the township that could assist the district with action steps on the focus areas identified such as the use of Open Space trails and a new digital Environmental Resource Inventory. An action plan is under development by district administration to further define implementation of the focus areas.

2. Pillar I: Reduce environmental impact and costs

- The solar array expansion project is moving along with a goal of construction beginning in June 2024. The Board members of the committee have reviewed competitive contract specifications and the next step is to draft a request for proposals.
- Capital projects with a sustainability focus were reviewed with the Green Team including WHS outdoor gardens, staff lounge updates, RMS water bottle fillers, and RMS/HBS LED lighting upgrades.
- A grant submission was completed for two electric buses with two EV charging stations. It is expected that we will hear the grant decision in November.

3. Pillar III: Provide environmental education (STEM, civic skills, green career pathways, etc.)

- There are some upcoming events celebrating the TBS Bioswale Project including a presentation at the Rutgers Environmental Stewardship Summit in October and recognition at the November 14th Board of Education meeting.

4. Grants/Resources

- The following grant opportunities were reviewed with the committee.
Sustainable Jersey Grants and Electric Vehicle/Charger Grants/Rebates - November Deadline
HSA Mini Grants and NJEA Grants (Various) - Ongoing Deadline

5. Unfinished / New Business

- Discussion of new business included updates from Mrs. Freeman on the Salem Oak she and her students are growing. Other ideas discussed were related to stewardship and farm to school food opportunities.
- The next Green Committee meeting shall be Thursday, November 30, 2023, at 3:30 p.m.