

7461 – DISTRICT SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Sustainability is defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It considers the interrelationship of economic, social, and environmental factors that protect and enhance present and future quality of life.

The Board of Education desires to conduct its operations and make decisions with identified sustainability priorities that include at a minimum: protecting students, staff, and community from environmental harm; preparing students for the future by educating for sustainability (knowledge of concepts and practices of environmental, social, and economic responsibility and sustainability); and include an intent to preserve current and future resources.

The Board believes by incorporating sustainable practices into school policies and operations it can make an immediate impact on student health, academic performance, and teacher retention while decreasing operational costs and demands on natural resources.

The Superintendent of Schools will establish a School District Sustainability Committee to provide the Superintendent and the Board with information on the benefits of increased sustainability practices within the school district.

The Board wants to protect students, staff, school visitors, and community members from environmental harm and will strive to eliminate the use of potentially toxic and harmful substances; prepare students for the future by providing a high-quality education that support concepts and practices of environmental, social, and economic responsibility and sustainability; and preserving current and future resources by adopting practices in operations that balance environmental, social, and fiscal responsibility to protect and enhance the future quality of life.

The Board of Education authorizes the following sustainability practices to be implemented within the schools of the district:

Professional Development for Sustainability

Quality professional development of staff and Board members facilitates the effective transition to sustainability planning and practices for schools and school districts. Enhancing the knowledge of school personnel about the benefits and requirements of sustainability practices in a school setting increases the likelihood of a successful integration of sustainability into the school district's operations and promotes shared ownership of the outcomes.

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PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education will provide a minimum of two hours of time for professional development on sustainability topics to at least five members of the school district staff and/or members of the School District Sustainability Committee to include, but not be limited to, school Board members, district administrative staff members, teaching staff members, and support staff members.

The professional development for sustainability will provide a general understanding of the benefits of sustainable schools as well as specific information and guidance on undertaking some aspect of sustainability practices from planning to operations. The School District Sustainability Committee, Board members, district administrators, and other school staff members will work together to identify Board members and staff members that would benefit from training on sustainability topics. Training needs will be determined based on plans to maintain, implement, or expand sustainable practices in the school district.

Once the training needs have been identified, various professional development offerings will be reviewed and evaluated to determine the learning concepts that will be included, the educational methods that will be incorporated, and the professional skills that will be imparted. Professional development that incorporates sustainability concepts across subject areas in the teaching curriculum will be a key consideration, as educating for sustainability lays the foundation for sustainable thinking and practice among students, staff, and the broader community.

The school district may choose to train multiple staff members on a particular sustainability topic, either by hosting the training internally or by sending a group to an external training event such as a professional association meeting. Outside experts or internal staff with expertise in sustainability may also be utilized to provide the training. The training hours may also be completed through webinars, online courses, or workshops. Individual staff members or Board members may be trained in different sustainability topics as relevant to their official role in the school district.

Green Purchasing Policy

Green purchasing, also known as Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP), is the coordinated purchasing of goods and services to minimize impacts on human health and the natural environment. Alternatives exist for many products used by schools that are less hazardous, save energy and water, and reduce waste.

A simple first step will be for the school district to purchase as many products as possible made from recycled content that are themselves recyclable. Green purchasing moves beyond recycled materials and also takes into consideration the raw materials, including energy and water, used to manufacture products; the production process itself; the packaging and distribution method; and the distance of transport and proximity of production.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or designee will provide an outline of the standards and procedures for selecting products based on environmental criteria. The specific standards and guidelines for selecting products will be based on established environmental criteria, as well as promote the adoption of this Policy to district staff members.

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The district will attempt to purchase, in accordance with the provisions of applicable purchasing laws: green cleaning supplies; green cleaning equipment; recycled paper; energy efficient appliances; and/or equipment purchases and green cleaning training.

Classroom Chemical Purchase, Storage, and Disposal Policy

The Board of Education requires outdated chemicals used in the school district as part of the school district's Chemical Hygiene Plan are routinely removed from school grounds and future purchases will attempt to curtail or eliminate storage of unneeded chemicals. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will coordinate a lab clean-out and clean-out of outdated and unneeded chemicals every eighteen months.

Classroom chemical purchase, storage, and disposal will be in accordance with Board of Education Policy 7420 – Hygienic Management and Regulation 7420.2 – Chemical Hygiene that is in accordance with Federal and State law.

Adopted: 11 December 2017