

P.E.I. Home and School Federation
Proposed Resolutions 2019
to be presented to the 66th Annual General Meeting

RESOLUTION 1-2019 School renovation and construction Recommended Guidelines
Submitted by Three Oaks Senior High Home and School/Parent Council

- WHEREAS the recent Three Oaks Senior High School renovation project (2016-2019) has been a challenge for many involved and many lessons have been learned, and
- WHEREAS a number of students reported adverse effects parents feel were directly related to construction, and
- WHEREAS there was an acknowledged removal of asbestos without use of hazardous material protocols in the very early days of the project while students, staff and custodians were present, and
- WHEREAS the school year was shortened for two consecutive school years (one week in 2016/2017 and two weeks in 2017/2018) and the marks of students may be effected by reduction in the number of classes attended during the school year, and
- WHEREAS a reduction in marks may mean the difference of being admitted to a post secondary institution of choice or even passing a subject and/or a school year, and
- WHEREAS classes were at times affected by construction noise, occasionally to the point students could not hear teachers, and
- WHEREAS some students are particularly effected by construction noise e.g. ADD/ADHD, and
- WHEREAS perception of a valuable school renovation project and morale of the construction staff and school staff was negatively affected, and
- WHEREAS parents were not initially aware of the full effects of the construction project, and
- WHEREAS some parents and students were reluctant to step forward to mention issues, and
- WHEREAS quality of education for all students must be kept in highest consideration during construction ~~or~~ and/or renovation projects;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEI Home and School Federation request the Public Schools Branch, Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture and other government departments responsible for school renovations and construction to implement the following guidelines:

1. Any school renovation or construction to be preceded by a public consultation meeting involving all stakeholders with minimum of one month of well advertised notice to the school community. Advertising should include notice to parents via SAS school mail.

2. Public consultation meetings to disclose to the fullest extent possible the scope and duration of the project taking into consideration:
 - a. any effects the project will have on school availability
 - b. proper notice of the presence of hazardous materials taking into consideration the renovation
 - c. whether or not the renovation or construction will change the number of instructional days the school will be available to students
 - d. when the renovation or construction will make the school unavailable for extracurricular activities normally held at the school, and
3. Establish a method to allow staff, students and parents to freely raise any issues related to the renovation or construction
4. Removal of hazardous materials from affected areas of the school to be completed before students and staff are present and before other construction begins in order to avoid disturbance of those materials, even in non-construction areas, during the construction process e.g. dust falling from ceiling tiles
5. Should construction be sufficient to require hoarding and be done while students are present that regular particulate air quality testing be done during the project. Test results are to be published for students and parents.
6. Regular construction updates should be made available
7. Acceptable levels of noise should be agreed upon so as not to interrupt classrooms and those levels should be enforced.

RESOLUTION 2-2019: Request for the establishment of a working group to research a homework policy for P.E.I.'s school system

Submitted by West Royalty Home and School Association

WHEREAS there is no homework policy in effect to guide teachers, parents and students in PEI school systems, and

WHEREAS the lack of a homework policy creates confusion amongst students when discrepancies of homework assignments occur from grade to grade or between teachers within the same grade level and school, and

WHEREAS there is strong evidence linking homework to successful student outcomes (Harris Cooper);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEI Home and School Federation requests the Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture and the Public Schools Branch establish a working group of stakeholders to research and create a framework for a Homework Policy for the PEI School System.

DESTINATION: Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture, Public Schools Branch

References:

1. Does Homework Improve Academic Achievement? A Synthesis of Research, 1987-2003 Author(s): Harris Cooper, Jorgianne Civey Robinson and Erika A. Patall Source: Review of Educational Research, Vol. 76, No. 1 (Spring, 2006), pp. 1-62 Published by: American Educational Research Association Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3700582> Accessed: 16-05-2018 15:19 UTC
The meta-analysis done on homework in this research is considered the most informed body of work on homework. It is the most referenced body of work on homework.
2. A sample policy based on the review of current policies in use from other Jurisdictions including:
Ontario:
Peel District School Board:
<http://www.peelschools.org/trustees/boardpolicies/Documents/Policy%2070.pdf>
<http://schools.peelschools.org/1464/aboutus/schoolhandbook/homeworkpolicy/Pages/default.aspx>
Toronto District School Board: <http://ppf.tdsb.on.ca/uploads/files/live/97/199.pdf>
York Region District School Board: www.yrdsb.ca/boarddocs/Documents/PP-homework-320.pdf
Thames Valley District School Board: <https://www.tvdsb.ca/en/our-board/resources/Documents/Seeking-Public-Input/Homework-Guidelines-Independent-Procedure.pdf>
Nova Scotia: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/homeworkpolicy.pdf>
Alberta: <https://www.youtube.com/β>
Connecticut: <https://www.bridgeportedu.net/domain/883>
Texas:
<https://www.prosperisd.net/cms/lib5/TX01918217/Centricity/Domain/813/Homework%20Policy%202018.pdf>
3. Sample Guidelines for K-6 drawn up from current homework assigned by teachers based on personal experience and what other boards recommend.
The Guidelines and sample Review are meant as a discussion point for what a possible framework could look like not what it should look like.