

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 25, 2010

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee K. Shipka, Chair, Planning and Policy Committee
Trustee S. Huff, Planning and Policy Committee
Trustee C. Ripley, Planning and Policy Committee

SUBJECT: Policy Review – FO.BP - Environment

ORIGINATOR: R. MacNeil, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE
STAFF: Will Deys, John Nicoll, Larry Schwenneker

RECOMMENDATION

That revised and renamed board policy FO.BP - Environment (Appendix I) be considered for the third time and approved.

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Background

While there is an existing policy for energy conservation (FO.BP Energy Conservation – Appendix II), there is not a specific policy for the environment. The environment policy will help provide guidance and leadership for continual improvement of the District’s environmental stewardship. Upon approval of the environment policy, the energy conservation policy will be removed.

Process

The proposed draft policy was based on a review of environmental policies across Canadian school districts. Policies were compared and critiqued as to the various aspects. From this process, a policy was drafted that would provide the framework for the Board’s role. This policy was continually revised and edited within the Facilities Department and as feedback was received from various groups including the Facilities Principal Advisory Committee and the Energy & Environmental Management Advisory Committee. These groups were made up of district administrators, custodial consultants, as well as central services staff, including directors and managing directors.

The draft policy has been changed following recommendations from the Planning and Policy Committee allowing for the inclusion of a statement that ensures the policy will maintain balance between sustainability and costs, and assures that teaching and learning is maintained as the primary role of the District.

The proposed policy was available for feedback from the public on the District Web Survey for four weeks from March 17 to April 14, 2010. Forty responses were received with twenty-seven being district staff, eleven Principal/DU Administrators, eight parents, three community/Professional Organizations and two community members. Twenty-nine of the respondents (72.5 per cent) felt that there were no aspects of the policy that required clarification. Thirty respondents (76.9 per cent) indicated that no additional elements should be considered in the policy. Finally, thirty-four of the respondents (87.2 per cent) indicated that there were no elements of the policy that they had concerns with. Seventeen respondents made comments. Comments regarding clarification tended to be focused on a variety of issues regarding different phrases used in the policy. The comments received regarding additional elements to be included in the document tended to be focused on the addition of specific elements, or elements that may be addressed in the administrative regulations (i.e. too much photocopying in schools). The third area addressing "... elements of the policy about which you have concerns" drew comments relating to the non-specific or passivity of the policy. These comments will be addressed when drafting district regulations to accompany the policy.

The feedback led to one revision. The word "provide" has been deleted in favour of the word "promote". It will now state that the District shall "promote" continual awareness, rather than provide.

JN:kk

APPENDIX I - Proposed Board Policy FO.BP – Environment
APPENDIX II - Current Board Policy FO.BP – Energy Conservation

Edmonton Public Schools Board Policies and Regulations

CODE: FO.BP
TOPIC: Environment

EFFECTIVE DATE:
ISSUE DATE:
REVIEW DATE:

Edmonton Public Schools recognizes that the consumption of resources in the pursuit of teaching and learning impacts the environment.

The District is committed to environmental stewardship through continual improvement and modeling best practices of sustainability in the following four areas:

- Education: the District shall promote [provide] continual awareness of the environmental impact of District operations,
- Conservation: the District shall conduct its business in an environmentally responsible manner,
- Protection: the District shall encourage attitudes of continual improvement and lifelong care for the environment,
- Regulation: the District's environmental practices shall meet or exceed the existing regulations, standards, and laws, as set out by the various levels of civic, provincial, and federal government.

The application of this policy shall maintain a reasonable balance between sustainability and life cycle costs that ensures the primary role of teaching and learning is upheld.

The success of this policy is the responsibility of all Edmonton Public Schools' students, staff and community stakeholders.

Reference(s):

Edmonton Public Schools Board Policies and Regulations

CODE: FO.BP
TOPIC: Energy Conservation

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11-02-1997
ISSUE DATE: 16-05-1997
REVIEW DATE: 02-2002

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1. Edmonton Public Schools are committed to cost effective energy practices within the district's buildings.
 2. It is recognized that, to achieve maximum benefit from this commitment, all staff and students have a responsibility for effective energy practices.

Reference(s):
