

Prince Edward Island Home and School Federation Inc.

DRAFT Minutes of the 61th Annual General Meeting – April 12, 2014

Howard Johnson Dutch Inn, Cornwall, PEI

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Pam Montgomery at 8:45 p.m.

Marion Murphy acted as Parliamentarian. Ellen Campbell acted as Recording Secretary. There were 105 voting delegates in attendance. Of the 54 member schools of the Federation, 40 schools were represented.

Marion Murphy led the Home and School Prayer and Creed.

President Pam Montgomery introduced the head table and members of the PEIHSF executive in attendance.

1. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: That the agenda be approved as presented. Moved by Jessica Campbell. Seconded by Shelly Keenan. **MOTION CARRIED.**

2. Approval of Minutes of 2013 Annual General Meeting

MOTION: That the minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting be approved as presented. Moved by Peter Rukavina. Seconded by Lee Gauthier. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. President's Report

Pam Montgomery referenced her President's Report, included in the Book of Reports on p. 9-11, and provided a brief summary of the past year's highlights.

4. Financial Report

Treasurer Shelley Muzika presented a report on the financial position of the PEIHSF, referencing the financial information starting on page 21 of the book of reports.

- Higher grant revenue in 2013 due to funding received from the Telus project;
- Note the revenue in 60th Anniversary which is an additional budget line for fiscal year 2013;
- Wage budget line in expenses is higher in 2013 due to the hiring of a Parent Engagement Coordinator as well as an office assistant;

- PEIHSF will receive an HST rebate for 2013;
- There is Telus project funding left over from 2013 that will be used to further support the project in 2014.

MOTION: That the Financial Report be accepted as presented. Moved by Shelley Muzika. Seconded by Teresa Hennebery. **MOTION CARRIED.**

5. Other Reports

President Pam Montgomery referenced the PEIHSF External Committees and Internal Sub-committee reports starting on page 26 of the book of reports.

MOTION: That the other reports be accepted as tabled. Moved by Ellen Campbell. Seconded by Shelley Muzika. **MOTION CARRIED.**

6. Resolutions

Shelley Muzika, Treasurer, took the chair for the resolutions portion of the meeting.

RESOLUTION #1-2014 PARTICIPATION, RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION FORMS

Submitted by: Westwood Home and School Association

WHEREAS the English Language School Board Regulation “School Trips” (IJOA-R) states “All school trips will require a signed Participation, Release and Indemnification for Low-Risk Activities Form, or a Participation, Release and Indemnification Form.”, and

WHEREAS the above mentioned forms include the following Release and Indemnification Section “RELEASE and INDEMNIFICATION – In consideration of the above-noted school allowing the student to participate in the activity described above, we hereby agree to release, and hold harmless, the School, the School Board, its employees, volunteers, agents, heirs, executors, and administrators from actions, causes of action, claims, suits and demands of whatever nature including negligence, except for gross negligence of the School or the Eastern School District and its employees, volunteers and agents. We understand that this release applies to any injury, loss or damages sustained while participating in or being transported to or from said activity.” and

WHEREAS parents/guardians are not adequately informed by the English Language School Board of the potential legal and monetary implications of signing said form, and

WHEREAS the reading skills of 30% of PEI adults are so limited that they can't deal with most printed material. An additional 35% of PEI adults need printed materials written in plain language*, and

WHEREAS among the adults that do not have difficulty reading, few can decipher legal jargon;

BE IT RESOLVED that the P.E.I. Home and School Federation request the English Language School Board to revise its Participation, Release and Indemnification Forms to be written in Plain Language to allow for all legal and monetary implications to be made apparent to parents/guardians.

Destinations: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
English Language School Board

<p>MOTION: To approve Resolution 1-2014. Moved by Tara Eleso. Seconded by Laura Hagan-Grant. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
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RESOLUTION #2- 2014 E-CIGARETTES
Submitted by: Bluefield and East Wiltshire Parent Councils

WHEREAS 25% of PEI youth report having tried smoking and a further 25% of students report that they lack confidence in remaining smoke-free' (Youth Smoking Survey 2010/11), and

WHEREAS the percentage of young smokers trying tobacco products increases as age and grade increases with 15.5% of youth in grades 6–9 have tried a tobacco product and 40% of youth in grades 10–12 have tried a tobacco product, and

WHEREAS new tobacco products including electronic cigarettes continue to be introduced to the marketplace that attract new users such as children and youth, and

WHEREAS Health Canada and the World Health Organization do not recommend the purchase or use of electronic cigarettes because of the potential health risks and the lack of testing for safety, quality and efficacy, and

WHEREAS scientific evidence to support the use of e-cigarettes to quit smoking is still inconclusive, and

WHEREAS there are concerns that the use of electronic cigarettes provides a negative example, similar to conventional cigarette smoking and that modeling tobacco free lifestyles is important in building healthy habits especially in children and youth;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the P.E.I. Home and School Federation requests the English Language School Board to adopt and communicate the former Eastern School Board Policy ADC-R: Tobacco Product Usage Ban which prohibits products that 'reasonably resemble tobacco or tobacco products' including e-cigarettes, chewing tobacco and snuff; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the P.E.I. Home and School Federation requests the Minister of Health and Wellness to broaden the definition of ‘tobacco-related product’ in the Tobacco Sales and Access Act to include e-cigarettes, chewing tobacco, snuff and any other products containing or reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products.

DESTINATIONS: Minister Health and Wellness
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development
School Boards
Chief Health Officer

References:

1. World Health Organization (2008). News Release: Marketers of Electronic Cigarettes Should Halt Unproven Therapy Claims: www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2008/pr34/en/index.html.
2. Health Canada (2009). Health Canada Advises Canadians Not to Use Electronic Cigarettes. www.healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2009/13373a-eng.php
3. Health Canada (2009). Notice- To All Persons Interested in Importing, Advertising or Selling Electronic Smoking Products in Canada. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodpharma/applic-demande/pol/notice_avis_e-cig-eng.php
4. 2010/2011 YSS: http://hc-sc.gc.ca/hc-ps/tobac-tabac/research-recherche/stat/_survey-sondage_2010-2011/result-eng.php
5. Canadian Cancer Society - <http://www.cancer.ca/en/cancer-information/cancer-101/what-is-a-risk-factor/tobacco/youth-and-tobacco-use/?region=on#ixzz2q1WTvMYc>
6. Canadian Cancer Society - <http://www.cancer.ca/en/get-involved/take-action/what-we-are-doing/tobacco-control/petition-to-protect-youths-from-smoking-qc/?region=qc>

MOTION: To approve Resolution 2-2014. Moved by Lee Gauthier. Seconded by Jerry Coody.
MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION #3 -2014 REMOVE ADMINISTRATORS, COUNSELORS AND NON-CLASSROOM POSITIONS FROM THE STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO

Submitted by the Montague Consolidated Home and School Association

WHEREAS Prince Edward Island families are facing significant and increasing economic hardship, including unemployment, seasonal employment or out-of- province employment, that results in comparatively lower levels of parent engagement, and

WHEREAS rural students and families suffer from a comparative lack of social and economic resources in the communities and the elementary school often serves as the first point of intervention, and

WHEREAS lack of timely assessment and adequate early intervention of learning delays and mental health issues has contributed, through class disruptions and monopolization of time and resources, to the decrease in the quality of education for all students at all levels of their education,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the P.E.I. Home and School Federation request the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to remove administrators, counselors and non-classroom positions from the student-teacher ratio, allowing for a more accurate measure of the teacher-student ratio that exists within the classroom on a daily basis.

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
School Boards

MOTION: To approve Resolution 3-2014. Moved by Shauna Mellish. Seconded by Bobbi Kerwin. **MOTION CARRIED.**

RESOLUTION #4 - 2014 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AS IT RELATES TO ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Submitted by: West Royalty Home and School Association

WHEREAS although P.E.I. provincial assessments are showing increased results in recent years, the 2013 PISA results indicate that the results of P.E.I. students have been on a decreasing trend, and are the lowest in Canada in all three areas tested, and

WHEREAS there has been a recent increase in Professional Development (PD) days for Island teachers, and there is an additional proposed increase in the number of PD days, and

WHEREAS all stakeholders need to work together to ensure that all P.E.I. students are receiving the education they deserve; and

WHEREAS waiting for the early years interventions to work through the system is not good enough; and

WHEREAS parents and concerned citizens of this province expect accountability is required at all levels of the education system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the P.E.I. Home and School Federation request the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to ensure that teachers are receiving relevant professional development that can be effectively, and immediately introduced in the classroom to increase academic achievement.

DESTINATION: Education and Early Childhood Development
School Boards

MOTION: To approve Resolution 4-2014. Moved by Janice Murphy. Seconded by Colleen Henderson. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**RESOLUTION #5-2014 REQUEST FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF TECHNOLOGY
IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN IN ALL SCHOOLS IN
P.E.I.**

Submitted by: Glen Stewart Primary Home and School Association

WHEREAS the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development recently completed its \$8 million dollar investment of installing bandwidth into all P.E.I. schools so that each school has the proper infrastructure to access to the internet, and

WHEREAS it is technologically feasible to segregate the network to allow P.E.I. teachers in schools full access to the internet while teaching their students so they can access online educational resources during class that are currently blocked, and

WHEREAS the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development have contracted IBM to prepare a Technology in Education Strategic Plan, to be completed in April, which is expected to outline how integrating technology in the classroom can help students achieve better academic outcomes, and

WHEREAS the next step in bringing technology into the classroom is to implement the Technology in Education Strategic Plan so that students can take advantage of the technology advancements in education, and

WHEREAS P.E.I. students need to use these innovative educational resources NOW to enable our students to achieve better academic outcomes, as results have shown that P.E.I. students are falling behind their cohorts in Canada and abroad;

BE IT RESOLVED that the P.E.I. Home and School Federation request the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to implement the Technology in Education Strategic Plan now, including the immediate installation of wireless access to all schools, so that P.E.I. students can take advantage of the technological advancements in education to achieve better education outcomes.

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
 School Boards
 IT Shared Services
 Finance, Energy and Municipal Affairs

REFERENCE: PEIHSF Resolutions/Policy: 2012-05, 2012-03 and 2012-02

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: In DESTINATION, add “IT Shared Services” and “Finance, Energy, and Municipal Affairs”.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 5-2014. Moved by Kara Jain. Seconded by Patricia Callaghan. **MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED (with 3 opposed and 5 abstentions).**

RESOLUTION #6 - 2014 ACADEMIC OUTCOMES

Submitted by: Charlottetown Rural Home and School Association

- WHEREAS the primary purpose of the educational system is to provide students with basic education as well as knowledge and intellectual skills to move into the work force or pursue post secondary education, so that students can participate fully in and contribute to the rapidly changing and technology-dominated global society; and
- WHEREAS students leaving our educational system without strong basic competencies may experience difficulty accessing post-secondary education and the labour market; and
- WHEREAS the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) quantifies trends and measures educational outcomes in three key areas (reading, mathematics and science), assessing the extent to which youth at age 15 have acquired the essential knowledge and skills for full participation in modern society; and
- WHEREAS in a global economy, educational success is not measured against provincial or national standards, but against the top performing educational systems in the world; and
- WHEREAS PISA scores for PEI students decreased significantly from 2003 to 2012 – in 2012 PEI students were unique in Canada in scoring below the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) average (and the lowest in Canada) in all three domains - science, reading and math; and
- WHEREAS the recent PISA report confirms that PEI was the **only** province in Canada to score below the OECD average in all three domains: reading, mathematics and science, and
- WHEREAS the 2012 PISA results show the average math score for PEI students was 39 points, or a full year of schooling, below Canadian average and 11 points below the next Canadian province; and
- WHEREAS 25% of PEI students scored below level 2 in math, the OECD benchmark level, meaning they do not have the baseline mathematical proficiency required to participate fully in society; and
- WHEREAS the average mark in the 2011-12 provincial intermediate grade nine math assessment was 66%; and
- WHEREAS parents are losing confidence in the PEI educational system to deliver quality curriculum and learning opportunities and subsequent outcomes for students; and

WHEREAS an under-performing public education system will continue to hinder economic prosperity and innovation, productivity and competitiveness of our province and promotes a culture of mediocrity instead of excellence;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, the Minister of Education acknowledge there is an urgent problem with student achievement in PEI and publicly declare it the number one priority of the Ministry of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant the *Schools Act*, the Minister of Education & Early Childhood Development establish the expected PEI academic outcomes and standards of academic performance for mathematics, science and reading, that are consistent with national and international standards, and take immediate steps to assess the extent to which outcomes are achieved and standards are met; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the P.E.I. Home and School Federation requests the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to commit to including the P.E.I. Home and School Federation as a partner in the development of a specific strategy and plan by April 2015 to have PEI students meet the national average to address the student achievement gap in Prince Edward Island; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the P.E.I. Home and School Federation requests the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to issue an annual report to inform the public and parents and students on the state of the PEI education system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that PEI Home and School establish a subcommittee on student achievement.

DESTINATION: Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
School Board

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: In 3rd BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, remove “an equal” and also remove “strategies and implementation plans”.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: In 3rd BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, add “specific strategy and plan by April 2015 to have PEI student scores meet the national average”.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: In 4th BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, add “regular progress report” and remove “an annual report”.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: Add 5th “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that PEI Home and School establish a subcommittee on student achievement”.

MOTION: To approve resolution 6-2014. Moved by Owen Parkhouse. Seconded by Colleen Henderson. **MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED (with 2 opposed).**

An **Assessment and Evaluation will be set up to** address issues related to this resolution regards assessment and evaluation in our schools: report cards, StudentsAchieve (as it relates to assessment), PISA tests and common assessments, and the new English Language School Board evaluation model.

RESOLUTION #7 - 2014 STUDENT ABSENTEEISM

Submitted by: Charlottetown Rural Home and School Association

WHEREAS student engagement shapes students' ability to master academic subjects, and

WHEREAS engagement and motivation are integral to learning, and

WHEREAS students lose out on these opportunities by skipping classes, being late and/or inattentive and regular absenteeism represents a missed learning opportunity, signifies a lack of interest and has negative consequences for other students by creating a disruptive learning environment, and

WHEREAS poor attendance and negative attitude towards school are associated with lower academic performance as well as low levels of emotional well-being, and

WHEREAS teachers and administrators report (anecdotally) that absenteeism is a significant problem in the English Language School Board, and

WHEREAS the English Language School Board does not report data or track indicators regarding attendance or absentee rates;

BE IT RESOLVED that the English Language School Board compile and report information annually on absenteeism by school, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Home and School Associations commit to working with school administration and teachers to improve student attendance at school.

Destination: English Language School Board
Home and School Associations

<p>MOTION: To approve Resolution 7-2014. Moved by Martha Ellis. Seconded by Teresa Hennebery. MOTION CARRIED (with 4 opposed).</p>
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RESOLUTION #8 - 2014 HEAD LICE

Submitted by: Queen Elizabeth Home and School Association

WHEREAS head lice continues to be a problem in Island Schools with the current English Language School Board (ELSB) Pediculosis (Head Lice) policy permitting students to attend school with nits (eggs), and

WHEREAS Pediculosis infestations have become a significant issue for principals, teachers, parents, and students, and

WHEREAS there was no parent education or supports put in place prior to the ELSB Pediculosis policy change, and

WHEREAS students are continually missing instructional time and experiencing emotional harm due to the current ELSB Pediculosis policy;

BE IT RESOLVED that the P.E.I. Home and School Federation requests the ELSB to review its current policy on management of Pediculosis with a health professional making the final decision on a nit-free head check, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the P.E.I. Home and School Federation requests the ELSB work with public health nurses or other health professionals to provide training and guidance for parents in the management of Pediculosis, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the P.E.I. Home and School Federation collaborates directly with the Minister of Health and Wellness on this issue.

DESTINATION: English Language School Board
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development
Minister of Health and Wellness

BACKGROUND: ELSB Policy Pediculosis (Head Lice) Management Protocol

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: In 1st BE IT RESOLVED, remove “and consider implementing a No Nit Policy”.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 8-2014. Moved by Pam Walsh. Seconded by Courtnay Woods. **MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED (with 10 opposed).**

7. Nominating Committee

Chair of the Nominating Committee Lee Gauthier presented the report of the committee, putting forward the following nominations for vacant positions on the PEIHSF board:

<u>Position:</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Term expires:</u>
President	Peter Rukavina	2016
Past President	Pam Montgomery	2016
Vice President	Joanna Stewart	2016
Regional Director – Kensington	Cory Thomas	2015
Regional Director – Kinkora	Ann Miller	2016
Regional Director – Charlottetown Rural	Jack Wheeler	2016
Regional Director – Colonel Gray	Nicky Hyndman	2016
Regional Director – Montague	Lisa MacDougall	2016
Regional Director – Morell	Heather Mullen	2016

MOTION: That the candidates presented to fill the vacant positions on the PEIHSF be confirmed as presented. Moved by Ellen Campbell. Seconded by Shelley Muzika. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The 2014-2015 PEIHSF Board of Directors and Executive will thus consist of:

EXECUTIVE		TERM EXPIRES
President	Peter Rukavina	2016
Vice-President	Joanna Stewart	2016
Past President	Pam Montgomery	2016
Treasurer	Shelley Muzika	2015
Secretary	Ellen Campbell	2015

REGIONAL DIRECTORS (Family of Schools)

Westisle	Jessica Campbell	2015
Three Oaks	Margie Donovan	2015
Kensington	Cory Thomas	2015
Kinkora	Ann Miller	2016
Bluefield	Ricardo Angel	2015
Charlottetown Rural	Jack Wheeler	2016
Colonel Gray	Nicky Hyndman	2016
Montague	Lisa MacDougall	2016
Morell	Heather Mullen	2016
Souris	Shelly Keenan	2015

The P.E.I. Home and School Federation 2014-2015 board was inducted by Marion Murphy.

8. Review of Policy

Owen Parkhouse presented the proposed “PEIHSF Policy Manual Review 2014” enclosed in the Book of Reports.

1. **To delete the phrase** “as well as our National body” in the: **STATEMENT OF POLICY**
Of prime concern to members of the P.E.I. Home and School Federation is the welfare of the child in the home, the school, and the community.
2. **To delete: VI EDUCATION #4.**
 4. 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. (2009 - 8)
3. **To delete: X FUNDING #11.**
 11. Requests the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development move to restore the capital budget for the information technology for the 2012-2013 year, and to

take steps to further increase this budget in future years so as to adequately outfit Island schools sufficient to meet the infrastructure needs laid out by Minister's IT Advisory Committee on Computer Information Technology. (2012 - 3)

4. **To delete: XIII HEALTH & SAFETY#3.**

3. To request the government to introduce legislation restricting the use of cellular phones while driving a motor vehicle by the year 2005. (2004 - 2)

5. **To delete: SAFE SCHOOLS #6.**

6. Requesting the Canadian Home and School Federation (CHSF) and member affiliates across Canada to join Prince Edward Island in raising awareness of verbal abuse in their respective provinces, in schools and communities during the week of October 1-7, 2001, and that all CHSF Member Affiliates across Canada urge their Departments of Education to get involved in a "Verbal Abuse Prevention Week", October 1-7, 2001, creating a strong support base of recognition and to support the reduction of verbal abuse incidents and violence due to verbal abuse. (2001 - 1)

6. **To delete: The last two bullets under SCHOOL BUS SAFETY #1.**

- Request that the Western School Board and Eastern School District describe a seating configuration that is acceptable/ unacceptable; and
- Request that the Western School Board and Eastern School District develop a regular reporting system regarding the daily census on each bus. (2009 – 2)

7. **To delete: XV PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION, KINDERGARTEN AND SCHOOL ENTRANCE**

The P.E.I. Home and School Federation believes that significant education begins long before Grade One. The Federation also believes that universally accessible, publicly funded kindergarten is the ideal for Island children. We are the only jurisdiction in North America who does not have this.

8. **To delete: XV PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION, KINDERGARTEN AND SCHOOL ENTRANCE #3.**

3. The development and implementation of a kindergarten program outside the student/ teacher ratio. (1987 - 23) (Reaffirmed 1997, 2002)

<p>MOTION: That the PEI Home and School Federation updates its Policy Manual by deleting and archiving out-dated policy statements as per the following recommendations. Moved by Owen Parkhouse. Seconded by Shelley Muzika. MOTION CARRIED.</p>

9. New Business – None

Pam Montgomery declared the regular business portion of the meeting concluded. Shelley Muzika moved for adjournment at 12:30 p.m.