

Prince Edward Island Home and School Federation Inc.  
Minutes of the 57th Annual General Meeting  
Saturday, April 17, 2010  
Rodd Charlottetown Hotel

The 57th Annual Meeting of the Prince Edward Island Home and School Federation Inc. (PEIHSF) was held Saturday, April 17, 2010 at the Rodd Charlottetown Hotel in Charlottetown, PEI. Bill Whelan, President, welcomed delegates. The president introduced the head table: Marion Murphy, Parliamentarian, Tom MacLellan, Treasurer, and Anna MacDonald, Secretary. Bill informed delegates of procedure for voting on Round Table discussion topics.

**1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA 2010**

MOTION: To approve the Annual Meeting April 17, 2010 agenda as circulated.

Moved by Sue Pettit. Seconded by Stephen Stretch.

Motion carried.

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES 2009**

MOTION: To adopt the PEIHSF 2009 minutes as circulated.

Moved by Nadine Williams. Seconded by Angie Matheson.

Motion carried.

**3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Highlights include:

- Priority of Home and School is Education Theme: "Grass Roots Education" with involvement of Parents in education.

- Parent Engagement Opportunity Funds:

\* 56 schools applied in first year of funding.

\* Round two of PEOF with 21 new PEOF submissions received to-date

\* Forty webstories are on website providing a resource for members to view all projects

ACTION to Locals: All remaining projects are to be submitted to the office by June 1/10.

- Website features: Resources, Featured Stories, News & Events, Initiatives, Taking Action, About Us.

See full President's Report on Page 9 in Book of Reports.

**4. ADOPTION OF FINANCE REPORT**

Total Revenue: \$97,318

Total Expenditures: \$87,508

Excess Revenue: \$9,810

Statement of Financial Position: \$99,373.00

Full report on pages 22 - of the Book of Reports

MOTION: To adopt the financial report as presented.

Moved by Tom. Seconded by Stephen Stretch.

Motion carried.

## **5. OTHER REPORTS (ACCEPTED AS CIRCULATED)**

See pages 27-38 of the Book of Reports

MOTION: To adopt all other reports in the Book of Reports as circulated.

Moved by Basil Dickson. Seconded by Michele Cottreau.

Motion carried.

## **6. RESOLUTIONS**

Tim Wartman, Region 3 Director chaired the resolutions portion of the meeting. Resolutions are contained in the Book of Reports (pgs. to ). Copies of late/revised resolutions are in the convention kits and will require a 2/3's majority to bring to the floor for discussion.

### **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

MOTION: To approve Resolution 1/10 - Request for Clear Procedures That Encourage Parent Communication and Involvement in School Life.

Moved by Peter Rukavina. Seconded by Shelley Muzika.

**MOTION CARRIED.** Resolution passed.

**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

**MOTION:** To approve Resolution 2/10 Air Quality Testing in Schools.  
Moved by Sue MacLennon. Seconded by Liz Pendergast.

**MOTION CARRIED.** Resolution passed

**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

**MOTION:** To move Resolution 3/10 - Student Achieve System (SAS) to the floor for approval.  
Moved by Marva Sweeney-Nixon. Seconded by Debra Lynn Trainor.

**MOTION CARRIED.** Resolution passed.

**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

**MOTION:** To approve Resolution 4/10 Improved Board Policy for Rezoning and School Closures with one edit to title: “Consistent Board Policy for Rezoning and School Closures”  
Moved by Bill Whelan. Seconded by Peter Rukavina.

**MOTION CARRIED.** Resolution passed.

Late Resolutions require a 2/3rds majority acceptance to put on the floor for discussion.  
A motion was proposed to accept the two late resolutions.

**MOTION:** To accept two late resolutions for discussion.  
Moved by Maureen Gallant. Seconded by Sue Pettit  
**MOTION CARRIED.** Resolution passed.

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

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

**MOTION:** To approve Resolution 5/10: Equal Access to Extra - Curricular Educational Experiences.  
Moved by Maureen Gallant. Seconded by Janet Blackley.

**MOTION CARRIED.** Two (2) contrary votes. Resolution passed.

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

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

**MOTION:** To approve Resolution 6/10: EQUAL ACCESS TO SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION REFEREEING CLINICS  
Moved by Maureen Gallant. Seconded by Janet Blakley.

**MOTION CARRIED.** One (1) contrary vote. Resolution passed.

- Nutrition Break/View Displays -

## 7. NOMINATIONS REPORT/ELECTIONS

Angie Matheson, Committee Chair presented the 2010 Nominations Report:

President	Owen Parkhouse
Vice President	Angie Matheson
Region 1 Director	Lainey Williams
Region 2 Director	Andrea Pickett
Region 3 Director	Lisa Geldert
Region 4 Director	LaVerne MacKinnon

No further nominations from the floor.

MOTION: To approve the slate of officers for 2010-2011 as presented.

Moved by Angie Matheson. Seconded by Tim Wartman.

Bill called the vote

MOTION CARRIED.

Marian Murphy did the Swearing-in ceremony.

8. NEW BUSINESS - No new business.

9. Adjournment of Business Meeting.

## 10. GRASSROOTS ROUND TABLE

Topics chosen by delegates to discuss during the one-hour Round Table discussion include:

- One English Language: Anna
- Rezoning/School Closures: Angie/Bill
- Intensive French: Owen/
- Health & Nutrition: Tom
- Communications: Sue
- Kindergarten: Sue

A summary of discussions will be circulated to all Home and School Associations.

## 11. LUNCHEON

- Greetings brought by: PEI Teachers' Federation, PEI School Trustees Association.
- Speaker: Hon. Doug Currie, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development gave a state of the department of education address to delegates.
- Volunteer Award (Posthumous) presented for the first time to family of Laura Lee Walsh.
- Lifetime Membership Recognition presented to Wendy MacDonald, Past President.
- Welcome to Owen Parkhouse, newly elected president for 2010-2012.
- Thank you and farewell to Bill Whelan, President 2008-2010.