



## GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

3:30 p.m.

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Committee Members: Elizabeth Fiore, Chair

Pam Cassidy, Richard Pieros (absent), David Rizza (absent), Board Members

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

Other Members: Betsy Freeman, Teacher; Gargi Adhikari, Teacher; Denise Birmingham, Teacher; Blair Alber, Teacher; Dr. Neil Hendrickson, Readington Township; Steve Foster, Readington Township; Marlene Orlandi, Readington Township; David Livingston, Readington Township; Christina Albrecht, Readington Township; Eric Zwerling, Readington Township; Jodi Bettermann, Readington Township; Robert Becker, Readington Township.

Special Guests: Theresa Amster, Anne Romano, Tiffany Barca, Wendy Reardon, Teachers; Victoria Gregorio, Readington Township

### 1. Strategic Focus for 2025-2026 School Year

- [Strategic Focus](#) / [Minutes from Strategic Planning Meeting](#) Mr. Bohm introduced the strategic focus areas for 2025-2026, which are noted in the following pillars.
- [Action Plan Tracking Document](#) is the document the Committee uses to track progress toward goals.

### 2. Pillar I: Reduce environmental impact and costs

- Referendum Update - Mr. Bohm gave an up date on Referendum projects and invited Committee members to attend upcoming Referendum information sessions.
  - [NEW Video](#) and [Website](#)
  - Sustainability projects designated on website ([RMS](#), [HBS](#), [TBS](#), [WHS](#))



- [Summer 2025 Capital Projects Update](#)
  - Water Bottle Fillers, IT Access Points for Outdoors, Gaga Pits, Water Heaters, Asbestos Flooring Removal and more! Mr. Bohm gave an update on projects done this summer.

### 3. Pillar II: Improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff

- Outdoor Spaces Update
  - [\\$39,463 Trees for Schools Grant @ RMS](#) - Mr. Bohm updated the Committee on the Trees for Schools Grant from NJ DEP and Sustainable Jersey. Volunteers Cameron McKenzie and Neil Hendrickson are working with Betsy Freeman to execute this grant. The grant addresses all Sustainability pillars and is a great partnership between many local entities. Tree planting will happen in the Spring. Several ideas were suggested to establish a connection between students and the plantings, such as naming the trees

and/or putting a strand of students' hair in the planting hole to give students a sense of stewardship.

- [\\$22,500 Wellness Grant for staff](#)

Mr. Bohm updated the Committee on a grant the district received from our Health Insurance Provider which will offer Professional Development and wellness opportunities on October and March inservice days for staff, with topics like cooking and healthy eating.

- Upcoming Referendum Communications

- September 30 @ 6PM at Whitehouse School (*Referendum Building Tour*)
- October 10 @ 5:30PM at Readington Middle School (*Pep Rally*)
- October 14 @ 5:30PM starting at Readington Middle School (*Referendum Building Tour*)
- October 17 @ 5:30PM at Holland Brook School (*Pumpkin Bash*)
- October 24 @ 5:30PM at Three Bridges & Whitehouse Schools (*Trunk or Treat*)
- October 28 @ 7PM at Holland Brook School (*Referendum Information Session*)
- [November 4 Voting Day](#)

#### 4. **Pillar III: Provide environmental education (STEM, civic skills, green career pathways, etc.)**

- Sustainable Jersey [Silver Status](#) for [ALL 4 schools](#)

- Mr. Bohm and Mrs. Fiore thanked all who helped including the following staff who led the effort for their individual buildings with Principals:
  - RMS: Betsy Freeman (+ Digital Star!)
  - HBS: Theresa Amster
  - TBS: Anne Romano and Tiffany Barca (+ Digital Star!)
  - WHS: Wendy Reardon

- 3 schools achieved [Digital Star Status](#) ([RMS](#), [TBS](#), [WHS](#))

- Special thank you to Emily Bengels for leading the effort for WHS!

Mr. Bohm thanked all staff members who worked on the application. The Board will celebrate this success at the Oct meeting. Mr. Becker, from Readington Township's Environmental Commission, congratulated the schools and updated the Committee on the Township's application. They will find out in the coming weeks which level they received. He added that the Township has 20 acres of a tree planting project that they are always looking for students to participate in, please reach out to him if interested.

#### 5. **Unfinished / New Business**

- Green Coordinator Stipend / Funds and Recommendation of Finance Committee- Mr. Bohm updated the Committee on the budget for Green Coordinator position in the amount of \$4,000 budgeted for this year. In lieu of hiring someone, the Committee could propose green initiatives to spend those funds on.
- Food as a way to teach about different cultures & history in a healthy and fun way. Mr. Bohm said the H.S.A. reached out to see if schools are interested in partnering in a food program of some sort, perhaps also with Maschios. Mrs. Cassidy and Mr. Hendrickson said perhaps Grow a Row could be a partner on this project also. Mr. Charleston added that the No Passport Needed 7th Grade Social Studies elective could also be involved. There is also a middle school field trip to Grow a Row. The Principals meet regularly with Maschios to give input on food in cafeterias.
- TBS Forest Hill trail and Learning Woods - Mr. Becker proposed the Township could apply for a grant for funding for the Department of Public Works and Facilities to revamp the Forest Hill Trail located adjacent to Three Bridges School. Dr. Higgins would be interested in such a project if the woods were cleaned up and trails clearly marked.

#### 6. **Solar-** Mr. Bohm gave an update on the district's solar project. Financing has been secured. Submittals are at the state. Financier and company says they have all approvals needed to meet the July 2026 deadline.

#### 7. Our next Green Committee meeting shall be Tuesday, December 2, at 3:30 p.m.

[Minutes from prior meeting](#)