Prince Edward Island Home and School Federation
Facilitated Round Table, April 8, 2017

How can we…make our education system more equitable?

<u>Solutions</u>	<u>Barriers</u>
• Re-zoning	• Physical distance
• Money $	• Money $ / Cost / Funding
• Adapting existing programs to meet current needs	• Size/cost of bureaucracy
• Look at other provinces/countries, etc.	• Poverty
• Open communications up	• Political will
• Steps to take immediately before base line set / Action	• Policy
• Partnerships/community/Public Engagement	• Fear of change
• Access to information and what to do with that information	• All smarter than one
• Resource document/publication encompassing all information and policies	• Agreement/consensus
• Empower teachers to be independent	• Competition for resources
• Equitable resources	• "Silos"
• Published lists and map of resources distribution for parents and teachers	• Stereotypes (regionality)
• Access to similar course offerings provincially	• Misconceptions / Disengagement
• Student advocate/navigator	• Emotions
• Equitable human resources (have same training)	• Geography / Transportation
• Recognize and value the uniqueness of individuals' learning and interests	• Lack of trust
• Change teaching methods to teach each kid	• Lack of transparency
• Authority to make decisions on a student to be made at their own school unless requested by school	• Assumption that no need to communicate as all know already
• Not all children learn the same ways	• Standardized testing
• Not all schools need to be the same	• Lack of EA is barrier to empower teachers
• Guaranteed living wage	• Fear of job security
• Curriculum flexibility	• Resources
• Identify equity goals/processes	• Tradition and culture
• Transparency	• Community not welcome in schools
• Shared vision	• Literacy/English level of societal shift of families
• Collaboration/coop	• Teachers arrange time
• Is it an education solution	• Parents/school/teachers willingness
	• Current government
	• Lack of confidence and education
	• Time
	• Access
	• Size of school
	• Assessment

Creative Ways to Overcome Barriers…

- Wifi/chrome books
- School staffing
- Way school does curriculum delivery
- Community partnerships
- Improve ratios of students to teachers
- Increase supports for kids (there is automatic support for teachers)
- Less pressure on educators
- Let teachers Teach!
- Less micro style teaching and more creativity in teaching
- Integrity
- Less/Fewer managers (Dept. Ed, etc.)
- Remove ego—public engagement for policy development
- Enforce consensus-based decision
- Need-based assessment/funding/school composition
- No money restriction within government departments
- Utilize other government departments (coordination)
- Inter-school cooperation
- Integrated transportation
- Family of schools and provincial newsletters/social media/communication
- More independent information
    - information to parents, teachers, community
    - don't depend on bureaucracy to distribute information
- Envelope system
    - school can decide budget allocation based on own needs
    - remove standardized testing and let teachers deliver curriculum as per their needs
- Think differently about our resources
- Flexible learning opportunities
- Volunteer and community involvement; i.e. planting, cooking
- Work with people, public and private, whose mandate supports yours
- Shared vision between administration, parents, Home and School, Department, and Public Schools Branch
- Affective collaboration and cooperation—add other departments; e.g., Dept. Health, Justice, etc.
- Take a risk for change
- Input from older students
- Engagement at a very young age
- Department in government made up of students—Grades 6 – 12
- Decrease elected official pensions
- New body formed – Federal Minister of Education