

LCS Sustainability Committee Meeting September 12, 2023

Attendees:

LaRoderick (Rod) McQueen	LySandra Black
Rosanne Wood, School Board Member	Steve Urse
Joel Dawson	Gina Gass
Susan Walden	

Attendees via Microsoft Teams:

Michele Keltner	Cara Fleischer
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Absent:

Meta Calder	Kasey Kirkland
Dr. Rhonda Flanagan	Miaisha Mitchell

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 pm by LaRoderick (Rod) McQueen.

It was brought to the committee's attention that there are several members who will no longer be able to serve on the committee. Rosanne announced that she has contacted a teacher at Rickards High School, Lanayia Singleton, who wants to serve on the committee. She was unable to make this meeting, but she will be able to make the next meeting. Cara Fleischer said she will no longer be able to serve on the committee due to new obligations. Rosanne informed the committee that the Superintendent will appoint members to the committee from the school district and the committee will appoint members from the committee.

Rod attended the Florida School Plant Management Association (FSPMA) Conference workshop for Sustainability. He spoke with Bill Wynn, and he noted that there are several school districts that have the same challenges with mileage and services regarding electric buses. He stated that the mileage depends on the battery and how the bus is driven. A diesel bus can go 4 to 6 miles to the gallon and cost about \$115k and an electric bus will cost about \$331k. Electric buses are quieter, and they cause the students to be quieter as well. Being that there are several districts in the state that are or are interested in being electric, they have decided that they would like to meet once a month via Zoom and meet annually in Orlando, Florida.

Sustainability surveys will go out to all principals, and the committee wants them ready for the next principals' meeting. Once the survey is complete, there will be a zoom for the schools/sites interested in becoming an Eco-Friendly school.

Rosanne talked about giving the schools a stipend (to help with having more school involvement) as an initiative for assisting their schools with becoming an Eco/Green-School. Susan pitched the idea of having people that are willing to host trainings or in-service classes for those who want to join and become Eco/Green-Schools. Michele Keltner liked and agreed to this idea. Rosanne suggested that the survey go out from Superintendent Hanna's office in time for the October principals meeting.

It was mentioned that Leon County Schools energy consumption went up by 50% in August because of the extreme heat we experienced this summer.

Rosanne asked Rod if we could have the energy savings initiative start up this year, beginning in November with specific reward incentives. (Using October 22-23 as a baseline) Rod suggested having someone go out to meet with the school and see what the school schedules are. Joel mentioned doing the initiative for a shorter time frame (3 to 6 months) instead of a full year. Rod said he will contact Ernie about gathering information to begin the program.

Item #5 – Committee members share which areas that they would like to work on for 2023-24:

School Based – collaborate with school leaders and teachers:

- Hands on assistance with Sustainability school projects (gardens, composting, recycling, etc.)
- Application assistance to school for Eco/Green school eligibility
- Curriculum infusion assistance with teachers/staff
- The following committee members will work on this committee: Michele Keltner, Susan Walden, Joel Dawson, and Kim Gass

District Based – collaborate with district leaders:

- Grants (Kasey Kirkland)
- Construction (Danny Albritton)
- Energy Savings (Rod McQueen/Maintenance Department)
- Fleet electrification opportunities (Rod McQueen/Kasey Kirkland/Transportation Department)
- The following committee members will work on this committee: Gina Gass, Rosanne Wood, and Steve Urse

Collect Data and Draft Sustainability Plan for School Board-District and School Leaders:

- Collect data from various departments as a baseline
- Draft 5-Year Sustainability Plan for Superintendent and School Board
- The following committee members will work on this committee: Rosanne Wood, Joel Dawson, and Meta Calder

Susan said they have already begun pushing out curriculum for the schools to include Ecology standards. Some of the schools may want to become Eco/Green schools. There will be some data by the end of October 2023.

Schools have seen an improvement on test scores since using the Eco/Green schools Fair Game Instructional Standards for Science (handout given to the committee).

It would be helpful to know how Statewide Standards meet with green building standards. What LCS construction methods are using sustainable practices? Are the roof and grounds able to stand solar panels? (questions for Danny Albritton)

Joel Dawson stated that the Eco school description needs to be redone. She handed out the Certification Guide for 2023-24 for Eco Schools Framework for Certification. By consensus, the

committee decided that it would be easier for schools to focus on Eco-School certification than Green School Certification. However, the Green School Certification has many standards that would be good to include for the district plan.

Rosanne would like to add a goal to change the older schools to LED lighting.

Steve Urse would like us to do a DRVE cost analysis to consider moving the White Fleet vehicles to electric, like the City of Tallahassee. He will set up a meeting.

Danny Allbritton will be invited to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 pm by LaRoderick (Rod) McQueen.

Side Note: Once the meeting was adjourned, Susan Walden was asked to prepare the survey and take it to Superintendent Hanna's office so that it can be shared at the October Principals Meeting.

Rod wants to present the School Board with an update on what the committee is doing and the plans for what the committee is planning to do.