



## **SD 42 POLICY: 6530**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

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#### **PHILOSOPHY:**

The Board of Education defines Environmental Sustainability as those business and individual practices that minimize energy and water consumption and maximize waste diversion resulting in utility cost savings and a smaller carbon footprint for the school district. These savings will be realized through initiatives aimed at creating a culture of conservation, guided by the three R's of sustainability: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of environmental sustainability in meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The Board acknowledges that environmental sustainability is a joint responsibility of Trustees, administrators, teachers, students and support personnel and its success is based on cooperation at all levels.

The Board supports opportunities for the school district to reduce operational and life cycle costs, lessen the impact on our domestic energy infrastructure, increase waste diversion, and provide environmental stewardship through lower carbon emissions and enhanced opportunities to advance student achievement.

The Board is committed to environmental sustainability and ensures that every effort is made to conserve energy and natural resources while exercising sound financial management.

#### **AUTHORITY:**

The Board assigns the responsibility for the implementation of the Environmental Sustainability policy to the Superintendent of Schools and the Secretary Treasurer and authorizes Superintendent of Schools and the Secretary Treasurer to establish procedures that will guide the implementation of this policy.

#### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES:**

The Board is committed to:

- A strategic approach to resource management, including assessing baseline performance, setting goals and targets, creating an environmental sustainability plan, and tracking performance.
- Monitoring the implementation of the environmental sustainability plan.
- The review and continuous improvement of the school districts environmental sustainability plan within the limited financial resources available.
- The development, support, and delivery of programs, activities, and initiatives that enable students to develop the skills, knowledge, confidence and attitudes that will help foster a sustainability mindset.

- The encouragement of students and staff to be aware of the Environmental Sustainability policy and associated procedures, actions and results.
- Communicating environmental sustainability initiatives, and consulting, where appropriate, with partner groups on the implementation of new initiatives.
- The encouragement of students and staff to be cognizant of their energy use, waste generation, and material consumption.
- The integration of environmentally sustainable and ethical considerations into the operations and business decisions of the school district.
- The selection of equipment and systems in alignment with environmental sustainability goals, product incentives and rebates from utility providers.
- Making vendors aware of the district's environmental sustainability goals and requiring them to provide evidence of their alignment with these goals, where deemed appropriate.

**APPROVED: April 8, 2015**

**REVIEWED: January 2021**