



GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

3:30 p.m.

Committee Members: Eric Zwerling, Chair
Jodi Bettermann

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

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

1. WHS Updates - *Dr. Ann DeRosa*
 - Reusable Bags - NJ's plastic bag ban came into effect May 4, 2022. The school had 200 reusable bags printed with the motto "Whitehouse School Keeps It Green!" They are offered at 1/\$6 or 2/\$10.
 - Sensory Garden - Girl Scout Silver Award by Katelyn Paul and Briana Goodyear. Discussion of the details of their improvements to the garden for their project.
2. Sustainability Initiatives - *Betsy Freeman*
 - Certified Wildlife Habitat Applications: HBS / RMS
 - HBS Wildlife Habitat - Girl Scout Silver Award Project by Eva Graziano and Kiera Wyckoff. A discussion regarding the actions they will undertake to complete the National Wildlife Federation certification process (e.g., water, shelter, bird houses, etc.), and create a learning center.
 - Salem Oak and Tree Nursery / Readington Environmental Commission – a discussion regarding the availability of seedlings from the formerly largest, oldest (now deceased) historic oak in New Jersey.
 - Trout Release: RMS / Readington Water Watch – 85 trout raised in the classroom to be released in a stream in Clinton. Pictures/videos will be taken.
 - We have advanced to the finals in the NJSBA STEAM Tank competition.
 - Climate Change Education
 - Phenological Garden and GLOBE Citizen Science at RMS – track climate change through changes in plant growth. Integrate into science and math classes.
 - EcoAmbassador Action Read-Alouds with all schools: 15-20 RMS students will read aloud to TBS students about trees to celebrate Arbor Day.
 - Sustainability Dashboard and Cafeteria Waste Audit at RMS – discussion regarding their waste audit. They will partner with community member Christina Albrecht.
 - TCNJ Environmental Sustainability Education Graduate Certificate – Briefly discussed by Freeman and Adhikari
3. TBS Detention Basin / Bioswale Project - *Dr. Kristen Higgins / David Livingston / Jason Bohm* – RU Water Resources has started design, will be ready in June. Staging in summer for planting in fall.
4. Sustainable Jersey Application – *Administration* – all applications submitted, and each school will get at least Bronze-level certification, depending on final points approval.

5. Sustainability Curriculum Student Materials - *Sarah Pauch* – presented a list of age-appropriate environmental-themed books which have been delivered to each classroom.
6. This was the last official meeting of the 2021-2022 school year. A summer meeting shall be held with board members and district administrators to discuss goals / priorities for the 2022-2023 school year
 - Suggestion: Alignment to Sustainable Jersey and Green Ribbon Schools certification processes
7. Postponed to Future Meetings
 - Solar Expansion Update - *Jason Bohm / Don Race*
 - Food Waste - *Jason Bohm / Don Race / Christina Albrecht*
 - Energy Updates - *Don Race*
 - Website Updates - *District Administration*
 - Electric Bus Grant Update – *Jason Bohm*