

P.E.I. Home and School Federation  
Semi-Annual Meeting  
October 15, 2013  
Small Group Table Discussion Summary: School Trustees

School Trustees (Elected vs. Appointed) summary notes from the small group table discussions held at the Semi-Annual Meeting. There were three different groups of people who discussed this topic for 20 minutes at each sitting.

The P.E.I. Home and School Federation conducted an on-line Parent Engagement survey in 2013 which included a question about School Board Trustees as follows:

**18. Do you believe that School Board Trustees should be appointed or elected?**

The survey results were reported to each small group and indicate:

Parents and guardians were asked about the election, appointment, or combination of methods for populating the English Language School Board. Five hundred and ninety seven (597) people responded to this question. Sixteen percent (16%) chose not to respond to the question. Of those who responded,

- 5% indicated that trustees should be **appointed**,
- 52% chose **elected**, 18% **would be fine with either**,
- 26% indicated that **a combination would be fine**, and
- 18% reported, **either would be fine**.

Facts presented at the beginning of the School Trustees table discussions:

- Last elected board had 34 people who put their names forward for the election,
- When the call went out for appointed, 67 people applied for the appointed board,
- Voter turnout for the last election was in the area of 2% of voting population,
- If an election was to take place, voter turnout needs to be over 20%.

Comments on an Elected Board:

- Implement a marketing campaign to explain the role of a trustee,
- All three table discussions indicated that people are unclear of the trustee role,
- Trustees should have a child in the education system,
- Electronic voting using SAS should be used to increase voter turnout (for an elected board),
- An elected board was presented as the preferred opinion during all three sessions,
- Hold school board elections during Federal elections;
- One comment was made saying that the Federation of Municipalities passed a resolution asking government to ensure that School Board elections do not coincide with their elections,
- The PEIHSF needs to help educate the membership on the importance of voter turnout.

Comments on an Appointed Board:

- There is a sense of distrust by the public on why a person was appointed, and were they appointed because of “who” they know,

- It was stated that there is distrust by the group (present) and public in general about any type of appointed board,
- An appointed board gives the sense of a board totally controlled by government.

Comments on a Combined (Appointed/Elected) Board:

- None

Other comments:

- One person in each of the three sessions raised the question about doing away with the school board all together.

**Excerpt from the 2013 Parent Engagement Survey Results Report:**

**School Board Trustees**

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