



GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 29, 2025

3:00 p.m.

Committee Members: Elizabeth Fiore, Chair
Pamela Cassidy
Richard Pieros
David Rizza

Administrative Staff: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent
Jason M. Bohm, SBA/Board Secretary

- **Strategic Focus for 2025-2026 School Year** - Mr. Bohm welcomed Mr. Pieros to his first Green Planning Meeting. He gave an overview of the Green Committee's scope which is essentially an idea-generating committee. The Green Committee is unique in that members of the public serve on the committee alongside Principals, Teachers, and Board Members. The goal of this planning meeting is to set the focus areas for the coming school year. Mr. Bohm reviewed the 2024-2025 [Focus Areas](#) and shared a presentation of the districts' [accomplishments](#). Mr. Bohm also shared the brainstorming minutes from April 2025 meeting which were ideas Committee Members proposed as possible projects to work on. Board Members gave some additional project ideas and from both sources the group discussed which initiatives would be feasible and attainable for the coming year.

The following Focus Areas garnered the most support:

- Pillar I: Reduce environmental impact and costs
 - Referendum Construction- identify referendum projects that save energy and reduce environmental impact, such as HVAC units, window replacement and window treatments. Clearly identify which projects fulfill sustainability goals by marking them with a green leaf, for example.
 - 5-Year Strategic Plan Development - The district will include sustainability goals when updating the 5-year strategic plan. This would fulfill requirements to receive credits for an action item through Sustainable Jersey.
- Pillar II: Improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff
 - Outdoor Spaces - establish outdoor classroom spaces at each school and support projects already underway such as: RMS Trees for Schools Grant, a potential TBS Walk in the Learning Woods, HBS Scout tree planting project around the track, etc.
 - Referendum Communication on Wellness and Wellbeing - similar to Pillar I goal, the district will communicate how referendum projects such as paving, playgrounds, walking paths encourage outdoor use and support sustainability goals.
- Pillar III: Provide environmental education (STEM, civic skills, green career pathways, etc.)
 - Solar Expansion and Education - bring data and key learnings gathered from onsite solar panels into the classroom, topics such as production levels, consumption, fluctuations, and degradation over time.
 - Biodiversity Audit/School Grounds Recommendations - (More Habitats, Native Plantings, Less Lawn Mowing & Maintenance Plan). Create opportunity for student-led biodiversity audit with help from Green Committee Members to identify plant species currently on school grounds and make recommendations for enhancing and maintaining a diverse, native landscape.

- **Electric School Bus Grants** - The district was notified by the NJDEP that if more time is needed to implement the grant for 2 electric buses that the Board could reapply for the grant. In other words, the district was given a short extension to accept the current grant, and if it chooses not to, the district can still reapply when the new grant window opens. The Committee discussed how to move forward with this new information. The Green Committee supported this project over many years and still supports it. There was discussion on next steps and it was decided that Dr. Hart would include this grant opportunity in his August Superintendent's Report along with a financial analysis about the electric buses including acquisition, infrastructure upgrades needed, and fuel/upkeep costs.
- **Solar Array Expansion Update** - The solar expansion project is moving along, albeit slowly. Submittals have been done for 2 of the 4 schools. With recent tariffs, the cost of materials for the 2 other schools have slowed the vendor's ability to secure financing, however they are confident they will find a solution to move forward. There is a hard deadline of Summer 2026 to complete this project.
- Our next Green Committee meeting shall be held in the fall of 2025. Meeting invitations shall be sent out for the full school year.