



## Climate Change, Environment and Sustainability Subcommittee

Remote

October 22, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Open Meeting Minutes

**PRESENT:** Chair Geoffrey Epstein, Adam Freudberg, William LaBarge, Priscila Sousa\*

**ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Matt Torti, Director of Building and Grounds, Shawn Luz, Sustainability Coordinator, Lincoln Lynch, Executive Director of Finance and Operations, Dr. Robert Tremblay, Superintendent, Joanna Hastry, Executive Assistant to the School Committee

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### Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. He noted all in attendance and said that the meeting was being held remotely, was being broadcast live on Facebook, and was also being recorded.

### Public Comment

No public comment

### Food Services Revisitation

Mr. Epstein said that in the future they are looking to have more information on the Food Services Department within the budget book. There was discussion on the hydroponics trailer at the high school which helps save money by providing all the salad greens for the entire district, contains no pesticides, herbicides, or packaging, and no fossil fuels. At member's requests, the Executive Director of Finance and Operations Lincoln Lynch will look into what the timeline is for return on investment. Mr. Epstein suggested looking into expanding this at another school within the next budget process, and said although it is an investment of \$100,000, it would save money in the future, and could also cut down on delivery costs from the high school.

Mr. Lynch spoke to steps they are taking to reduce packaging including cooking in-house instead of prepackaged foods, six schools do not have styrofoam trays or plastic utensils, with 300,000 styrofoam trays being removed, and all paper items are from a 100% recycled source. He noted that replacing styrofoam trays can be costly, as styrofoam trays are 3-4 cents per tray, and other trays are 50 cents per tray. Members asked what the total amount to replace in all schools would be, and if it could be done all at once, or if it should be spread out, in order to get rid of them throughout the whole district. Mr. Lynch said that to replace the trays in all schools it would be \$300,000-\$325,000, so he would recommend the replacement happening over a few years.

Members asked about recycling bins in cafeterias, including for PPE, asked for a timeline and consistency across schools to be looked at for recycling, and information on how much recyclables and nonrecyclable materials the district is producing. Director of Building and Grounds Matt Torti said they have purchased 28 additional recycling bins for the high school, and some schools have dishwashing stations which produce less waste, but could be using more water and electricity. He noted that for compost they would need additional refrigeration units, as well as a cost associated for health requirements. He said it has not been sustainable in the past due to the amount of upkeep and oversight, but the Director of Food Services is looking into grants for coolers for composting. Mr. Epstein suggested looking into companies that could be part of a partnership for composting. Ms. Sousa asked if the pandemic has created any pauses within this work, or any safety issues. Mr. Lynch said it has shown how the food chain and supply is not where it normally is, and they have had to adapt and overcome it with different menus, etc, as well as operationally having to change the mindset from distributing inside schools to outside. Dr. Tremblay spoke to other measures that have been taken within schools such as the idea of Meatless Mondays. Members asked that Dr. Tremblay reach out to the High School Environmental Club to see if they would like to join a future meeting to discuss what they have been working on.

#### Planning for an All Electric Fuller Middle School in the Future

Discussion about the new Fuller Middle School building and to look at what can be done now to guide the future switch from fossil fuels to electric. Mr. Epstein and Mr. Torti reported on a recent meeting, that Mr. Epstein facilitated, which was scheduled to learn more about why a projected \$106,000 expense to support future fossil free infrastructure was not recommended. Further discussion included the suggestion that the designers of the Fuller Middle School project use a software called Building Imaging Model, which is already being used for the main project, to create a design showing the physical components and space needed for future energy efficiency systems. Mr. Torti reported that the next steps for the School Building Committee are to ask the designers to estimate a timeline and cost of doing so, and to present this at the upcoming Owners and Architects meeting on October 27, 2020 for a decision. Members spoke about the benefits of looking at this now to help prepare for the possible switch, rather than wait and have it be more expensive to incorporate in the future.

#### Update on planning for solar panel installations for all roofs and Status of the Brophy solar canopy project

\*Ms. Sousa recused herself at 6:02 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 6:15 p.m. Sustainability Coordinator Sean Luz said there are some details to iron out for the Brophy solar canopy project such as timing, the form of agreement, and making sure it does not interfere with the stormwater and paving work, but he is planning on sending the Letter of Intent out next week. Mr. Freudberg asked if there is anything the School Committee can do to make sure the timeline is set, as it could be a problem if it is further out and more costly. Mr. Luz said that they will not be bundling the solar canopy project proposals to send to the City Council, in order to get them voted on as soon as they are ready.

Mr. Epstein asked about the assessment of roofs that is being done by Gale Associates, in order to look at the roofs coming off of warranty and to see if there is a possibility of adding solar

panels. Mr. Torti said he has a partial report so far, and they are also looking into other funding options, since MSBA has increased the age of the roofs to be qualified for part of their program, such as looking at solar companies who may pay for some part of the roof replacement if their solar panels are placed on those roofs. He said they are looking to see if that would be cost effective, and there are 8 roofs coming off warranty in the next couple of years. Mr. Luz said they are looking into the options, but one problem could be a project that has many phases. Mr. Freudberg suggested grouping a number of roofs together as a proposal for a contract with solar companies.

#### Municipal Aggregation Implications

Mr. Luz said that the City Council authorized a Municipal Aggregation Program for the City, and he presented on that this past week to them, and the report and presentation is available on the City website. He said next steps will be hiring an Aggregation Program Consultant, and getting feedback from the community.

#### General Climate Change, Environment and Sustainability Plans and Relationship to Policy

Mr. Epstein said that the Policy Subcommittee referred a possible Climate Policy to be looked at by this subcommittee, and he can start working on draft ideas to share and discuss at future meetings.

#### Approval of Minutes From 6/30/20 Subcommittee Meeting

**Motion:** To approve the June 30, 2020 minutes.

**Moved:** Ms. Sousa

**Seconded:** Mr. LaBarge

**Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (4-0-0)

(Yes: Freudberg, Sousa, Epstein, LaBarge)

#### Adjournment

**Motion:** To adjourn.

**Moved:** Mr. LaBarge

**Seconded:** Mr. Freudberg

**Roll Call Vote:** Unanimous (4-0-0)

(Yes: Freudberg, Sousa, Epstein, LaBarge)

Meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

#### Meeting Materials

Agenda

June 30, 2020 Draft Minutes

*These minutes were approved in Open Session by the Climate Change, Environment, and Sustainability Subcommittee on January 27, 2021.*

*These minutes were sent to the City of Framingham for posting on July 18, 2021.*

