

Board Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESSAC)

Type

Board Advisory Committee – The committee is permanent in nature.

Purpose

To advise the Board of Education (the Board) on Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability and to fulfill the Environmental Stewardship Policy in an evidence-based manner that considers our interconnectedness with the land and within our ecosystem. Matters considered will include, but are not limited to, district facilities, educational programs, public engagement activities, and other matters referred to the Committee by the Board.

The Committee will make recommendations to the Board for approval, monitor the implementation of approved recommendations, and will report progress and feedback to the Board.

Mandate

- Create, review, and regularly revise NLPS's Environmental Stewardship Action Plan (ESAP)
- Develop an annual committee work plan each September for Board consideration and approval
- Review and advise on programs and policies to support the Environmental Stewardship Policy 1.5, Strategic Plan, ESAP, and Operational Plan
- Monitor and evaluate NLPS's progress towards achieving goals identified in Environmental Stewardship Policy 1.5, Strategic Plan, and ESAP
- Support and recommend education initiatives for students and staff to foster ecological literacy, environmental stewardship, and connection to the land. These shall include outdoor learning opportunities and food security initiatives.

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- Review programs and practices to limit the nature and scale of negative environmental impact, to increase sustainable practices and environmental stewardship, and improve climate adaptation.
- Advise on improving energy efficiency, climate resiliency and adaptation, and sustainability of all facilities.
- Liaise with the Long-Range Facilities Plan Committee to offer feedback on matters related to the district's greenhouse gas emissions and reduction strategy, capital projects, annual facilities grant submission, water use, and energy efficiency.
- Seek internal and external resources to support effective implementation and maintenance of environmental stewardship practices and the ESAP.
- Act as a liaison between the Board, community groups, technical experts, students, and the community at large on matters related to environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Authority

The committee provides information and makes recommendations to the Board to aid the Board's fulfillment of its Environmental Stewardship Policy 1.5.

The committee will seek to achieve consensus-based recommendations, and where consensus is not achieved members on the committee shall vote on a primary recommendation.

The committee may strike subgroups to fulfill its mandate, the ESAP or other committee determined initiatives.

Membership

The Committee will be chaired by one of the Trustees appointed to the committee.

The committee is comprised of the following members:

- Trustees (2) one of whom shall be the chair of the ESSAC
- The Chair of the Board of Education shall be an ex officio non-voting member
- Superintendent

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- Two members of District Leadership Team – one from Learning Services and one from Facilities
- A representative from CUPE
- A representative from DPAC
- A representative from NDTA
- A representative from NSAA
- A representative from Leaders for Learning
- Two students
- One Syeyutsus Knowledge Keeper

Term of committee memberships will be for 2 years running semi-annually September to August.

The Committee may also invite district staff, community representatives, and subject matter experts as needed.

Meeting Arrangements

Meetings will be held monthly during the school year and may occur online. Additional meetings may be scheduled, as needed, to ensure the committee fulfills its mandate. The Chair will send meeting agendas to all members electronically at least one week prior to meeting date. Minutes will be recorded each meeting and sent to all committee members before the next meeting.

Reporting

The Committee will report to the Board at least semi-annually and as needed to achieve its mandate.

Review

The terms of reference of the committee will be reviewed annually by committee, and any recommended changes will be brought to the Board for approval.