

**PEI HOME AND SCHOOL FEDERATION
RESOLUTIONS 2009
APRIL 18, 2009**

Resolution 1/09 SCHOOL FEES

WHEREAS elementary and secondary education in Prince Edward Island is publicly funded; and

WHEREAS recent years have seen increases in the type and number of fees charged for participation in school activities, including some areas of the core curriculum; and

WHEREAS it is recognized that there are differences in school geographic areas and student characteristics and in some instances additional fees can provide opportunities of an enhanced education;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEIHSF make a recommendation School Boards to conduct a review of school fees, in consultation with parents and care givers to develop policies specifying and regulating the type and level of fees that may be charged to students and families.

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Early Child Development
School Boards

Resolution 2/09 SCHOOL BUS SAFETY: STUDENT NUMBERS

WHEREAS the Eastern and Western School Boards transport approximately 16,500 students over a large geographical area to school each day by school bus; and

WHEREAS the number of students transported daily will vary, and there is no regular reporting system to track these numbers; and

WHEREAS the size of students at different grade levels will vary, taking up more or less space; and

WHEREAS parents are concerned that transport on school buses be as safe as possible;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEIHSF request that the Minister of Education establish the maximum number of children at various grade levels and sizes allowed to travel safely on a school bus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PEIHSF request that the Western School Board and Eastern School District describe a seating configuration that is acceptable/unacceptable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PEIHSF request that the Western School Board and Eastern School District develop a regular reporting system regarding the daily census on each bus.

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Early Child Development
 School Boards

Resolution 4/09 SCHOOL CLOSURES

WHEREAS in the face of declining enrolment in Prince Edward Island schools, the Department of Education released the provincial study of enrolments and facilities, *Schools for Tomorrow: Building and Sustaining High Quality Education Programs*; and

WHEREAS the Department of Education, pursuant to the above study, directed the School Boards of Prince Edward Island to submit a School Organization Plan for the immediate and future direction of the Boards; and

WHEREAS both the Eastern School District and the Western School Board have released their respective Organization Plans; and

WHEREAS provincially, the School Boards are in the process of developing a comprehensive re-zoning plan for Island schools to maximize the benefits of enhanced programming and resources for Island children in the face of declining enrolment; and

WHEREAS by September, 2010, all kindergartens shall be incorporated into Island schools; and

WHEREAS the Organization Plan for the Eastern School District recommends the closure of eleven schools within the district by September, 2009; and

WHEREAS a final decision on the recommended closures will not be made until the end of May, 2009; and

WHEREAS three months is insufficient time to make appropriate arrangements for bussing, staffing, resource transfers, and school supplies required for the transition necessitated by the pending closures; and

WHEREAS in light of re-zoning implementation and kindergarten transition within the next two years, the possibility exists that children, moved to a new school as a result of the proposed school closures, will be forced to move to a third school in as many years;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federation urge the Department of Education and the Prince Edward Island School Boards to delay the proposed school closures until the full impact of re-zoning and the introduction of kindergartens into the school system can be carefully and critically analysed, keeping the best interests of the students as the primary consideration.

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Early Child Development
 School Boards

Resolution 5/09 HAND WASHING
Submitted by the PEI Home and School Federation

WHEREAS hands spread an estimated 80 percent of common infectious diseases like the common cold and flu (Public Health Agency of Canada), and

WHEREAS frequent hand washing is an effective way to prevent infectious diseases of all kinds, and

WHEREAS Island students should be educated in the proper method of hand washing in order to reduce the transmission of infectious diseases, and

WHEREAS the Eastern School District's School Nutrition Policy section 2 states that "Students should wash their hands before eating", and

WHEREAS the Western School Board's Policy #26 - Communities for Learning - School Climate, Discipline and Safety: Nutrition Policy states that "Students should wash their hands properly before eating;"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEIHSF request that the school boards ensure that the existing hand washing policies are followed such that all students are provided with sufficient time to wash their hands properly prior to the lunch period.

DESTINATION: Department of Health
 Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
 School Boards

Resolution 6/09 BAN ON FLAVOURED TOBACCO PRODUCTS

WHEREAS the health of all Islanders, particularly youth and young adults, is at significant risk from the harms of tobacco use; and

WHEREAS the PEIHSF supports a provincial ban of flavoured tobacco products known to be addictive, harmful to health, targeting a youth market, and increasing in use by our youth; and

WHEREAS the flavoured tobacco products sold as singles are inexpensive to buy and display less health warnings than other cigarette products, and hence are very appealing and easily accessible to youth; and

WHEREAS we need to inform and educate students, teachers, and parents/guardians by supporting health curriculum development and school-based programs that better prepare our children to make healthy choices and decisions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEIHSF request the Minister of Health and the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to:

- pledge their commitment to the banning of the sale of flavoured tobacco products; and
- call for the amendments to the smoke-free places act to return PEI to a leadership role in protecting our children and youth through tobacco control and health education."

DESTINATION: Department of Health
 Department of Education and Early Child Development
 School Boards

**Resolution 8/09 ESTABLISHING ONE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
SCHOOL BOARD**

WHEREAS the Provincial Government's new vision for PEI is One Island Community, One Island Future; and

WHEREAS the current school boards have separate strategic plans, and generate their own policies and regulations; and

WHEREAS the suite of policies in the Eastern School District differ from those in the Western School Board; and

WHEREAS the operation of two school boards results in a costly duplication of administrative services.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEI Home and School Federation recommend that the provincial government and local home and school associations study the viability of consolidating the Eastern School District and Western School Board into one English language school board that would operate under a unified set of policies and regulations to ensure consistent and equitable delivery of education programming and services across the province.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any budget savings associated with the merger of the two school boards be reinvested in education.

DESTINATION: Premier
 Department of Education and Early Child Development
 School Boards

Resolution 9/09 EXAM EXEMPTIONS PILOT PROJECT

WHEREAS a pilot project is currently nearing its end at Colonel Gray Senior High School to provide up to two exam exemptions per semester to students, and

WHEREAS students must be enrolled in four courses each semester and must write at least one math exam or one English exam each year; and

WHEREAS students are required to have a minimum grade of at least 60% in a course to be exempted from a final exam in that course; and

WHEREAS students are also required to submit all project work and assignments and to meet the expectations of their teacher and the requirements of the school Code of Conduct and of board policy regarding behaviour in order to qualify for exemption; and

WHEREAS students are also required to miss no more than six classes in a subject if their mark is 60 - 80%, and no more than twelve classes in a subject if their mark exceeds 80%; and

WHEREAS results to date indicate improved attendance and participation in work among students, and suggest some improvement in motivation and achievement; and

WHEREAS however it is of concern to parents that the minimum eligibility level of 60% sends a message to students that this is an acceptable level of achievement, despite being too low to successfully transition to most outcomes following graduation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEIHSF be provided with full information on the effects and benefits of the exam exemption policy and given an opportunity for input, before any decision is taken to extend the pilot to future years and/or other schools.

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Early Child Development
School Boards