

Portland Public Schools Climate Crisis Response Committee Charter

Mission

The mission of the Climate Crisis Response Committee (the Committee) is to monitor effective implementation, provide transparency, and to track and report progress or challenges of the Portland Public Schools's (the District) Climate Crisis Response, Climate Justice and Sustainable Practices Policy (the Policy) and the goals in it. The Committee informs and advises the Board of Education (Board), but does not have decision-making authority.

Committee Charge

The duties of the Committee are as follows:

1. To receive regular reports and data from District staff on the current status and planned implementation of the Policy goals and directives, including the impact of the policy implementation on frontline communities;
2. To determine whether such status and implementation are consistent with the identified goals of the Policy; and
3. To share written findings with the Board on at least an annual basis; the Committee may make recommendations to the Board as part of their work.

The Superintendent has responsibility for performance of staff engaged in the implementation of the Policy.

Committee Membership

The Committee is composed of no more than nine members that is made up of a majority of members who identify as people of color and two members who are current PPS students.

From an applicant pool, members are selected and appointed by the Board. Members will initially be appointed to staggered terms of one and two years with all subsequent terms being two years. Each member may serve up to four years total on the Committee. Student members will be appointed to a one-year term.

A Committee chairperson will be appointed annually by the Board and will not hold that position for more than three years. The chairperson will serve as the sole point of contact between the Committee and District staff between meetings.

Appointed Committee members should have significant experience, expertise, understanding and/or knowledge in one or more of the following areas:

1. Climate justice: the disproportionate impacts climate change has on frontline communities and the interrelationship between racial equity, social justice, and climate change;
2. Climate change: major causes, impacts, and proven mitigation and adaptation techniques applicable to a school district;
3. Climate literacy: K-12 education and curriculum related to climate change, climate justice, natural resources, conservation, and sustainability;
4. Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG): proven strategies to reduce emissions throughout District operations, such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, electrification, etc;
5. Environmental Sustainability/Green schoolyards: Understands the interconnecting relationships between environmental, educational, and social-emotional learning and the benefits of greenspaces in gardens, trees, stormwater facilities, and other outdoor learning spaces, and their impact on the urban landscape;
6. Construction: building design, application of renewable energy to architecture, and engineering; and/or
7. Public contracting: procurement, budgets, and schedules.

The Board recognizes that community members bring specialized knowledge and expertise to the Committee. All Committee members shall employ discretion, avoid conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest, and exercise care in performing their duties and making recommendations from which they may personally benefit.

The Committee members shall receive no direct or indirect compensation from the District for their services as members of the Committee.

The Committee members may not have an active or pending contract with the District, including being an employee, director or owner of an entity with an active or pending contract with the District, nor enter into a contract during their term on the Committee.

The Committee may not include any employee or official of the District, or any vendor, contractor or consultant of the District.

Committee Operations

The Committee operates in an advisory capacity to the Board. The Committee is not responsible for program or project outcomes and does not direct staff, including any contracted staff, consultants, contractors or auditors. The charge to the Committee does not include:

1. Approval of contracts;
2. Appropriation of funding or budget;
3. Approval of District plans, implementation, and projects; and
4. Selection of contractors, consultants, and other professional service firms

Committee Meetings

1. After initial organizing meetings, the Committee will convene quarterly.
2. Committee meetings are advisory and not related to formal decision-making by the Board. Committee meetings shall include opportunity for public comment.
3. The District will provide necessary technical and administrative assistance as follows:
 - a. A meeting room, including any necessary audio/visual equipment;
 - b. Provision of reports covering the status of goals and progress of the Policy directives and disaggregated data so that impacts on students and frontline communities can be assessed;
 - c. Preparation of Committee meeting minutes and posting for public viewing and use on the PPS web site; and
 - d. District staff will attend Committee meetings in order to report on the status of the Policy implementation and to respond to questions. District

contractors and/or consultants may attend Committee meetings at the discretion of District staff.