Minutes
Joint Green Efforts Committee

December 18, 2019

Irving A Robins Middle School
**** Please Note location and time****
11:30 a.m.

In Attendance:
Patti Boye-Williams - Chair
Stacey Petruzella
Andrea Sobinski
Maureen Messier
Cate Grady-Benson

Erica Robertson, Assistant Town Manager

Absent
Rodger Phillips
Jennifer Wynn

A. Call to Order – The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:40 am

B. Public Comment- none

C. Presentations – Chartwells: Jose Fontanez led the group through a tour of the cafeteria. The committee had a good conversation about what they saw as areas where the lunch program could be more environmentally friendly.

Plastic utensil- The café still uses plastic utensils. Jose is not sure if we can change that. Possible solutions would be to go knife free then maybe do a spork and then a compostable spork. The committee also suggested that Chartwells move utensils inside instead of the hall or try another caddy type of tool to place them. Perhaps closer to the registers

The café is now using paper trays boats for fries and pizza. Previously they had been Styrofoam. There are stull Styrofoam 8oz cups for salad. Jose is waiting for his distributor to come back with paper bowls in the right size. The State has regulations that must be followed for portion size with regard to veggies.

The café sells bottled water. Currently, there is a bottled water pilot program at Farmington High School. There are hydration stations set up and it may be expanded to flavored waters like cucumber and mint.

There are plastic straws available for the students. They are an option so the student must take the straw. They are not automatically given out. Straws, little by little, are being phased out in total.

More recycling bins are needed in the cafeteria. More are also needed in the school in general. Trash and recycling cans should be placed in the halls. They are not currently available. Tim Harris needs to be contacted for this issue.

Educational posters- There is a need for more educational posters in the café to teach the students about recycling.

East Farms is now Styrafoam free. As is Noah Wallace

It was suggested that the Chartwells look to do composting at IAR. There is an active garden club at the school who could use it.

There is a small but motivated Green team at IAR consisting of four 8th grade girls. Perhaps they could do a video clip about recycling to be shown in homerooms.

Chris Lumas is the student activities director at Farmington High. He can tell us who is the active students on environment and green committees at the High School. Cate-Grady Benson should consider contacting him got assistance with the clean up day.

D. Administrative / Communications
Upon a motion made and seconded (Sobinski/Petruzella) it was unanimously voted: to approve the November 13, 2019 meeting minutes.

E. **Other Business -** Meeting Schedule – reminder that there is no January 2020 meeting. **The February meeting will also have to be changed as there is now a scheduled Town Council meeting for that night.**

F. **Adjournment**
Upon a motion made and seconded (Grady-Benson/Petruzella) it was unanimously voted: to adjourn at 12:10 p.m.