

LCS Sustainability Committee Meeting

June 6, 2023

Attendees:

LaRoderick (Rod) McQueen	Steve Urse
LySandra Black	Gina Gass
Joel Dawson	Kim Ross
Meta Calder	

Attendees via Microsoft Teams:

Michele Keltner	Cara Fleischer
Jeanette Villa	Susan Walden
Kasey Kirkland	

Absent:

Rosanne Wood, School Board Member	Aida Richardson
Stephanie Cornais	Dr. Rhonda Flanagan
Miaisha Mitchell	

Meeting was called to order at 3:03 pm by LaRoderick (Rod) McQueen.

It was brought to the committee's attention, no one received the meeting minutes from the previous meeting.

Item #2 from the agenda was presented by Michele Keltner and Susan Walden.

We had a presentation from our Maintenance Department. Butch Watkins (Director), Ray Gramling (Electrical), Ronny Tabb (HVAC), Ernie Ellison (Energy), Jason Gilmer (Filter Crew), Daniel Wiley (HVAC) and Naomi Coughlin joined the meeting and gave insight on the various ways we are improving energy conservation and the cost of energy from our utility providers throughout the District.

Ernie Ellison keeps up with all money spent and the savings. Ernie and Naomi have discussed a way of rewarding the schools that have done a conservative effort of savings at their school site. The incentives a school site will receive will be based on the size of the school and we are looking to apply to the 2024-2025 school budget.

Ernie stated the District has done very well with savings on energy. The District has gone from 15.8 to 14 kwh with our electric usage.

Ray Gramling (Electrical Department) informed the committee he is working with a staff of eight (8). They are working to complete the changeover from florescent to LED. All gym, ball fields and auditoriums are being changed over to LED lights as well. They are about 90% complete. Steve Urse mentioned, there is money for assistance with schools for LED replacement projects Ronny Tabb asked, if any of that money would be for ventilation.

Steve stated, he would look into it and let him know. Gina Gass stated, that there is \$50 million is coming out to address the air pollution. This money will be for the entire United States of America (USA).

Ray Gramling stated, when they are changing out light switches they are installing automatic sensor light switches.

Ronny Tabb (HVAC Department) referenced the Energy Cost Control Handbook. This handbook is currently in the process of being updated. This Handbook was originally done in 1993, revised in 2007 and working to bring it current (2023). Mr. Tabb stated the biggest barrier his department has is "manpower" and "salaries".

There are several A/C units in the schools that are (50) years old. Swift Creek is one of our worst schools regarding energy consumptions.

The District paid \$550k in fees for water meters. Mr. Ellison also stated, water and sewer charges went up 8% across the board. The District is no longer paying fire and stormwater fees.

A question was asked: who is the grant writer the District will use to write their grants? The District is open to seeing the grants that are available.

The question was raised which schools are using solar panels? It was mentioned, the solar panels that are put on the school roofs, would void the roof warranty. Solar panels have a seven (7) year life expectancy.

Steve Urse asked, if there is a listing of capital improvement projects and the status of these projects.

Capital Improvement work plans are done in July (at the beginning of the fiscal year). Committee members want a copy of the budget, to see what need to be done through Capital Outlay.

Rod informed the committee, if they have any further questions, they can send their questions to him. He will get answers to their questions.

Our Energy Department changes out filters every three (3) months. They went from using Merv 8 to Merv 11 filters, during COVID and maintain that practice.

There is a grant for electrification of vehicles and for the infrastructure as well. Hybrid vehicles maybe more of an option this year. The district is purchasing about 15 vehicles (for the white fleet). It will take several years to do a cross-over. Gina stated that she will get the district in touch with another district that has switched over.

Sustainability Updates:

1. Accomplishments and Recommendations (handout from Joel Dawson)
 - a. What does Green Team do: recycling, look for ways to use at schools, improve recycling efforts at each school.

- b. Meta stated, she would like to have Item #1 broken down into more details.
- c. Green Teams have been around for a very long time. Some schools can be Green Teams different from other schools.
- d. Green Teams is more like clubs. Gina stated that some schools will participate and some won't. If it is advertised as a club, you can get more kids to participate.
- e. Line Item #5 (Accomplishments and Recommendations handout provided by Joel Dawson), identify equipment that can be energy and cost efficient for the district. Would like for equipment to be ground mounted and easy to keep clean. Roof mounted and can last up to 20-30 years. Meta stated, she would like to re-write line item #5.
- f. Line item #6 (Accomplishments and Recommendations handout provided by Joel Dawson), what kind of records are being kept to implement the "no idling" policy?
- g. Asking all committee members to review and give comments back in the next 2 weeks. Michele K. stated, she can poll the principals and see what they would like to do to implement Green Teams. She will send all the information received to Meta, Joel and Rosanne.
- h. The question was asked, what does the committee really want to discuss and what is most important.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm by LaRoderick (Rod) McQueen.

Side Note: Once the meeting was adjourned, Meta and Joel mentioned adding to the next meeting about replacing members who are outgoing.