

Prince Edward Island Home and School Federation Inc.

Board Meeting Thursday, September 15, 2016

Room 212 Royalty Centre, Charlottetown PEI

1. Call to Order

President Lisa MacDougall called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

In attendance: Lisa MacDougall (President), Peter Rukavina (Past President), Cory Thomas (Vice President), Shelley Muzika (Treasurer), Heather Mullen (Secretary), Shirley S. Jay (Executive Director), Tami Lewis (Charlottetown Rural), Sandy Nicholson (Colonel Gray), Trevor Moase (Kensington), Donna MacLeod (Kinkora), Leah Munro (Montague), Virginia Doyle, (Three Oaks), Kelly Herget (Westisle - Skype)

Regrets: Windsor Wight (Bluefield), Tara Hill Burke (Souris)

2. Approval of Agenda September 15, 2016

MOTION: That the agenda be approved as circulated.

Moved by Cory Thomas. Seconded by Sandy Nicholson. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. Approval of Minutes of September 15, 2016 Meeting

MOTION: That the minutes of the September 15, 2016, meeting be approved as presented.

Moved by Tami Lewis. Seconded by Cory Thomas. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. Business Arising

Action Items from May 19, 2016, meeting were completed.

5. Reports

5.1 President's Report

Lisa MacDougall reported on the August special meeting with board members to discuss the role of District Advisory Councils with five recommendations forwarded to Susan Willis, Deputy Minister of Education as follows:

Recommendation 1: That the members of each District Advisory Council be involved in the decision making process about how the meetings are structured, including decisions about meeting facilitation, recording methods, and publication.

Recommendation 2: That the members of each District Advisory Council have input into the creation of the agenda for each meeting.

Recommendation 3: That the members of each District Advisory Council be given the option of requesting that the meetings be chaired or co-chaired by the PEIHSF Regional Representative on that District Advisory Council.

Recommendation 4: That any key messages and minutes must be agreed upon by members of each of the District Advisory Councils prior to their publication.

Recommendation 5: That the representative to the District Advisory Council from each school be chosen by that school's Home & School Association or Parent Council, and that the eligibility for the

representative continues to be the broad pool of parents, guardians, teachers, administrators and staff that make up each home and school association.

5.2 Executive Director's Report – Report circulated.

5.3 School Food Report – Report circulated.

5.4 District Advisory Councils

There was no direct feedback following Lisa's letter to the Deputy Minister with regard to the role of the DAC's. They requested more time to respond. If Federation Board reps can't attend a DAC meeting, ask another Board rep to take their place.

Nathan Jay, Morell DAC representative report: A teacher rep was not permitted to be DAC rep; Nathan spoke with Pat Campbell noting DACs are losing the teacher component of discussion. Teachers bring another perspective to the discussion.

5.5. Learning Partnership Meeting Report, Peter Rukavina

A six hour meeting was held on June 30, 2016

- There was 100 percent participation
- Dave Cormier, UPEI, facilitated small groups—to identify “broader social issues”
- Most discussion topics not typical and not focused around students
- Topics: PISA Scores, socio-economic factors, food insecurity, grouping age levels into grades, open-mindedness
- Discussion did not seem to relate PEI education to the global world, however, the October meeting will focus on making a connection between PEI education system and the global world
- Meetings determined by Premier's schedule
- Focus beyond the boundaries of the public school system
- Issues attached to families of schools is best
- Cautious optimism along with some cynicism

5.6 Rezoning/Restructure

- Bob Andrews will conduct restructuring/school review
- Principals telling Home and School they will present three community goals which include:
 - a) student well-being goals
 - b) standard academic goals
 - c) confidence in education

6. Finance Update

6.1 Estimated amounts follow:

Bank balance: \$19,000 + \$25,000 in regular account today

Credit card \$1,000 in secure account + \$1,000 on the TD Visa card

GICS: \$40,000 matures Dec. 2016; \$10,000 matures Jan. 2017; \$25,000 matures May 2017

6.2 Hired Cherie LeMoine, Office Admin/Project Coordinator = Sept. 27, 2016 to June 30, 2017

6.3 Dr. Helen MacDonald Collaboration and Facilitation Scholarship =

Peter explained the program at UPEI with Gerry Hopkirk and the connection to David MacDonald. The scholarship is in the amount of \$1500. The Federation received four applications. Peter recommended funding for four (4) applicants. Shelley recommended funding for two (2) board members and one (1) staff member as professional development. Each participant will contribute 20 hours in volunteer time over the next year to the Federation following the course.

MOTION: To approve \$10,500.00 funding in support of four scholarships, two board members and one staff person to take the Collaboration & Facilitation certificate course with each recipient contributing 20 hours volunteer hours to PEIHSF.

Moved by Heather Mullen. Seconded by Shelley Muzika. **MOTION CARRIED.**

7. New Business

7.1 Semi-Annual Update:

Keynote speaker: - Tony Geraci, Cafeteria Man; school visits and meetings with government officials will be arranged

Breakout Sessions: (1) Susan Roberts, Community Development through Food
(2) Tammy Hubley-Little, Early Childhood, Education and Culture

Meal: Chef Sarah, Scapes, Borden to do a locally sourced meal for Semi-Annual attendees.

Invitation: Wayne Storey (daughter of Dr. Helen MacDonald); Parker Grimmer; Education Minister/Deputy, Premier, Agriculture and Fisheries Minister.

7.2 Cafeteria Man Film – Public Viewing September 19, Culinary Institute; 70 people attended with many offering to help with implementing a school food program in PEI.

7.3 Fall Leadership Training Workshops – September 26th – Morell Consolidated; September 27th – Queen Elizabeth Elementary. Shirley arranging workshops. Heather and Cory will assist with resolution sessions. Lisa to introduce PEIHSF during introductory part of workshops.

7.4 Dr. Helen MacDonald Collaboration and Facilitation Scholarship – See above under finance.

7.5 Partnerships to support community projects = PEIHSF will circulate information to PEIHSF membership for events such as: Women’s Institute *Active Like a Girl*, Oct. 1/16; Heart & Stroke Foundation healthy food initiative.

7.6 CUPE representative, Gordon Gay, asked Peter about membership in the PEIHSF. There is a non-voting, community member status in our By-Laws. The Federation will decide on a fee.

ACTION: Peter will consider and bring a fee to the November board meeting.

8. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 24, 2016, Charlottetown.

ACTIONS LIST:

1. Peter to bring a fee for non-voting member to the next Board meeting in November.

Round Table Discussion:

Question: What do we all mean by “academic achievement” – What is it about Grade 12 education that is important to parents?

- ➡ Little about test scores; well-rounded person; too much homework
- ➡ Destination Imagination—solving problems best; work as a team
- ➡ Read; write; math (meet standards outlined by government)
- ➡ as outlined by education
- ➡ get away from “cookie cutter” model
- ➡ appreciate standards, academic success—whatever the goal is to work towards it and to be successful
- ➡ Read...enjoy learning in the classroom
- ➡ Every child who graduates feels successful! (hands on, adjusted curriculum, coop degrees)
- ➡ Taught 13 years at Holland College; elementary literacy (read and write); foster kids passion; no tests; mold passion!
- ➡ Confidence to go out and do what they (kids) want to do; well-rounded!
- ➡ Be able to work with others.
- ➡ Being successful in school does not always translate to success in life!
- ➡ To be good community role models!
- ➡ Diversity in the way we understand success!



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August 16, 2016

E. Susan Willis
Deputy Minister
Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture
P.O. Box 2000 Charlottetown
PEI C1A 7N8

Dear Ms. Willis,

As you know, the Regional Directors of our PEI Home and School Federation sit as members of each of the Family of Schools District Advisory Councils. Over the last month we have engaged these directors in an exercise to reflect on the progress of the Councils to date, with an eye to making recommendations to your Ministry on the way forward. We present the following recommendations, based on this exercise, and grounded in our 60 year experience in engaging home and school in conversation:

Recommendation 1:

That the members of each District Advisory Council be involved in the decision making process about how the meetings are structured, including decisions about meeting facilitation, recording methods, and publication.

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