

LCS Sustainability Committee Meeting

October 12, 2023

Attendees:

LaRoderick (Rod) McQueen	LySandra Black
Rosanne Wood, School Board Member	Steve Urse
Joel Dawson	Kim Ross
Michele Keltner	Meta Calder
Lanayia Singleton (new-Rickards Teacher)	Keira Pickens (new SDAC rep)
Nia Ogletree (guest)	Christie Meresse (Nutrition Services)
Ernie Ellison & <u>Jason Gilmore</u> (new-Energy Dept.)	Marina Mertz (guest)

Absent:

Susan Walden/Gina Gass	
Miaisha Mitchell	

Meeting was called to order at 3:35 pm by LaRoderick (Rod) McQueen.

Due to the high volume of attendees, everyone introduced themselves and what organization they are representing.

Michele Keltner informed the committee about what was discussed in the Principal's Summit Meeting, by highlighting their goals for schools. They talked about how the Finance Department would give rewards to schools for their energy savings. (Specifics to be determined asap) Schools were encouraged to become Eco Schools with help from the Sustainability Committee members.

The survey was sent out to all principals on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, and so far 17 principals have completed the survey. The plan is to get a baseline of data about what's being done at the schools.

A report was given to the committee on the DRVE (Dashboard for Rapid Vehicle Electrification) zoom meeting. The DRVE tool allows fleet managers to determine when vehicles need to be purchased to determine what EV's may replace them and how much the savings would be over the lifetime of the vehicle. That includes operating costs, repairs and fuel use. The City of Tallahassee is making rapid progress to reach a goal of 25% EV's by 2025. Leon County also has an EV plan but moving slower. Electricity use will increase but the savings from not buying gas or diesel is far greater.

To have the Electrification Coalition provide free technical assistance, LCS must send an e-mail stating LCS will be intending to buy an EV in the near future. June Kail reported that she had just signed a purchase order for three driver's ed vehicles and six trucks. The driver's ed vehicles were Nissan Versas. A Chevy Bolt EV would cost the same amount after the direct payment available to schools offered by the Inflation Reduction Act. If LCS wants to receive free technical assistance, LCS will need to send an email stating that the district would like to

participate and that will trigger the analysis. There are Electrification Coalition webinars available to assist with getting grants for the electrical charging infrastructure and with charging infrastructure design. The electrical vehicles are purchased through Source Well LCS contract.

There is a Ride and Drive Event for the fleet vehicles taking place on Friday, November 1, 2023, at the Governor Square Mall. LySandra will send out the flyer to the committee so that they can attend and/or see what will take place at the event.

A report was given by Ernie Ellison and Jason Gilmore with the Energy Department. Ernie had just completed an Energy Cost and Usage Summary updated through FY 22-23. Each school has a contract with the City of Tallahassee (COT) that results in a discount from published commercial demand rates.

Danny Allbritton, Director of Construction and Facilities, informed the committee of the various projects that they will soon be starting:

1. Nims Middle School – New Cafeteria and Gym Renovations
2. Griffin Middle School – New Cafeteria, Gym and Classroom Renovations

These projects will be built for energy efficiency (led lights, HVAC, water filling stations, etc.), and they will comply with State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF) Code and State Statute (January 2006). The square footage is based on student stations, play areas are included on each school's square footage. If there was no local half (1/2) cents sales tax, there would be no construction going on in the District. There is \$24 million and this money will expire in 2027. Mr. Allbritton also stated that architects will tell what green designs they are using.

The question was asked to Mr. Allbritton that when they reroof the schools can they take the load of solar panels? He stated that would take more money and work for the roofs to withstand the load of the panels. The current state rules also do not account for long term savings resulting from green building that is often initially more expensive to build.

If the money were available for energy efficiency, what kind of things would he implement and he stated that he would put the money to go with LED's and the A/C systems.

Item #5 – Committee members shared 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: Susan Walden, Joel Dawson and Kim Gass

District Based – collaborate with district leaders:

- Grants (vacant)
- Construction (Danny Allbritton)
- Energy Savings (Rod McQueen/Maintenance Department)

- Fleet electrification opportunities (Rod McQueen/June Kail and /Transportation Department)
- The following committee members will work on this committee: Kim Ross 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

Keira Pickens (Student Representative) stated that she would like to be part of the School Based committee and Nia Ogletree stated that she would like to be part of one of the committees as well. Susan stated in last month's (September 2023) meeting that they have already begun pushing out this information for the school to go Eco-Friendly/Green schools. Some of the schools may want to go to Eco-Friendly/Green school. There will be some data by the end of October 2023.

Christie Meresse, Director of Nutrition Services stated that the new cafeteria (kitchen areas) that are being built are not built for dishwashers, they are implementing the 3 compartment sinks for the cafeteria (kitchen areas). Ms. Meresse also talked about food waste in the schools. They are looking to educate the staff on what the student has to take and eat and they talked about giving out pre-packaged items. Christie and Rod will get with Brandi Knight on "share tables."

- Composting and gardens are done at school level. This subject will be talked about in more detail at the next meeting.

The committee would like to look at energy efficiency with school's electricity for the older schools. Rosanne mentioned having a goal for changing the other schools and buildings over to LED lighting. It was mentioned that this would be something that would be addressed to the Electrical Department Manager (Wilbur Gramling with the Maintenance Department).

Energy saving incentives – energy operations will provide an incentive program based on kW hours. They will also look at comparing the previous year to new quarterly report.

Rosanne stated that the committee will go to the Board to get approval for the new members, but we have to make sure that we meet the criteria set forth by the School Board. * Kim Ross suggested that Ms. Katrina Rivers with Big Bend Nurses Association be brought in as a member. Steve Urse also stated that there are two (2) women who are members of the League of Women Voters that would like to assist with LCS schools in becoming Eco-friendly schools. It was also mentioned that the new Sustainability Director for Leon County was interested in participating.

At the next meeting the committee would like to talk more about the following:

1. More information on the DRVE analysis
2. Survey results

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm by LaRoderick (Rod) McQueen.