



MOOSONEE DISTRICT SCHOOL AREA BOARD

BOARD GOVERNANCE POLICY

Motion	2016-05-010
Adopted	May 3, 2016
Last Revised	
Review Date	

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

1. PURPOSE

Moosonee District School Area Board is committed to sustainable development as defined by the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development as “meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

This governance policy highlights the Board’s commitment to supporting staff members and students in sharing responsibility for minimizing their impact on the environment and taking an active role in protecting it.

2. DEFINITIONS

Ecological Footprint: The ecological footprint is a person’s or an organization’s cumulative impact upon natural resources.

Environmental Education: Environmental education is education about the environment, for the environment, and in the environment that promotes an understanding of, rich and active experience in, and an appreciation for the dynamic interactions of:

- the Earth’s physical and biological systems;
- the dependency of social and economic systems on these natural systems;
- the scientific and human dimensions of environmental issues; and
- the positive and negative consequences, both intended and unintended, of the interactions between human-created and natural systems. (from *Shaping Our Schools, Shaping Our Future*, p. 6)

3. POLICY

- 3.1 The Moosonee District School Area Board believes that all members of the school community are responsible for the implementation of practices that result in an environmentally friendly place to work and learn.
- 3.2 The Board recognizes that its activities, through educational programs and routine operations, impact on the environment.
- 3.3 Moosonee District School Area Board supports and promotes, where possible, the implementation of environmental procedures, practices, and programs that are consistent with a healthy, safe, and sustainable environment.

- 3.4 The Board will promote changes in organizational practices that result in reducing the ecological footprint of the Moosonee District School Area Board.
- 3.5 The Board believes that a healthy and sustainable future is the right of every student.
- 3.6 Environmental education is a system responsibility. In striving to prepare students in Moosonee Public School to become responsible members of a democratic, sustainable, and just society, the Board supports curriculum initiatives across grades and subject areas that support this commitment to sustainable environmental initiatives.
- 3.7 The Board is committed to preparing students for the future. Students need to have the knowledge and skills that will enable them to understand and deal with complex issues that affect the environment now and in the future.
- 3.8 The Board will:
- a) strive to ensure that Moosonee Public School students progress towards being environmentally responsible citizens;
 - b) integrate local and global environmental awareness into the curriculum;
 - c) maintain a culture where students and staff members are encouraged to work together to provide input to change practices that will effectively reduce environmental impact;
 - d) encourage the staff and students to reduce the generation of waste material, to reuse products and materials, and to recycle non-hazardous materials;
 - e) store and dispose of hazardous materials in a safe manner and in accordance with legislative requirements; and
 - f) recognize responsible environmental actions and leadership within the organization.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Legal:

Education Act, Section 169.1: Effective Stewardship of Board Resources

Ministry Resources:

Canadian Council of Ministers of Education (2008) *Learn Canada 2020*.

Ontario Ministry of Education (2007) *Shaping Our Schools, Shaping Our Future: Environmental Education in Ontario Schools, Report of the Working Group on Environmental Education*.

Ontario Ministry of Education (2009) *Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow: A Policy Framework for Environmental Education in Ontario Schools*.

Ontario Ministry of Education (2011) *Environmental Education: Scope and Sequence of Expectations. The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1 to 8*.

Board:

Board Policy GOV-01 Board Philosophy, Goals, and Values
Administrative Procedure 220 Outdoor Education Program