

**RSU5 Sustainability Advisory Committee**  
**May 7, 2019**  
**Meeting Minutes**

All members were present with the exception of Sadie Southall, who is studying abroad this semester. She will join us in the fall.

Each member introduced themselves.

Dennis Ouellette gave a brief overview of what is currently happening in the District with promoting sustainability in RSU 5.

FHS Heating Upgrades:

FHS replaced all unit ventilators (33) including CO2 detection as a means to control the air that is exhausted from the building during the heating process. This means the exhaust fans run less and less heated air is discharged from the heated space. As part of this project, MERV 14 filtration is utilized in the vents to allow more air to be recirculated through the space. This is more cost effective to heat tempered air than using all outside colder air. The renovation has allowed the installation of modern air units to limit and temper incoming air to the new areas at the high school. Nighttime setbacks allow us to reduce the heat at the high school during off hours, so we are no longer heating unoccupied buildings.

FMS, FHS, MLS, DCS: all have the capability to go into unoccupied mode. MSS and PES also have this capability, but they require a service tech any time changes are required.

At Mast Landing (2) Freeport Middle School (2 from 10) and Freeport High School (1), we replaced aging boilers. All of these boilers along with two boilers at Morse Street School have had the older burners replaced with Auto-flame Technology. This allows for great efficiency up to 92% over the older burners that typically operated at 85% efficiency.

Morse Street School has replaced a large electric water heater to a new unit using natural gas. This has saved the district approximately \$13,000 per year since replacement over seven years ago.

Freeport Middle School has heating control upgrades, removing an older pneumatic system which allows for better control over the heating system. The walls have been spray-foamed to reduce heat loss, saving this school money and keeping the building warmer, with less boiler run time.

All schools have been converted to natural gas except Durham which utilizes Geothermal technology. Geothermal allows us to heat and cool this building without the use of fossil fuels on site. Natural gas is cheaper to use than heating oil and has saved the district hundreds of thousands of dollars over the past ten years.

The high school is totally converted to LED lighting technology; this includes light harvesting. This allows dimming of the lighting when the natural light is shining into the school. Durham

Community School utilizes an advanced light program to ensure that lighting is controlled and used only when needed. DCS also installed light shelving to bring in more natural daylight into the rooms. We are working towards changing all parking lot lighting to LED. These lights use less electricity and last three times as long as sodium/metal halide lighting.

We installed three air units at Pownal Elementary to bring in fresh air into the school. This was an improvement over the older inefficient natural ventilation method.

As part of energy management, we stagger our air equipment on times to avoid large surges in power demands. This helps our rate on peak demand times.

Energy management: Dennis has the ability to logon to the energy management system at his desk to ensure that heating and cooling levels are maintaining comfortable levels and not exceeding parameters set during occupied times. This ability is active at FHS, FMS, MLS, DCS.

#### Recycling:

Single-sort recycling in all buildings. Compost kitchen waste- in most of the schools. We send it to “Garbage to Garden.”

Most of the buildings are geothermal. Teachers turn thermostats down during the evening. Electrical energy is used to get the geothermal heat running.

Replacing pumps three a year. Each pump should last about 20 years.

The committee then brainstormed areas for future exploration, including the following:

- Solar Project:
  - Town of Freeport – partnering with a corporate partner. Town wants to capture some savings. Will see if Peter Joseph, Freeport Town Manager, can attend the June meeting.
  - Could look at installation of solar roof mounts. Currently have roof mounts at DCS for hot water.
  - How do we produce energy for our buildings? Should we put in solar in all of the buildings?
- Teaching – would like an overview of what is currently being taught.
- Education:
  - Encouraging students to ride the bus more,
  - kids turning off computer and phones;
  - Reducing the cardboard waste. What little steps can we take?
  - Changing the mindset. What can we do to instill these habits?
  - Gardening

- Educating – embedding the need for action now. Earth Club – Being earth friendly. Getting metal straws to sell. Leave no trace principals. Beach clean up. Green team at Mast Landing School. Finding solutions that can be applied efficiently and responsibly. Education for future generations.
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- Nutrition
  - Food
  - Food services – not just what we serve, but how we serve: reduce waste in this area.
  - Only Mast Landing and high school do their food waste composting. Reduce food waste.
  - Getting metal straws to sell.
- Reducing carbon emissions/footprint.
  - Talk about vehicles that we use.
  - Paperwork comes home. How can we reduce the paper output?
  - Refrigeration? Heat pumps? Do a review of what we have? Green spaces – the more the better.
- Policy for Sustainability
- Community Service
  - Earth Club – Being earth friendly. Leave no trace principals. Beach clean up.
  - Green team at Mast Landing School. Finding solutions that can be applied efficiently and responsibly.

Think globally – act locally.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 4, 2019