

BOARD MOTION: June 21, 2021

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to oversee the creation of a Working Committee and consultation process, as outlined in Bylaw 9210, to prepare a draft Compost and Waste policy proposal which is in alignment with our environmental values and goals.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Trustee Whiteaker

RE: Compost and Waste Policy Working Committee

DATE: April 12, 2021

Rationale (Issue):

As we continue to acknowledge the climate emergency and the need to take action and make changes to the current unsustainable norms practised across the District and within our greater family community. As a system and as role models to our youth we must ensure that our practises and learning opportunities for students are in alignment with each other and with our values as a District.

As a District we have repeatedly expressed our commitment and support for addressing the climate emergency and composting is vital in nourishing our soil for future harvests and in reducing harmful methane gases. Additionally, composting provides rich learning opportunities for students while also modelling sustainable practises, building good stewardship and social responsibility traits in our students and communities.

While the District in the past has implemented composting opportunities in our schools the program has experienced several challenges and critiques around cleanliness, fruit flies and other insects, excess bin locations and lack of funding, creating additional work load on teachers as they attempted to minimize the insects and mess in their classrooms.

How we identify and handle our waste in schools must model what we want or expect from society. While composting and minimizing our waste will not solve the climate crisis it is part of the solution and part of the mind shift we must all make as a society for the health of all future students.

Alignment to Strategic Plan:

This motion asks for a policy creation in alignment with Goal one and Goal three. This motion will encourage engagement and collaboration with students, families and staff and support implementation of learning opportunities that will enhance student and community well being.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Education of SD 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to oversee the creation of a working committee and consultation process, as outlined in Bylaw 9210, to prepare a draft Compost and Waste policy proposal to ensure consistent practices and supports across the district which are in alignment with our environmental values and goals.

The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.