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BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

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Happy 4th of July

Message from the President



Welcome to the Late Spring/Early Summer edition of the VSPMA Quarterly Newsletter! The not-so-lazy-days of Summer are here - summer capital projects, big repair projects, annual cleaning ... all scheduled within a few months. And year after year, everyone gets it done! Kudos to each of you for your diligence, attention and dedication to your job.

In this edition, you'll find some great articles from Sara Porter and Heidi Wilcox again -- I always look forward to hearing from them! And John Bailey, our conference planner has a few tidbits about the upcoming Annual Conference as well. I can see from the draft agenda that we're going to have some great educational sessions. Stay tuned for more about the conference.

Have a great Summer and a great Fourth of July celebration!

Debra Yap



Director Operations and Maintenance (Retired)
Alexandria City Public Schools

Cleaning Self-Assessment Identifies Key Areas of Improvement

By Steven Eichman, Facilities Manager, West Allis-West Milwaukee School District

When the Wisconsin-based West Allis-West Milwaukee School District first learned about the Healthy Green Schools & Colleges (HGSC) initiative, it was easy to wonder if this was just another idea that sounded good in theory, but would be too costly or take too much time to implement. After some careful research — various emails and utilizing some online resources — it became clear that this approach might be realistic. In fact, the goals of the program and the ease with which they could be accomplished were user-defined and could be done at a non-stressful pace.

As it turned out, the focal point of the comprehensive program centered around the standard for healthy and sustainable facility management. One of the first things to complete was the suggested points-based scoring self-assessment.

The assessment was incredibly involved and consisted of four areas of reflection:

- Procurement of Facility Operations and Maintenance Products
- Facilities Operations and Maintenance
- Building Systems Operations and Maintenance
- Ongoing Monitoring, Evaluation and Training

After completing and submitting the questionnaire, the facility staff waited anxiously for the results. The worry was that not every question was able to be answered in a positive way and the fear was great that the facility score might be too low to join the program.

When the results arrived, suspicions were confirmed. The scores were poor — 11/100, to be blunt. Collective thoughts now turned to the next question: What did this mean in terms of being allowed to join the program?

Moving Forward

Going through the assessment was a revelation for the district. Though the prevailing thought was that everything was at least okay district-wide, the assessment and subsequent score revealed a wide variety of issues and several opportunities for improvement. Also, as it turned out, not only did the low score not disqualify the department from participating in the HGSC initiative, it made the district a perfect candidate for participation in the program.

The assessment proved there was a lot of work to be done, so the next step was to decide which of the four principal areas of assessment would be targeted first. After careful consideration, Procurement of Facility Operations and Maintenance Products was chosen as the first major area of focus. There are numerous subcategories under this section of the assessment, ranging from general purpose cleaners, specialty cleaning products, snow and ice removal products, receptacles and dispensers, generators, and powered equipment. The assessment looked to determine whether or not the district could meet the Healthy Green Schools & Colleges minimum certification criteria.

Due to the 0/16 score the department received in this area, the answer appeared to be “no,” but further analysis was necessary. After a closer examination of these categories, it was discovered that the main reason for the low score was that the suppliers had never been asked one important question: Were the products purchased from them environmentally preferable consumable goods?

Obtaining an answer to this question was just the start. Even with that knowledge, the district had to determine how they would measure compliance. What requirements needed to be met? This is one of the benefits of the HGSC initiative. Throughout the program, criteria are provided for each category and subcategory. Therefore, it became clear which questions needed to be addressed by the suppliers. It was also easier to identify what to look for when purchasing products or equipment.

Shortly after the district received the results of the assessment, work began on building a list of custodial equipment that the department would need to purchase. Prior to learning about this program, these items would typically just be purchased without a second thought beyond financial considerations. Now — armed with the assessment score and specific criteria to measure the proposed equipment against — buyers were able to ask specific and knowledgeable questions about the equipment that was intended for purchase.

Surprisingly, most, but not all, of the proposed custodial equipment already met the criteria and standards as outlined in the HGSC program. At this point, the vendor was contacted and it was explained that the district was now working to meet new goals and would be following this program moving forward.

Meanwhile, the equipment on the list that did not meet the criteria required further evaluation. In these instances, management discussed the specific pieces of equipment with the vendor, explained the needs, and directed them to research and identify comparable pieces of equipment that fell in line with the HGSC program. After only a couple of days, they came back with equipment that met the new environmentally preferable standards.

These items were added to the list, and with a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment, purchasing proceeded as usual. Not only was everyone across the district happy with the purchases being made, but the vendors also got in on the excitement. Their enthusiasm stemmed from the fact that they were now aware that the majority of the equipment they offered to school districts and other organizations met the HGSC program standards and criteria.

Another great part of this program is that it reinforces the concept of documenting team efforts. Not only does this program arm the staff with the questions that need to be addressed before making environmentally sound purchases, but it also encourages documentation of efforts to ensure and verify the smart and environmentally preferable choices being made. Healthy Green Schools & Colleges provides the tools facilities need to make an even bigger sustainable impact. The three-step process identified in the HGSC program (Assess, Commit, and Improve) is easy to understand and easily obtainable. Now when we make facility decisions, the first question is whether or not it meets the spirit of the program, and if so, what criteria need to be met? With that in mind, the staff goes about their business with a sense of pride that increased sustainability is within reach.

The National Safety Security Protection Agency Presents

The Uvalde Debrief *“The lessons learned from the lives lost.”*

Speaker: Thomas Czyz

Retired Homicide Detective and SWAT Team Operator



The Uvalde Debrief

The Uvalde Debrief helps law enforcement officers, school administrators, and architects learn from the deadly failures in Uvalde. A former student crashed a truck behind Robb Elementary School and then walked through an unsecured back door on May 24, 2022. He opened fire on his former 4th-grade classroom, killing 19 students, 2 teachers and injuring 17 others. The NSSPA's team of retired federal and local investigators arrived on the scene the next day to determine what went wrong. In our two-month investigation, we found failures in training, physical hardware, technology, policies, and procedures. Not only will this course teach what went wrong in Uvalde, but what could have been done to prevent the attack in the first place. Correcting these same issues in other schools will not only save lives in the future but also honor the victims.

About Our Speaker



On December 14, 2012, our nation was devastated by the news that twenty first graders and six adults had been murdered at Sandy Hook Elementary. Having been a father, husband of an English teacher, active shooter expert, SWAT operator, and homicide detective at this point, Tom Czyz realized he couldn't protect his own family.

He knew something needed to be done to protect America's schools, so he founded Armoured One, a company that is dedicated to ending the story of active shooter. He put together the best active shooter experts he could find from SWAT, military special forces, federal agents, and schoolteachers to create a company that would save lives. Since that time, Tom and his team of investigators have responded to more than 50 k-12 school shootings, including Sandy Hook, Parkland, Santa Fe, and Uvalde. His team produces debriefs from these investigations to educate school administrators, police, firefighters, EMS, architects, and politicians about how to survive an active shooter attack. In addition, Tom founded ONE Training, a non-profit that provides customized courses for varying school staff positions to empower them to save students' lives. He achieved his greatest feat when one of the schools, Armoured One and ONE Training, helped, was attacked, but no one was killed or injured except the attacker. That was proof that proper training, notification, and hardening of products can save lives. Armoured One is now known as America's School Active Shooter Company. Tom currently sits on the board for the National Safety Security Protection Association, a not for profit that helps states create minimal standards for security.

Tom is recognized nationally and internationally for his expertise in active shooter, school security and motivational speaking. His work has been featured by the Rolling Stones, Forbes Magazine, Netflix, Viewpoint, numerous local, national, international, and global news outlets. He has presented to government officials, and school associations for superintendents, school board members, facilities, and transportation. He has also collaborated with and trained local law enforcement and federal law enforcement. Tom has worked tirelessly for ten years to protect America's schools from active shooter attacks. His work has been acknowledged by school leaders, government leaders, but more importantly the families of the lives he has helped save.



REQUEST FOR PRESENTATIONS



Virginia School Plant Management Association 2023 Conference

October Professional Learning
Sessions

Double Tree by Hilton, Midlothian, VA

The VSPMA board of directors is pleased to issue this [Request for Presentations](#) for our VSPMA 2023 Conference Professional Learning Sessions to be held in October of 2023.

We are running three (3) learning tracks:

- [Facility Management](#)
- [Custodial Supervisors](#)
- [Technical Tradesman](#)

[Suggested Topics of Interest Include:](#)

- Blue Cleaning; Improving the Health of your School by use of Fewer Chemicals
- Best Practices in Custodial Management
- Time Management
- Changes in Codes that Effect School Operations
- Roofing Assessments & Proper Management
- Security, Behavioral, and Physical Plant
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Renewable Energy (Solar, Wind, Biomass)
- Energy Efficiency, Financial Incentives & Grants

- Benchmarking and Key Performance Indicators
- Best Practices in Maintenance & Repair
- Playground Safety
- Cutting Edge FM equipment/systems/processes/products
- Personal and Team Professional Development
- Indoor Air Quality

Submittal Process

Email your proposed learning session to bailey05@vt.edu as soon as possible, but no later than June 30th, 2023. Earlier submissions may be given more consideration.

Items to include:

- Presentation **Topic** (Title)
- **Brief Overview** (Summary/abstract of the presentation- 5-7 sentences)
- **Presenter Biography** (short bio)
- **Photo**

Note: Learning Sessions are to be educational and not a sales pitch.

You will be allowed a brief opportunity to represent your company and distribute hand-out materials at the conclusion of your Learning Session.

Audience

- Facility Managers, Assistant Directors and Facility Supervisors
- Custodial Supervisors and Head Custodians
- Energy Managers, Project Managers
- Tradesman (Plumbers, Electricians, Carpenters, HVAC Technicians)

Over 150+ members of VSPMA from all across Virginia's public and private schools. This is a great opportunity to expand your company's mission to all Virginia Schools.

Registration & Travel Info

The Learning Sessions will be held on Tuesday, October 3rd of 2023.

Classes are 45-50 minutes each and will potentially run multiple times starting at 7:30 AM and until 3:00 PM. Presenters will be responsible for lodging and related travel expenses.

Questions

Dr. John A. Bailey –VSPMA Executive Administrator/ Conference Committee Chair and Conference Planner [757-536-1836](tel:757-536-1836) email: bailey05@vt.edu



Save the Date!

**The Virginia School Plant Management
Association**


15th Annual Conference

Improvement, Innovation, Inspiration! The Future Starts With Us



Doubletree by Hilton, Midlothian, VA

October 1st – 4th, 2023



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