

BYRAM HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
ARMONK, NEW YORK

Site-Based Team Meeting
October 27, 2010

Minutes from Meeting

The Site-Based Team/Curriculum Committee meeting took place at H. C. Crittenden Middle School with about 40 teachers, administrators and parents in attendance. Tim Kaltenecker, District Director of Curriculum, chaired the general meeting, and the principals led the small group team discussions.

1. Tim reviewed information shared at the Green Schools Coalition fall conference from October 14, 2010. He reported on a sample "Energy Usage Data" chart discussed during one of the activities. Byram Hills is currently reviewing the past two years of data on energy use and considering ways in which to record our energy use over time. By doing so, we can monitor the information and determine the impact of our energy savings initiatives.
2. Tim shared information presented at the Sustainable North Castle meeting on October 25, 2010. Specific information from the panelists were given; the panelists included: April Paresi and Deborah Cerar from the North Castle Recycling Committee; Nadine Palumbo from MBIA; Tom Mannion from C. W. Brown, Inc.; Brian Kaminer, homeowner; and Elyssa Rothe from NYSERDA. North Castle continues to increase recycling efforts from community members. Home owners have many cost savings options to reduce energy, and NYSERDA offers many opportunities for savings. More information on NYSERDA can be found at: <http://www.nyserda.org/>
3. Tim presented a video blog on recycling at the Coman Hill School, demonstrating the districts efforts to develop good recycling habits in our students as young as kindergarten. The video can be viewed at: <http://bobcattv.org/html/CurrConn001-0910.htm>
4. Tim showed a video on recycling at the Wampus School using the iCARE (character education) characters. The Wampus teachers are finding ways to connect our sustainability efforts to the character education initiative. The video can be viewed on the Wampus page at: <http://www.byramhills.org/Wampus.cfm?subpage=754> (See the video, *The Kids Get TUF!*)
5. Tim recommended a guiding question to focus the work of the Site-Based Teams this year as a way to collect evidence of the District's sustainability efforts. The question posed to the teams is: How are the attitudes, thinking and behaviors of our student

shifting as a result of our work on sustainability? The teams will consider this question throughout the year, collecting evidence where appropriate and available. A related webinar on November 10 will explore what a student educated for sustainability looks like.

6. Tim proposed a “Green Spirit Week” the district, giving opportunities district wide for collaborative events and common “themed” days.
7. The principals led building-specific discussions to set goals for the year. Each group reported out on their efforts to continue work on sustainability and character education. I will provide a midyear report to the Board of Education in January and post the report on our website.

Information

A parent provided information on the Natural Resources Defense Council. Visit www.nrdc.org for more details.