

**PEI 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 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