

# GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

3:30 p.m.

---

Attendees: Eric Zwerling, Robyn Mikaelian, Dr. Jonathan Hart, Jason Bohm, Don Race, Kristen Higgins, Sharon Moffat, Sarah Pauch, Jodi Bettermann, Betsy Freeman, Marlene Orlandi, Diane Hart, Steve Foster, Neil Hendrickson, Cameron McKenzie

## 1. Energy Program Updates / New Energy Baseline - Jodi Bettermann

- We now use SiteWatch (Operations and Energy Management software)
- New energy baseline year (June 2018 – June 2019), which includes the solar panels. The old baseline year was 2011-2012.
- The baseline year is now aligned with the fiscal year
- Spring 2020 showed a Covid-schools-closing effect on electricity usage which will (hopefully/probably) not be repeated. Net gas usage also dropped.
- There was a \$44,000 energy savings (compared to new baseline year).
- Solar installations provided 38% of total district electricity usage. At HBS it was 87% of the contracted production, and 103% at RMS & TBS. There is a 5-year true-up period.
- Energy Program transition is underway.
- Grant closeouts – some are on extension (TBS Tower Gardens, WHS water to garden, Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program/Gardinier Environmental Fund Grant – power monitors [tie into SiteWatch])
- Sustainable Jersey for Schools recertification year. Students involved in application?

## 2. Green Initiatives and Sustainability Programs – Betsy Freeman

- Strategic Planning for SustainABILITY
- Regenerative Systems
- NYC/International Virtual Conference – Youth Leadership and Shared Action [Freeman and Hart presenters]
- RPS Mission and Strategic Goals for 2020-2025
  - Empower Members, Cultivate Spirit of Discovery, Embrace Connections
- Proposed Sustain-ABLE Community Goal
  - Curricular and Extracurricular Activities that advance Environmental Literacy and SustainAbility
  - Stewardship and Service Learning
  - Sustainable Facilities Design and Management
  - Health, Well-being, Cultural Competency
  - Strong Partnership and Networks

## 3. Capital Projects Update - Don Race

- Lighting Upgrades – WHS, TBS, RMS Cafeteria

LED change out at WHS, TBS, and RMS café complete

- TBS Boiler

Boilers up and running. Compare gas usage going forward.

- RMS Well No. 2

Bacteria issue. Getting scheduled. Replacing old u/v system.

- 2021-2022 Capital Projects Timeline/Process

Budget season approaching. Ideas for next year? Send to Don.

#### 4. National Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitat – HBS

Remediation for solar array. Plants put in by contractor have survived. Uses need to be discussed. NWF certification? Water needs to be available. Use criteria as guidelines going forward. Perhaps Cameron could help with ideas. Rutgers perhaps as a resource. Grant possibilities. Still interested in living classroom possibilities.

#### 5. Upcoming Bids – Food Service Management Program in Jan/Feb

Reusable materials mentioned again. Evaluate equipment and space for consideration. Composting consideration. Finance committee instrumental in making changes mid-year. Betsey attending an inter school meeting to discuss waste amongst other things.

Ideas for integration? Send to Jason for new contract.

#### 6. Other Topics of Discussion

7. Our next meeting is to be held on December 17, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.