

LCS Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes December 14, 2023

Attendees:

LaRoderick (Rod) McQueen	LySandra Black
Rosanne Wood, School Board Member	Steve Urse
Joel Dawson	Meta Calder
Susan Walden	Christie Meresse
Jason Gilmore	Ernie Ellison
Wilbur Gramling	Ernest Lane

Zoom:

Michele Keltner	Kim Ross
Kenneth Edwards	Miaisha Mitchell

Absent:

Lanayia Singleton	
Kiera Pickens	
Katie Bennett	

Meeting was called to order at 3:45 pm by Rod McQueen.

Meeting minutes for November 9, 2023, were approved by the committee members, with one change to add Kim Ross to the absent list.

Report from Energy Incentive Committee:

On 11/15/23 the following people met to discuss ways to reduce electricity usage at District sites. Rod McQueen, Rosanne Wood, Steve Urse, Meta Calder, Ernie Ellison, Jason Gilmore, Ryan Peck and Wilbur Gramling

Costs: LCS spent \$6,973,946.00 on electricity for the FY 2022-23 school year.

Unfortunately, costs are going up due to increased rates by the City of Tallahassee and Talquin Electric Cooperative.

Our Goal: Decrease or at least Maintain FY 22-23 levels of use. (Currently there are no tangible incentives to save energy.)

Recommended Plan and Incentives for School sites to help them lower their electric usage to save money and keep our money in the district!

1. School Site managers will begin receiving quarterly updates on their electric usage as compared to the previous year.
2. Managers and School leaders will receive in-service and written materials on how they may be able to decrease their kwh per Sq Ft. usage.
3. A quarterly "Beat your Best" incentive program will be launched in Jan-June 2024 that will officially recognize and financially reward school managers and staff for improvement over their previous year's energy usage.

4. An annual Recognition/Reward will be given out at a School Board meeting to the top 3 schools who show the most improvement and the schools with the lowest kw/sq ft.

Eco Schools Survey Response Survey:

Mrs. Walden shared a graph detailing the survey results. School gardens make up the largest initiative currently going on. She has a resource person who can assist with horticulture and is providing help to schools to include sustainability in their science curriculum. She and Michelle Keltner are going to give an in-service to principals interested in becoming an Eco School in January.

DRVE Analysis

Steve Urse and Ernest Lane gave an update on progress with submitting white fleet information to the Electrification Coalition, a national nonprofit organization. The EC will conduct a free analysis of a 40-vehicle sample of Leon County School's ~200 vehicle white fleet using their software tool Dashboard for Rapid Transition to Electrification (DRVE). LCS staff has provided data that included the age, annual mileage, VIN #s. The goal of the analysis is to compare the total cost of ownership of conventional fossil-fueled vehicles versus EVs over the lifetime of the vehicle. Vehicles are purchased based on what is the most economical option to fit the need that is available on a competitively procured contract.

Mr. Lane, Steve Urse and the Purchasing staff will be providing information and recommendations to the Sustainability Committee and District staff once the analysis is complete.

Share table/Nutrition Services Update:

Christie Meresse reported that there has been no response from the Health Department about the Share Table regulation. She is trying to get guidance on the Share Table rules for implementation. There are two (2) schools involved in a food waste study. Susan Walden stated that if training is involved for the teachers, they can get CE (Continuing Education) credits. Miaisha Mitchell would like to get involved with this effort.

Input for (Draft) LCS Sustainability Plan Introduction:

There were two (2) new areas of focus added to Page 2. It was stated it would be great to have a designated department or person for Sustainability. A full-time sustainability department/person can possibly save the district money. Rosanne mentioned presenting to Superintendent Hanna the idea of having a Sustainability Department/person, the committee agreed with this idea. It was mentioned that by building high performance schools it can help with savings in four (4) years by insulation air (add into the Sustainability Plan). Give a cost-effective analysis of a green school. The committee unanimously approved the updated LCS Sustainability Plan Introduction.

Input for School Board Workshop (1/22/24):

The School Board will have an all-day retreat/workshop on 1/22/24. It was asked if there are

any committee members who would be available to attend. It would be good to show the Board members that there are people really working on this committee. Kenneth Edwards, Michele Keltner and Miaisha Mitchell stated that they will check their calendars to see if they could attend the retreat/workshop. Time TBA

School Board Approval of Committee Members (1/23/24):

Everyone on the list will be sent to the Board for approval. This will be placed on the agenda under "Items of Consideration" for approval of new Sustainability Members. Susan Walden has taken Gina Gass' place on the committee.

Update Contact Information for Members:

Will send out an information sheet to each member for their contact information (name, phone number(s), email address).

Tour of Schools Plan:

The committee would like to visit two (2) schools to see what they have been doing to become an Eco School.

Members and Community Resource People:

- **Who will be contacting them to see if they are willing to participate, what we want or expect from them and what they want to accomplish:** Steve Urse will be contacting them. Meta recommends Patrick Love – he has a range of skills that would be knowledgeable for the committee.
- **Who will contact the student representatives also determine what they want to accomplish and how they can best further the goals of this committee:** This has not been discussed.

New/Future Agenda Items:

- Clean Energy Plan – for renewable energy for the school system (information was sent to the committee on 12/14/23 via email from Steve Urse).

Next steps and agenda items for next meeting on January 18, 2024:

School Board Presentation

Future 2024 meetings dates/place:

All future meetings will be held in the Superintendent's Conference Room at 2757 W Pensacola Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32304, 3:30 pm until 5:00 pm.

All future meeting dates for 2024 are as follows: **January 18, February 15, March 21, April 18, May 16, and June 20, 2024**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:58 pm by LaRoderick (Rod) McQueen.