

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, The Prince William County School Board desires to protect and enhance the quality of life for all those who live, work, learn, and play in our community, as well as for our children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Prince William County Public Schools (PWCS) has 95 schools and 11 support buildings, with 11,337,234 total square feet, and energy consumption is a significant portion of Division costs or budget; and

WHEREAS, there is scientific consensus regarding the reality of climate change and the recognition that human activity, especially the combustion of fossil fuels that create greenhouse gases, is a key driver of climate change; and

WHEREAS, climate change has been widely recognized by government, business, academic, and other community leaders as a worldwide threat with the potential to harm our economy, safety, public health, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, The Prince William County School Board plans on creating a long-term strategic plan to address sustainability concerns, while also recognizing that new clean energy technologies can provide financial savings and improved efficiencies for our schools and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William County School Board recognizes sustainability as a high priority moving forward in regard to reducing the Division’s overall carbon footprint, protecting the environment, and realizing cost savings with emerging energy technologies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William County School Board directs the Superintendent to:

- Establish standards and provide options for design and construction of net zero buildings, including all new construction and major renovations over 10,000 square feet, as well as any major roof replacements. These options may include solar, wind, geothermal, and other sources of renewable energy where appropriate;
- Present the School Board with solar Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA) plans for all new construction, and retrofitting opportunities for older schools, where appropriate. Establish standards for procurement, installation, and operations of said systems, e.g., solar orientation, roof constructability, and maintenance, etc.;
- Recommend a standard of high-performance building design specifications that meets or exceeds such commercially available standards as LEED, CHIPS, WELL Building; or other best practices;
- Provide an update on the progress of the pilot program for two electric school buses provided through Dominion Energy’s pilot on electrification of buses;
- Provide the cost and address the feasibility of replacing all fossil fuel school buses with electric school buses;
- Establish a Sustainability Advisory Committee, comprised of community members, staff, and students, that will provide the School Board with perspectives of all stakeholders. Committee members will be appointed by School Board, School Administration, and the Office of Energy Management and Sustainability. The committee will make recommendations to the School Board;
- Request that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors, in concert with the School Board, create a countywide task force to address sustainability, clean energy opportunities, and operational resiliency for all government buildings, thereby leveraging the assets of the entire county to reduce the costs of moving toward clean energy options;
- Create measurable standards of environmental literacy, to include a focus on sustainability for all K-12 students in PWCS. Establish project-based learning opportunities with new efforts focused on sustainability and environmental literacy;
- Direct funds designated by the School Board for a sustainability study to prepare information, obtain external consultation with experts, as necessary, to move the Division toward net zero/sustainable school design and enhanced energy conservation;
- Increase site-based participation in recycling and waste reduction; and
- Provide a timeline with deliverables for the above actions within the next 90 days so that the School Board will have a foundation to develop an updated sustainability strategic plan.

Babur B. Lateef, M.D., Chairman At-Large
Prince William County School Board

Dr. Steven L. Walts, Superintendent
Prince William County Public Schools