

Clarke County School District  
**Advisory Committee on District Sustainability**  
March 12, 2024 - 4:30 PM  
Board Office, Room 303

Minutes:

1. Call to order (4:34 p.m.)

2. Roll Call: Erwin Greene, Ramsey Nix, Patricia Yager, Troy Bassett, Halo Smart, Zebulon Santos, Mike Wharton, Paula Farmer, Christina Hylton, Mark Bailey, Donna Elder, Tylasha Mumford, Kelli Floyd, Hiram Floyd, Audrey Hughes, Tommy Nix, John Gilbreath, Tim Denson, Cary Ritzler, Montu Miller, Alfie Vick  
Guests: Hiram Floyd (now a member); Jennifer Dunlop (now a member); Elle Moss

3. Approved February 2024 Minutes

4. Adopted March Agenda

5. Read the formal energy audit request for proposal from committee co-chairs to superintendent and members of the Board of Education.

Gilbreath suggested auditing one older school and one newer school in the District for the sake of comparison, but also to save the time and money of a comprehensive audit. The District can provide overall energy usage data. He suggested individual panel audits to allow us to see what HVAC and electrical usage is. Audits should also occur during peak energy usage times during the year. Peak demand times are also the most costly. He suggested narrowing our audit to two to three schools.

Wharton suggested an audit will help evaluate rate structures.

Ritzler suggested using Energy Star building benchmarking tools provided by the Department of Energy to capture a more comprehensive picture of CCSD energy use.

Denson suggested a two-tiered RFP to find out what it would cost for a comprehensive audit versus an abbreviated one.

Elder said the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority does have a specific tool for schools that may support an energy audit.

Yager expressed the need for comprehensive energy data and rates for the purposes of this Committee.

Hughes said the data could be used for managing conservation behavior in schools.

Denson suggested adding the energy audit to the BOE retreat agenda.

6. Discussed potential dates for field trip to see Classic Center rooftop solar array with Cherry Street Energy.

Wharton explained the two different payment options provided by Cherry Street: owner-owned

and behind-the-meter leasing. Municipalities are allowed to sell back electricity, but school districts cannot. He said he could share cost values of solar installations on public facilities.

Bailey said CCSD pays about 9 cents per kWh, compared to 18-20 cents for residential.

7. Subcommittee Work (5:02 p.m.): Each subcommittee met to set top 7-10 goals.

**Energy & HVAC Subcommittee Goals (These subcommittees have merged.):**

1. UGA, ACC, and CCSD communicate and share information, discoveries, and experiential knowledge.
2. 100% LED lighting throughout CCSD.
3. Complete an Energy Audit with detailed information provided.
4. Maximize efficiency with equipment life cycle replacements.
5. Energy Conservation Campaign directed at people using CCSD buildings.
6. Maximize passive opportunities to heat, color, and light CCSD buildings.
7. Explore renewable energy sources, such as solar and geothermal.
8. Set parameters for HVAC and use motion sensor lighting in CCSD buildings.

**Transportation Subcommittee Goals:**

1. Transition to full electric fleet (future bus replacements should be electric).
2. Reduce auto emissions by 50% over the next 10 years.
3. Increase the number of students walking and biking to schools by 15%.
4. Survey families to discover ways to encourage walking, biking, and bussing to school.
5. Make our campuses more accessible to biking and pedestrians. Future campus site considerations should include accessibility and sustainability.
6. Increase synergy with ACC and UGA transit systems. For example, ACC route times should consider the CCSD school day schedule. Have a meeting with ACC and UGA transit systems to brainstorm ways to work together.
7. Apply for every transportation and federal grant that is coming out. We shouldn't miss any of the cycles.

**Green Infrastructure Subcommittee Goals:**

**Extramural Funding and Cost Sharing Subcommittee Goals:**

1. Calculate the district's carbon footprint and track carbon reduction and savings over time (the

social cost of carbon is \$204 per metric ton).

2. \$10 million raised in federal or state grants to decarbonize and adapt.
3. Negotiate bus-sharing agreements with Athens Clarke County and UGA.
4. Equitable bike lanes and sidewalks for all schools. Get kids involved.
5. Apply for and receive grants for 20+ electric school buses with charging infrastructure.
6. Negotiate better rate structure challenges/plans to increase efficiency and reduce cost.
7. Re-engage with the Athens Well Being project to identify and prioritize especially vulnerable neighborhoods.
8. Food waste reduction.
9. Improve the procurement process to reduce Scope 3 emissions.

Next full committee meeting: April 9 at 4:30 p.m.