



## GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

3:30 p.m.

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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; Dr. Ann DeRosa, Principal; Dr. Kristen Higgins, Principal; Timothy Charleston, Principal; Paul Nigro, Principal;

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

1. Welcome New Members

New members introduced themselves and discussed their affiliations/interests.

2. Green Committee Format / Topics of Focus - *Board Members / Jason Bohm / Dr. Jonathan Hart*

Green Committee members and the Administration had met over the summer to determine the format and focus for 22-23 school year meetings. This was reported out in the August Green Committee meeting minutes, and was discussed with the full Committee in the November meeting. A goal will be to see issues through the lens of reducing impacts, improving health and wellness and implementing the sustainability curriculum.

3. Sustainability Curriculum Passage - *Dr. Jonathan Hart / Betsy Freeman*

4.

Passage of the Sustainability Curriculum was noted and plans for its integration was discussed. Ms. Freeman discussed EmPowered Schools energy action and action program. She also noted that all third grade classes would visit RMS to learn about the Trout in the Classroom program. The third grade students will examine the trout that the RMS students are raising from eggs. They will also explore different aspects of the trout ecosystem through Art, Music, Technology and Read-Alouds with six RMS teachers and student EcoAmbassadors.

5. Solar Array Expansion Status - *Jason Bohm / Don Race*

Mr. Bohm noted that the initial engineering feasibility analysis is still underway and we are waiting for the results. He shared an article about a parking lot solar canopy installation at Robbinsville High School which will save that district \$1.7 million dollars over the duration of the contract, not to mention the environmental benefits.

Mr. Zwerling proposed a draft for an informational sign to be displayed at all solar installations that are visible from the ground, particularly to the public, such as ground mounts and potential parking lot canopies. The gist of the sign would be logos of the district and the township flanking the message that Readington is a sustainable community, "Reducing Our Footprint, A Living STEM Classroom, Saving Taxpayers Money", and a link to our green webpages. Ms. Albrecht recommended a QR code. Dr. Hart noted the idea would be shared with the architect and that he and Ms. Freeman would update the content on the webpage.

6. Electric Bus Grant Not Awarded (Waitlisted) - *Jason Bohm*

The number of applicants is very significant and the likelihood of our district receiving a grant is remote.

7. HBS Wildlife Habitat - *Dr. Jonathan Hart / Betsy Freeman*

Ms. Freeman informed us that the habitat behind HBS has been certified by the NWF along with the green infrastructure/naturalized stormwater basin at RMS. She shared a presentation from the Girl Scouts (Eva Graziano, Celia Graziano and Keira Wyckoff) highlighting their work at HBS. Dr. DeRosa also discussed projects adopted by Girl Scouts at WHS. Dr. Neil Hendrickson, Chair of the Township Environmental Commission, also discussed his work with RMS students analyzing tree ring samples to date and identify changes to the local environment. Ms. Freeman thanked Dr. Hendrickson and the Environmental Commission for their continued work in our schools, amply sharing their time, expertise, and resources.

8. Accolades to be Recognized at the November 15th BOE Meeting

- Sustainable Jersey Awards @ NJSBA Convention - *Board Members / Administration*

A number of Board members, administrators and staff attended the NJSBA Convention to be present for the Sustainable Jersey award presentation.

- TBS Farm to School Award- *Jason Bohm*

Mr. Bohm also discussed a new potential grant from the NJ Department of Agriculture's Local Food for Schools program for \$4,733

- TBS Bioswale Project – *Jason Bohm*

Mr. Bohm gave a brief update on the project's progress. The installation has been completed, including individual plantings by students. There has been photo and video documentation of the project, which are now in post-production. We've received an additional Investors Bank grant of \$2,500

9. Our next Green Committee meeting shall be on December 7, 2022 at 3:30 p.m.