

Environment Committee Meeting

Thursday, December 12, 2024 | 2:00 pm
via Teams

AGENDA

1.0 Call to Order

1.1 Attendance

1.2 Approval of Agenda ✓

Motion:

That the agenda for the Environment Committee meeting for December 12, 2024 be approved.

2.0 Election of Chair ✓

2.1 Motion:

That _____ be elected Chair of the Environment Committee.

3.0 Business Arising

3.1 Terms of Reference ✓

3.2 Environmental Responsibility ✓

4.0 Next Meeting Date: TBC

5.0 Adjournment

Motion:

That we now do adjourn at pm.

✓ denotes an attachment

Title:	Notice of Motion- Development of an Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee
Contact:	Trustee Fuscaldo
Date Submitted:	September 10 2024
Mandate:	In alignment with NNDSB Bylaw 102, Trustee Fuscaldo provided notice to the Secretary of the Board, Director Myles, requesting an item be placed on the agenda for discussion during the September Committee of the Whole meeting.
Background:	<p>Whereas the environmental challenges facing our society are increasingly pressing, including but not limited to climate change, pollution, habitat destruction, and resource depletion; and</p> <p>Whereas, as an organization, it is our responsibility to acknowledge and address our impact on the environment, and to actively work towards sustainability and environmental stewardship; and</p> <p>Whereas the development and implementation of a comprehensive Environmental framework for guiding our actions and decisions towards minimizing our environmental footprint and promoting sustainable practices; and</p> <p>Whereas the creation of an Environmental sustainability advisory committee through partnerships, measurable goals and outcomes will improve our efficiency, and foster a culture of responsibility and innovation within NNDSB.</p>
Defining committee purpose and intended goals/Looking ahead	<p>On May 14, 2024, the NNDSB Board of Trustee's accepted the working document,</p> <p>Draft NNDSB Environmental Responsibility policy</p> <p>Which was then forwarded to the bylaw review committee. On June 17th, 2024, the Bylaw review committee was advised by Special Advisor Jourdie that the policy presented, which is similar to the policies used by TDSB, and YDSB, is a good example of what an accurate board policy statement should be.</p>

	<p>The Environmental sustainability advisory committee should finalize and oversee the Environmental Policy as well as the DRAFT TOR Environmental committee , prior to coming back to the board for final approval.</p> <p>The Committee membership shall consist of two Trustee's, the director of Education or designate, one indigenous community representative, as well as at least 3 external community partners and organizations, to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive approach.</p> <p>Through reviewing reports relevant to NNDSB, such as the "Energy Management plan" The Green Energy Act, Ontario Regulation 397/1, 2009 Microsoft Word - Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan template - English (nearnorthschools.ca) and further thorough research, consultation, review, and analysis, collaborate with community partners to inform the development of an organizational Environmentally Responsible framework and future strategic goals across all sectors.</p> <p>The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee will seek input from FNAC, student senates, other board committee's and other stakeholders at minimum annually.</p> <p>The Mandate of the Environmental Responsibility committee shall encompass, but not be limited to, the following key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of natural resources, including water and energy. Waste reduction, recycling, and responsible disposal practices. • Preservation /creation of biodiverse and protection of ecosystems across NNDSB owned properties. • Integration of environmental considerations into procurement, operations, and decision-making processes. <p>Promotion and partnership regarding environmental awareness and education among employees, stakeholders, and the wider community</p> <p>The Environmental sustainability advisory committee may provide the NNDSB Trustee's on an annual basis, a progress report on the implementation of its progress and recommendations.</p>
Resolution:	Be it resolved that a Near North District School Board Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee be established.

Near North District School Board
Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee - ESAC
Terms of Reference – Draft September 2024

1. Purpose

The NNDSB Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee is established to identify and discuss issues of environmental sustainability and climate change as they relate to the NNDSB by facilitating ongoing engagement and feedback from students, parents/SACs, community advocacy groups, nonprofit organizations, members of the public, staff etc.

2. Membership

The following shall be full members of the Environmental Sustainability advisory committee with full voting rights,

- a) Two Trustee's who also sit on the Bylaw Review committee.
- b) The director of education (or designate)
- c) One Indigenous community representative,
- d) A minimum of 3 additional representatives,
 - The committee is open to students, parents, community advocacy groups, non-profit organizations, members of the public, municipal and provincial staff, NNDSB staff, etc.
 - Committee members must disclose any potential conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from discussions and decisions where a conflict of interest exists.
 - External organizations who may have pecuniary interests and/or partnerships with the board may participate as nonvoting members only.
 - At the last meeting of the school year, the committee will review its composition of regularly attending members and recruit community representatives as needed. For example, groups with a vested interest in an environmental issue(s).
 - The committee may invite other parties to attend for an information or resource capacity. These guests will not have voting rights.

3. Committee Chair

- The NNDSB will appoint one Trustee as Co-chair and the committee selects one Co-Chair from the community member representatives (annually unless otherwise decided by ESAC).
- The Co-Chairs will have equal status regarding agenda setting, meeting management, and role as the ESAC spokesperson.
- The Co-Chairs will mutually agree upon specific division of responsibilities.
- If the Community Co-Chair is unable to fulfill the term, the ESAC can appoint a new community representative for the remainder of the one-year term. The position will be advertised through various NNDSB channels.
- If the Trustee Co-Chair is unable to fulfill the term, ESAC can request that the Board appoint a new Trustee Co-Chair.

4. Specific responsibilities of the committee / members include:

- Develop and recommend best practices for environmental policies and strategies.
- Monitor & Review compliance with environmental legislation and regulations.
- Identify opportunities and barriers to reducing the environmental impact of the NNDSB and make recommendations.
- Promote environmental awareness and education within the NNDSB.
- by engaging with staff and stakeholders to raise environmental awareness.
- Monitor and assess NNDSB's environmental performance.
- Foster partnerships with external stakeholders to enhance environmental outcomes.

5. Quorum

Quorum is achieved with the majority of committee members present.

6.Meetings:

- The Environmental Committee will meet quarterly, or more frequently as required.
- Meetings will be scheduled at the beginning of each year, and additional meetings may be called by the Co-Chairs as needed.
- Members may request or submit any items to the co-chairs for inclusion in upcoming agendas.
- Sub-committees/Working groups will be established as required, with scope of work established by the ESAC.
- Members have the option of attending virtually or in person at the Board Head office.
- Meetings are open to the public.
- Notice of meetings and agenda will be posted on the Board Website and shared via usual communication channels

7.Decision Making

Where possible, decisions should be made by consensus. When votes are necessary, a simple majority of those present will be sufficient.

8. Reporting and accountability

- The Environmental sustainability Advisory committee does not exercise any power over decision making within the board.
- The committee co-chairs are responsible for ensuring the agenda and minutes are prepared in accordance with the Near North district school board bylaws.
- The Committee will prepare and present an annual report summarizing the committee's activities, achievements, and recommendations. This report will also include an assessment of the NNDSB's environmental performance and progress towards its sustainability goals.
- The recommendations of the Environmental Sustainability advisory committee will be given full consideration by the Board, and the board will confirm its response to any advice or recommendations provided to it by the ESAC by way of motion.

- Minutes for the committee will be approved at the following committee meeting. Once approved they will be added to the next board agenda as an information item.

9. Administration:

The NNDSB will provide the necessary resources and support to enable the Environmental Committee to fulfill its responsibilities effectively. This may include access to relevant data, staff support to assist ESAC Co-Chairs with agenda development, minutes, coordination of meetings

10. Review and amendments

Once adopted; the ESAC Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually to ensure they remain relevant and effective. Any amendments to the Terms of Reference must be approved by the committee then by the Board of Trustees through motion.

	May 2024 – NNDSB Committee of the whole
Title:	<p>Environmental Responsibility Policy (working title/document)</p> <p>With excerpts from TDSB/YRDSB Environmental Responsibility Policies and Ontario Ministry of Education’s Policy Framework for Environmental Environmental Education in Ontario Schools: Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow</p>
Policy Statement	<p>The Environment Policy commits the Near North District School Board to an ongoing alignment between teaching and learning and the operation of schools to develop whole school ecologically literate communities whose goal is building a healthy, sustainable society. Special emphasis is given to climate change, its mitigation and adaptation. A multi-stakeholder interdepartmental process sets and reviews targets and implementation, as well as documentation and communication of results, as part of offering community leadership in decision making and action that reflects a shared concern for protecting the environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board recognizes the interdependence of the environment, the economy and society, and the challenge of balancing all three in building a healthy, sustainable future. To achieve this goal, the Board adopts the concept of sustainable development as defined by the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development as “meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” • The Board acknowledges its responsibility to help prepare students to meet this challenge. Therefore, environmental literacy for all students is integral to the Board’s mission to help prepare our students to become responsible members of a democratic society. The Board will develop and support curriculum initiatives across grades and subject areas that lead to this result and ensure that an environmental education component is incorporated into school planning processes. • The Board aims to develop environmentally sound practices consistent with what students are learning in the classroom. In this way, curriculum and board operations become part of a single organization dedicated to learning how to live more sustainably. • To enable and coordinate this learning throughout the organization, the Board is committed to achieving continual, measurable improvements in environmental educational and operational practices within its control. • The Board further acknowledges that climate change has emerged as one of the greatest challenges of the 21st Century—one that needs to

	<p>be addressed by all sectors of society, and particularly by school boards, because students are the future leaders in building an environmentally sustainable future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To respond to climate change, focus shall be on three critical areas as an important basis for planning and decision making: mitigation, adaptation, and education, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ climate change shall be mitigated by reducing the Board's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that are goal oriented and measurable. ➤ activities that adapt to climate change shall be undertaken internally, as well as through partnerships with community agencies such as increasing tree planting. ➤ as knowledge and experience of climate change deepen, education essential to our students' knowledge shall continue to be at the heart of the Board's Mission. • To enable and coordinate this learning throughout the organization, the Board is committed to achieving continual, measurable improvements in environmental educational and operational practices within its control. The Board will develop a focused, results-oriented framework for setting and reviewing environmental objectives, targets, and implementation effectiveness. The framework will set out an annual interdepartmental, multi-stakeholder process reported through the formation of an Environmental Responsibility committee : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ for identifying priorities. ➤ for timely setting of achievable objectives, targets, and indicators. ➤ for developing a funding plan to achieve objectives and environmental targets. ➤ for developing action plans. ➤ for assigning responsibility for implementation. ➤ for providing staff development and resources as required; and ➤ for monitoring, documenting, reporting, and recognizing results and communicating these to staff, students, parents, and the community. ➤ In being environmentally responsible and accountable, the Board offers community leadership in decision making and action that reflects a shared concern for protecting the health of the natural environment on which a healthy economy and society depend.
	<p>The Director is authorized to issue operational procedures to implement this policy</p>

Responsibilities	
The Board of Trustees is responsible for:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ setting direction that promotes environmental literacy and environmentally responsible practices in the management of resources, operations, and facilities as reflected in Board policies and the multi-year Plans. ➤ receiving and considering reports and related recommendations regarding environmental education and environmental management practices. ➤ reviewing the Environmental Responsibility policy in accordance with the priorities in the Trustees' Multi-Year Plan and the approved policy review cycle; and ➤ understanding and communicating with members of the community about the Environmental Responsibility policy.
The Director of Education is responsible for:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ implementing and operationalizing the Environmental Responsibility policy; and ➤ sustaining the direction for environmental education and environmentally responsible practices by. ➤ providing leadership that supports environmental education as part of every student's learning and that fosters environmentally responsible management practices, ➤ ensuring that appropriate resources are directed toward these priorities, and ➤ assigning leadership responsibility for environmental education to a supervisory officer.
The senior staff member identified to support environmental education is responsible for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ supporting the goals of the Ontario Ministry of Education's Policy Framework for Environmental Education in Ontario Schools: Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow. ➤ building system capacity by providing leadership to superintendents. ➤ ensuring that environmental education addresses the needs of staff and students as they relate to cultural background, language, ability and other aspects of diversity; and ➤ ensuring Board appreciation programs include opportunities to recognize responsible environmental leadership at all levels of the organization.

<p>Superintendents are responsible for:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ supporting the goals of the Ontario Ministry of Education's Policy Framework for Environmental Education in Ontario Schools: Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow. ➤ building system capacity by providing leadership to principals and managers. ➤ ensuring that environmental education addresses the particular needs of students as they relate to cultural background, language, ability and other aspects of diversity. ➤ supporting the coordination and integration of professional development opportunities related to environmental education and environmentally responsible practices for all employee groups; promoting collaboration with community, municipal, regional and provincial representatives to advance environmental education and environmental sustainability.
<p>Principals are responsible for:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ promoting and sustaining environmentally responsible classrooms and schools as reflected in the School Improvement Plan. ➤ assisting teachers to integrate environmental education across the curriculum and to link environmental knowledge and related skills and activities to program delivery. ➤ supporting staff and students in making connections to the principles of responsible citizenship; and ➤ providing environmental leadership and learning opportunities for learners, school staff and community members
<p>Teachers and other staff who support students in a school or classroom setting are responsible for:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ providing opportunities for students to acquire the knowledge, skills and perspectives that foster environmental stewardship. ➤ using relevant environmental education curriculum resource documents to support curricula as appropriate. ➤ increasing student engagement by building student capacity to take action for positive environmental change in their schools, homes, local communities, or at the global level; and ➤ striving for continuous improvement in personal and professional growth in the area of environmental education to support student achievement and success.
<p>Parents and students are responsible for:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ taking opportunities to acquire the knowledge, skills and behaviors needed to develop and sustain positive environmental habits in their classrooms, homes and school communities; and ➤ working collaboratively with schools to reduce the Board's ecological footprint.
<p>All staff members are responsible for:</p>	<p>Striving for continuous improvement in professional growth to support environmentally responsible service delivery.,</p>

Resources	<p>http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teachers/enviroed/ShapeTomorrow.pdf</p> <p>NNDSB “Energy Management plan” The Green Energy Act, Ontario Regulation 397/1, 2009</p> <p>Microsoft Word - Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan template - English (nearnorthschools.ca)</p> <p>Ontario Ministry of Education’s Policy Framework for Environmental Acting Today Shaping Tomorrow.pdf - Google Drive</p> <p>Environment (tdsb.on.ca)</p> <p>Climate Change in Education.pdf - Google Drive</p>