

## MELROSE ENERGY COMMISSION

### NOTES FROM INITIAL MEETING WITH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

November 2, 2005; 1:00-2:00 p.m.

#### Attendees:

Melrose Energy Commission – Bob Lucien, Matt Dugan, Jack Welch, José Rotger  
Melrose School Department – Rosemary Leblanc-Considine (Superintendent), Barbara Quinlan (Business Manager), Joseph Huggins (Facilities Director), James DiSanto (High School Science teacher and Energy Educator Manager)  
Energy Education Inc. – Consultant (Chuck??)

#### Notes

Barbara Quinlan, Business Manager, began the meeting by summarizing several of the School Department's energy management and conservation initiatives over the years. Ms. Quinlan noted that over the years the School Department has funded various energy-related capital improvements, such as converting portions of the high school from electric to gas-fired heating and replacing windows and interior light fixtures. Ms. Quinlan also noted that the School Department has named James DiSanto, a science and environmental studies teacher in the high school, as the Department's Energy Educator Manager. With the assistance of consultant Energy Education Inc. ("EEI"), Mr. DiSanto has focused on behavioral and consumption pattern solutions to reducing energy use in the schools.

Ms. Quinlan distributed copies of a September 12, 2005 report from EEI to Superintendent Leblanc-Considine. This report contained an excellent summary of savings achieved to date as a result of the efforts of EEI and the School Department. Mr. DiSanto distributed a collection of energy savings data and bar charts for the years 2002 through 2005, providing further detail on the savings achieved by the EEI program.

Ms. Quinlan further noted that while the district's new schools (e.g., Lincoln, Roosevelt) were built with energy efficiency in mind, the new structures use significantly more energy than the buildings they replaced – as much as three times (3X) more energy. The increased use stems from the larger size of the new buildings and the greater number of rooms and usable space that is heated and lighted.

The consultant from EEI summarized EEI's approach to energy conservation: "save money without spending money." EEI focuses on how and where energy is consumed, rather than on capital improvements, and only for public schools (no other clients). These changes in behavioral and consumption patterns have resulted in significant savings – approximately \$431,000 in the 37 months (April 2002 to April 2005) the district has participated in the EEI program (source: EEI's 9/12/2005 report to Superintendent Leblanc-Considine). EEI has conducted extensive energy audits of all school facilities in over 92 visits to the district. EEI's 48-month contract with the Department ends in March 2006 (at a cost of \$5800 per month), but EEI will continue visiting and providing services to the Department after the contract expires.

The EEI consultant indicated that EEI relies on energy audit software from Good Steward Software (more information at [www.goodstewardsoftware.com](http://www.goodstewardsoftware.com)).

With respect to additional improvements, Ms. Quinlan noted that the high school is still about 60% electric heat and that, although expensive, conversion to another fuel should be further considered. Ms. Quinlan noted that in addition to the EEI audits, Massachusetts Electric has conducted extensive energy audits of all school facilities. These audits have led to considerable improvements in lighting fixture efficiency. However, natural gas provider KeySpan has not been as frequently involved in providing energy efficiency services. Matt Dugan promised to look into how KeySpan can provide greater audit and efficiency services to the School Department. Ms. Quinlan noted that only the Beebe School uses oil for heating, and it is only on an alternate basis as the facility is capable of switching between gas and oil.

Mr. DiSanto and Mr. Huggins expressed interest in attending the Energy Commission's next scheduled meeting on November 16. Mr. DiSanto further noted that his Environmental Science class is presently completing a curriculum unit on energy, and that he and his class would be interested in participating in the upcoming Energy Fair on December 4, 2005.

Members of the Energy Commission indicated that the Commission will continue to work collaboratively with the School Department to learn more about the programs implemented by the Department as well as to communicate the results of the Department's energy management and conservation efforts to the city.