



GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

3:30 p.m.

Committee Members: Elizabeth Fiore, Chair

Pam Cassidy, Richard Pieros (absent), David Rizza, 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 (absent); Readington Township; Jodi Bettermann, Readington Township; Robert Becker, Readington Township; Victoria Gregorio, Readington Township.

1. Strategic Focus for 2025-2026 School Year

- Action Plan Tracking Document - The Committee reviewed the strategic focus areas of the 2025-2026 school year.

2. Pillar I: Reduce environmental impact and costs

- Referendum Update - *Administration and Board Members*
 - Thank you everyone who voted and helped with the effort to pass the referendum! Mrs. Cassidy and Dr. Hart thanked Mr. Bohm and his staff for all of their hard work.
 - Website is transitioning to status tracking & communication format for referendum projects
 - Construction shall start in summer 2026 for projects with short lead time
 - Direct install and other energy efficiency programs for funding/sustainability, which shall show long-term savings analysis for public as well (up to 80% paid by state)
- 5-Year Strategic Plan Development - *Administration and Board Members*
 - Vendor presentations will be occurring at December 9 board meeting for Board to select a vendor. In the Spring, Green Committee members will be invited along with other community stakeholders in the development of initiatives to include in the strategic plan.

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

- Outdoor Spaces Update - *Administration, Staff & Community Members*
 - Walk & Roll to School Program @ WHS (partnership with goHunterdon & Readington PD)- Dr. DeRosa worked with goHunterdon, Readington Police Department, staff, and parents to have a walk/roll to school day.
 - \$39,463 Trees for Schools Grant @ RMS from Sustainable Jersey - Ms. Freeman gave an update on the grant progress which includes utilizing drones for environmental sensing and mapping, inviting speakers and researchers to showcase future career possibilities, and working with many other partners to complete this project. Students will be invited by NJ Audubon to attend the Monmouth University Climate Summit, they will work with Raritan Headwaters Association as Watershed Ambassadors, and will volunteer for the

Spring Tree Planting alongside the Viking Visionaries civics students. Students will also be attending a workshop with Hunterdon Central Sustainable Architecture students. Ms. Freeman reported that the Tree Planting grant budget is being finalized now; planting will begin in the spring. Local resident and arborist Neil Hendrickson has been instrumental in planning this project with Ms. Freeman.

- \$22,500 Wellness Grant for all staff - Healthy eating habits for staff members is a grant from our health insurance company. All slots were full at the Fall Professional Development Day, so Mr. Bohm said the district will be doing an additional round in the Spring. There will be incentives for staff members who participate. The district is looking for additional grants for next year.
- Referendum Communications - *Administration and Board Members*
 - Prioritization of outdoor spaces and wellness projects occurring (i.e. playgrounds, track, etc.). The Finance Committee will be reviewing the project priority list.
 - Projects shall be for public vote at board meetings in early 2026 with details/transparency

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

- Solar Update - *Mr. Bohm / Mr. Race*
 - Financing update - Mr. Bohm reported that financing has fallen through for the 2nd time. Solect Energy is the latest company to come prepare a quote on the financing of the project that was approved and awarded to construction vendor EZNergy. If financing falls for a 3rd time, Hesp said they would try to pick the project up at the last minute. In order to be eligible for the federal solar incentives, the project would need to be 5% complete by July 5th. For that to happen, the financing and ordering of materials will need to be approved by the Board at the end of January (financing) and early March (materials). When asked why the project financing has fallen through, Mr Bohm said our solar project is a smaller scale project for many of these companies, the market has changed significantly since we first began this project 2 years ago, and we have rigid parameters that have to be met such as installation location and access to property during school hours.
- Biodiversity Audit / School Grounds Recommendations - This goal was created based on suggestions from Green Committee members to identify plant species on one or more school properties and create a plan for tree plantings/reduce mowing. The committee will continue to develop this idea in future meetings.

5. Unfinished / New Business

- NJSBA Convention / Sustainable Jersey Recognition & Ceremony in October 2025- Mr. Bohm shared that the district attended this award ceremony at the annual Workshop convention in Atlantic City to celebrate Silver Certification at all 4 schools.
- Mr. Becker shared that Readington Township also received Silver Certification from Sustainable Jersey this year.
- \$4,000 Stipend / Funds in 2025-2026 Budget - Mr. Bohm invited the Committee to submit suggestions for projects that would fall under the \$4,000 budget line for Green Initiatives.
- Readington Township Community Well Testing Program - Mr. Hendrickson and Mrs. Orlandi talked about the Well Testing Program which is a partnership between Raritan Headwaters and Readington Township and the need to increase public awareness. Some ideas were suggested by the Committee: perhaps having civics students help advertise, utilizing groups such as Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts, and potentially hold an event like TBS used to have called WaterFest.
- Forest Hill Reimagined near TBS - Mr. Becker updated the Committee that RVCC is designing the scope of this project which would include trail maintenance and signage. More to come.

6. Our next Green Committee meeting shall be Tuesday, March 3, at 3:30 p.m.

[Minutes from prior meeting](#)