

Proposed Board Action

MOTION: That the Board of Education approve and adopt Resolution 1488-10/24 implementing the establishment of an Environmental Infrastructure Safety Committee.

RESOLUTION NO. 1488-10/24

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE OAK GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ESTABLISHING AN ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education (the “Board”) of the Oak Grove School District (the “District”) recognizes the importance of reliably safe, nurturing, and healthy physical environments for students, teachers, and staff; and

WHEREAS, facility quality including noise, air quality, lighting, proper temperature and control of temperature, and classroom size and space are important predictors of teacher retention and student learning according to the [Penn State](#) Center for Evaluation and Education Policy Analysis; and

WHEREAS, a review of the literature of indoor pollutants and thermal conditions in schools influencing student performance revealed that evidence links poor indoor environmental quality with adverse health effects (Mendell et al., 2005); and,

WHEREAS, studies have shown how poor building conditions such as physical defects, lack of proper ventilation, faulty heating and air conditioning systems and structural concerns contribute to poor air quality in schools, which in turn have been linked to a 10-20% increase in days away from school (Majd et al., 2019) and (Shendell et al., 2004); and,

WHEREAS, further analysis of studies show that reduced classroom air quality will cause a reduction in cognitive performance of pupils and a healthy learning environment can reduce the absence rate, improve test scores, and enhance pupil/teacher learning/teaching productivity (Sadrizadeh et al., 2022); and,

WHEREAS, research shows that children are especially vulnerable to the health effects of air pollution and young people in low-income communities and communities of color are disproportionately impacted; and,

WHEREAS, there is scientific consensus that Earth’s climate is changing and global warming is leading to extreme weather changes and conditions that can impact district buildings and equipment and, thus, affect the teaching and learning environment; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Oak Grove School District has a fiscal responsibility to update and manage facilities in a manner that can reduce long-term costs as well as address the challenging climate changes in addition to typical, expected maintenance; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Oak Grove School District has a responsibility to uphold its Board Policy 7000 in which “the board shall endeavor to make the provision of adequate school facilities a priority in the District and that one of its major responsibilities is to provide healthful, safe, and adequate facilities that enhance the instructional program”;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oak Grove School District establishes a standing Environmental Infrastructure Safety Committee no later than May 2025 which will serve as followed:

- Identify a third party vendor separate from any contracted affiliates within Oak Grove School District, union or otherwise, to perform site health inspections at a minimum of every three years but as often the committee and governing board directs and agrees upon.
- Review the Facilities Inspections Tool (FIT) results annually every Fall and recommend for board review and approval additional categories to examine
- Appoint a community Liaison who will work with our stakeholders (Teachers, AFSCME, etc) to identify infrastructural needs and priority through a transparent process and through the lens of our on-the-ground stakeholders
- Review current sustainability practices and propose policy recommendations
- Advocate and evaluate infrastructure proposals and updates with the following priorities and best practices:
 - Aspire toward clean energy initiatives with partners that uphold Oak Grove School District values
 - Prioritize infrastructural choices that center climate resiliency to prepare for the expected increase in temperature and natural disasters
 - Consult with experts in various fields including planners, educators, and facility designers to assist in the decision making process
 - Prioritize psychologically appropriate and beneficial infrastructure
 - Appropriately prioritize both the findings of the site health inspection, and the feedback of our site stakeholders to create a roadmap planning with the future and current infrastructure and environmental needs within the district.
- Present findings to the board for regular recommendation and approval


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent oversee the task force and update the board quarterly with information and findings of the task force as well as the long-term plan to meet the needs of our community's physical learning and teaching environments that upholds Oak Grove School District's values of equity and justice with the understanding of climate change and best infrastructure practices for learning for board review and approval.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of the Oak Grove School District at a regular meeting held on October 17, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: N. Yue, D. Marting, J. Pacheco Jr, C. Hernandez, D. Gonzalez
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

I, BEIZA GONZALEZ, President/Clerk of the Board of Trustees, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Oak Grove School District at the regular meeting on October 17, 2024 which resolution is on file in the office of said Board.

DATED: 10/17/2024

SIGNED: 
President/Clerk, Board of Trustees
Oak Grove School District