



GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 14, 2021

3:30 p.m.

Committee Members: Eric Zwerling, Chair
Elizabeth Fiore, Thomas Wallace (absent)

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

Other Members: Betsy Freeman, Sustainability Coordinator; Gargi Adhikari, Teacher; Steve Foster, Readington Township; David Livingston, Readington Township

1. 9/22/21 - International Conference for Sustainable Development - Betsy Freeman
 - RMS alumni and EcoAmbassadors, Tatiana Hlinka '21, Bani Meghadri '21, and Chris Serrao '20, presented at the virtual conference, working in partnership with Columbia University on student education and action around UN Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water. Over spring and summer, the RMS team learned and applied GIS mapping to trace the connection between their audit of RMS cafeteria waste and cafeteria waste statewide to its ultimate impact on oceans.
 - Trout eggs from Pequest Hatchery arrive at RMS this week. RMS is a participating school in the Trout in the Classroom program, a conservation education program in partnership with the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife and Trout Unlimited.

1. Science Curriculum Map / Sustainable Jersey - *Sarah Pauch*
Mapping out the science curriculum and embedding the climate change/sustainability content from the 2020 New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS).

2. Review of Sustainability Policies / Sustainable Jersey - *Dr. Hart / Jason Bohm*
 - 7461 - [District Sustainability Policy](#)
 - 7460 - [Energy Conservation](#)
 - 7471 - [Idle Free School Zones](#)
 - 7423 - [Green and Healthy Schools Cleaning Policy](#)

Dr. Hart discussed that he was reviewing/updating the policies and solicited input. There was discussion with some details, including Mr. Zwerling suggesting that the Committee revisit a proposal he submitted in 2020 for a unified policy (entitled “Readington Green Schools Initiative”) to address all the subject areas, and include others.

Dr. Hart will complete proposed edits and submit them to the Policy Committee for review before submitting them to the Board.

3. TBS Detention Basin Proposed Project - *David Livingston*
Mr. Livingston, former President of the Readington BOE, is a candidate in the Rutgers Environmental Stewardship Program. The project he has chosen for his internship plan is the “Three Bridges School Bioswale Restoration Plan”, proposed for the detention basin at TBS. He gave an overview including goals, scope and possible funding sources. The project would enhance water holding/filtration capacity, and diversity of plantings. There are also a number of curriculum opportunities. Mr. Livingston has enlisted the assistance of the Rutgers Water Resources Program. Members of the Green Committee and administration have conducted several on-site meetings. School Principal Higgins has been very actively involved in those meetings, planning, and fund raising endeavors.
4. RMS Rain Garden Signage Update - *Steve Foster*
A spring timeline was discussed for posting, and some details of placement and height.
5. SSO Breakfast Program / Cafeteria Program Updates / Sustainable Jersey - *Jason Bohm*
There are staffing problems. The selection of snacks have been improved to include healthier alternatives (e.g., apples, milk) for grab-and-go on a daily basis for every child.
6. Transportation Electric Bus / Charging Station Grants - *Jason Bohm*
Five applications have been submitted, one is still outstanding. Mr. Bohm has discussed the matter with other Business Administrators at a regional meeting. Steve Foster discussed the availability of charging stations.
7. Refuse Bid / Long-Term Pilot Program for Cafeteria - *Jason Bohm / Don Race*
Discussions of: replacement of plastic straws; reusable trays. Anaerobic digestion of cafeteria waste is not in contract, under consideration for pilot program.
8. Safe Routes to Schools & Bike/Pedestrian Paths To Schools - *Beth Fiore / Jason Bohm*
Ms. Fiore discussed efforts to encourage safe walking and biking to the schools, with a goal radius of 1 mile from each school. Class walking trips to meet Sustainable Jersey goals were discussed, as was the concept of staggering school arrival and departure times for walkers and bikers for safety’s sake.
9. Our 2nd quarter meeting is to be held in December 9, 2021. 3:30-5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted

Eric Zwerling
Chair
November 9, 2021