

**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND HOME AND SCHOOL FEDERATION
RESOLUTIONS 2010**

**RESOLUTION 1/10: REQUEST FOR CLEAR PROCEDURES THAT
ENCOURAGE PARENT COMMUNICATION AND
INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOL LIFE**

Submitted by Prince Street Home and School Association

WHEREAS schools in Prince Edward Island have been taking additional measures to secure school properties and protect students and staff – requiring photo identification for staff and installing video surveillance equipment, for example; and

WHEREAS these measures may have the unintended side-effect of creating additional barriers, real or perceived, to parent engagement in the life of the school; and

WHEREAS these measures aside, there are already steps that could be taken to better educate parents on procedures by which they can communicate with schools and participate actively in school activities; and

WHEREAS it's important that parents feel that their participation in the life of the school is always welcomed and encouraged;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the PEIHSF request that School Boards establish consistent, clear procedures for communicating to parents that will be adopted by all schools in the province; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PEIHSF request that the school boards adopt a standard communications template for school hand-books and/or other existing communication materials to provide consistent, clear messages/information for parents, that include but are not limited to the following:

1. That parents are encouraged to participate in the life of the school as active partners in their child's education.
2. Procedures to be followed when visiting the school and their child's classroom (is an appointment required? is signing-in required? and so on).
3. How to contact the principal of the school (telephone number and hours available, email address, etc.).
4. How to contact classroom and resource teachers (telephone number and hours available, email address, etc.).
5. How to request a meeting with the principal, teacher(s) and/or other staff, along with a strong indication that this is an opportunity available to parents at any time.
6. Routes available to parents for resolving issues that cannot be resolved at the local school level with the principal.
7. Types of resources at the school that are available to parents (school library, computer facilities, resource room, etc.) and procedures for access.
8. Opportunities for parents to volunteer their time and resources at the school.

DESTINATION: Education and Early Childhood Development
 School Boards

RESOLUTION 2/10 AIR QUALITY TESTING IN SCHOOLS

Submitted by Glen Stewart Home and School Association

- WHEREAS there is no specific schedule in place to ensure that air quality in Prince Edward Island Schools is monitored on a regular basis; and
- WHEREAS it is not sufficient to test schools on a rotating basis which could result in any school being monitored once every five years, or approximately only 11 schools out of 60 schools tested each year; and
- WHEREAS the air quality of a school may only be tested, and given priority, if complaints are received; and
- WHEREAS overcrowding is a current problem in some Island schools which may affect air quality, and with the introduction of kindergarten into the school system in September 2010, even more space will be utilized by children and some schools are simply not designed for the number of children that utilize them; and
- WHEREAS schools promote the importance of healthy living to students in the form of proper nutrition and exercise education, and it is equally important to ensure that there is good air quality in the school environment at all times where our children learn; and
- WHEREAS during the winter season, air quality should be tested when doors and windows are closed for long periods of time; and
- WHEREAS some schools may not have the resources required to ensure that proper cleaning practices are carried out, and if a school is not being properly cleaned, because of lack of resources, this will affect air quality; and
- WHEREAS Prince Edward Island School Boards currently do not have the resources (dollars and staff) required to carry out air quality testing and implementation of required changes if needed, as often as they should;

BE IT RESOLVED that the PEIHSF request the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to provide the proper resources (dollars and staff) required for regular air quality testing to be carried out two times per school year, once in the Fall of every school year (October/ November) and once during the winter months (January/ February) in every Island school.

DESTINATION: Education and Early Childhood Development
School Boards

RESOLUTION 3/10: STUDENT ACHIEVE SYSTEM (SAS)
Submitted by Stonepark Home and School Association

WHEREAS the Student Achieve System (SAS) is an existing, evidence based, available communication medium which can support the education community and parents; and

WHEREAS parents find this to be a valuable tool in supporting their child's education; and

WHEREAS the PEI Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has recently completed a review of the SAS which recommended additional support and resources for the SAS; and

WHEREAS there is a "Provincial Student Achieve Committee" with representatives from the IT Shared Services, school boards, but no parent representation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEIHSF request the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to fully fund and support the Student Achieve System or similar software program to make available an online communication tool for province-wide parental access that displays test scores, grades, assignments, behavioural issues and attendance on a stable, consistent, user-friendly system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PEIHSF urge the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to work with the PEI Teacher's Federation to ensure adequate training is provided to teachers to ensure consistency of usage across the province, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PEIHSF request that a PEIHSF representative position be added to the "Provincial Student Achieve Committee."

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development,
 School Boards
 PEI Teachers' Federation

**Resolution 4/10 IMPROVED BOARD POLICY FOR
REZONING AND SCHOOL CLOSURES**
Submitted by PEI Home and School Federation

WHEREAS a school board policy or regulation defines process; and

WHEREAS a process in the education system is enhanced if input from all education stakeholders,
including parents is sought; and

WHEREAS rezoning is a tool used by school boards to balance student populations, reconfigure schools or introduce programming changes in order to refine or improve the education system; and

WHEREAS permanent school closure is a tool used by school boards to refine or improve the education system but should only be used as a final option after considering rezoning and/or programming changes; and

WHEREAS parents want to be involved in decisions that impact their children's education;

BE IT RESOLVED that the PEIHSF request the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Eastern School District and Western School Board to work cooperatively to implement a consistent process for school rezoning and permanent school closures that seeks input from parents at the start of the process and recognizes the importance of having parents involved in making the decisions that impact their childrens' education.

DESTINATION: Education and Early Childhood Development
 School Boards

**Late Resolution 5/10 EQUAL ACCESS TO EXTRA - CURRICULAR
EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES**
Submitted by Merritt E. Callaghan

WHEREAS all partners in the school community recognize that valuable educational experiences can occur outside of the classroom, and

WHEREAS all students in the province should have equal access to these experiences regardless of the student's location in the province or the location of the event, and

WHEREAS some students were not allowed to attend a show at the Confederation Center of the Arts with the rationale given that it was not worth travelling all the way to Charlottetown for a one hour event, and

WHEREAS due to geographic and socio-economic factors, all students do not have equal opportunity to be enriched by these experiences;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEIHSF request the Western School Board, and Eastern School District to ensure that all students in PEI have equal access to extra-curricular educational experiences regardless of the location of the students or the event.

DESTINATION: Eastern and Western School Boards
 Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development

**Late Resolution 6/10 EQUAL ACCESS TO SCHOOL ATHLETIC
ASSOCIATION REFEREEING CLINICS
Submitted by Merritt E. Callaghan**

WHEREAS there is a large emphasis on increasing physical activity in children and youth, and

WHEREAS refereeing clinics for various sports are traditionally held in city centers, and

WHEREAS rural schools have to draw referees from urban areas, and

WHEREAS school budgets should cover mileage for referees as well as an allowance or honorarium, and

WHEREAS providing more trained referees will allow for more games which in-turn allows increased student participation, and

WHEREAS games occurring simultaneously will provide more physical activity for more students in their communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that PEIHSF make a recommendation to the PEI School Athletic Association requesting equal access to referee training by holding clinics in each family of schools, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that PEIHSF to make a recommendation to the PEI School Athletic Association to utilize locally officially trained referees in both urban and rural regions.

DESTINATION: PEI School Athletic Association
 Eastern and Western School Boards
 Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development