

**Seattle School District #1  
Board Resolution**

**Resolution No. 2012/13-12**



**A RESOLUTION** of the Board of Directors of Seattle School District No. 1, King County, Seattle, Washington to optimize public dollars by applying passive design and sound environmental standards in the construction and renovation of buildings and campuses.

**WHEREAS**, students and staff are entitled to a safe and healthy school environment; and studies indicate that student achievement, attendance, teacher and staff retention are improved when the learning environment is naturally lit, free of toxins, comfortable and well maintained; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2005, the Governor signed the High-Performance Public Buildings bill into law requiring that state funded facilities, including K-12 schools, be designed and built to high-performance or “green” building standards with an emphasis on passive design; and

**WHEREAS**, the recent Green Ribbon Commission submitted their recommendations to the city of Seattle suggesting that the city work with the Seattle School District to create the greenest, healthiest, most energy efficient portfolio of schools in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Seattle is in the process of updating its Climate Action Plan to reach the city's goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050; and

**WHEREAS**, schools that employ passive design principles in siting and design inherently minimize operating costs without increasing construction costs. Results include long term savings of 40% or more in energy and water utilities, more comfortable interior environments and preservation of community resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington Sustainable School Protocol (WSSP) has developed comprehensive design criteria based on the latest available information on sustainable school design, construction, and operation; and

**WHEREAS**, schools designed to meet the above criteria incorporate environmental features that provide a context for learning (“Designs that Teach”); and

**WHEREAS**, eliminating finishes and products that require continual maintenance reduces maintenance costs; and

**WHEREAS**, responsible stewardship of public funds requires that new schools be designed to serve the District well into the future with cost-saving, environmentally sustainable systems and flexible configurations that will enable future improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, the BEX oversight committee and SPS staff have the expertise and desire to develop SPS building criteria that will apply the highest possible environmental standards within budgetary restraints that yield maximum operational savings;

## **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Seattle Public Schools Board recognizes the progress already made by the District's staff and design teams in applying sustainable design criteria to the District's school construction program; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Board directs staff to expand this effort by developing SPS sustainable building criteria to ensure that every major capital project meets high environmental standards that reduce operating costs, without exceeding project budgets. The criteria should require application of passive design principles in the siting and interior configuration of new buildings. It should also include best practices such as low-footprint, flexible building systems, low-maintenance and non-toxic materials, water conservation and catchment; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that staff identify a minimum of two elementary schools, one K-8 and one middle school in BEX IV that will strive to meet the Living Building Challenge standard by applying principles that can be implemented within the project budget and construction schedule; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that one community campus in BEX IV will be designed for maximum operational and programmatic efficiency of shared core facilities, within budget and schedule constraints. Core facilities include but are not limited to libraries, gyms, science labs, music rooms, performance spaces, food service and administrative offices; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that project teams initiate all major capital projects with a charrette to develop a range of sustainable building strategies in concert with the SPS building criteria. These charrettes will include District representatives for design, maintenance and operations, its design and construction consultants, and end users-- including site administration and community members. Designated site administrators will be integrally involved through out the design and construction timeline; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that educational opportunities around sustainable design, construction and efficient operational practices be emphasized and operating costs be minimized by creating visual teaching points in facilities to support green policies and practices; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that in the course of each project the District emphasize native and draught resistant plants and landscaping, and investigate cost-effective opportunities for day lighting streams, restoring predevelopment habitats and other natural resources that would promote environmental science studies; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the District apply its sustainable building criteria when making improvements and addressing maintenance backlogs in existing buildings; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that in order to align Seattle Public Schools with State, local and regional environmental goals and mandates, the District will pursue outside funding partners and leverage available incentive programs in the greater Puget Sound corporate community when SPS funding is not available.

ADOPTED this 15th day of May, 2013

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Kay Smith-Blum, President

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Betty Patu, Vice-President

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Sherry Carr, Member

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Michael DeBell, Member

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Harium Martin-Morris, Member

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Martha McLaren, Member

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Sharon Peaslee, Member

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
José Banda, Superintendent  
Secretary, Board of Directors  
Seattle School District No. 1  
King County, WA