

**Prince Edward Island Home and School Federation
Annual Meeting & Convention
April 13, 2019, Rodd Charlottetown Hotel**

**Education questions for the 2019 Elected Provincial Officers
from Home and School members from across PEI**

The PEIHSF's Annual General Meeting's delegates were invited to consider questions on PEI's education system for candidates running in the 2019 provincial election. The officers have since been elected and these questions can be posed to them.

General

- What is your definition of education?
- OECD recommends school autonomy and accountability. What is your position?
- In smaller schools open them up to community groups such as municipality offices?
- What action will you take on PEIHSF's resolution 2-2019: Establish a working group of stakeholders to research if there is a need for a Homework Policy for the PEI School System.
- How often will you be a visible, active, participant in the education and well-being of our students?

Assessments

What is your vision for provincial assessments?

Autism Coordination Act

How will your government implement the Autism Coordination Act, and what steps will you take to communicate the progress of this effort, and to include autistic people in your deliberations?

What have you done/will you do to implement PEIHSF's resolution 4-2018 = Seek Policy Advice From Students On The Autism Spectrum To Help All Students With Transitions?

Bullying

Bullying is now becoming a factor in the schools. What systems will you put in place to help a student who is being bullied to have the courage to come forward, be heard and handle the bully so he/she does feel heard? How will you address the issue and help resolve bullying in schools?

Curriculum Cultural Diversity

Why do children have to repeat curriculum for several years. For example: Grades 7-9 French Immersion; study Roman and Greek societies all 3 years. Why do they not learn different sections such as Canadian Acadians, Native Americans? There are so many options.

What is your position on diversity and helping to foster a culture of acceptance of all cultures across the island? Will you consider hiring a coordinator to deliver programs re: Indigenous culture?

Educational Assistants (EAs) Supports

What is being done to address the needs of "non-diagnosed" kids who need EA support but do not have access to EA services? They are slipping through the cracks in alarming numbers!

Can we look at student needs for teacher and EA allotment vs. student population? Some schools need more supports; is currently based on population.

How can we better identify student' needs so that more supports like EAs can be brought into the classrooms?

Enrichment Programs

What systems do you have in place for students who excel in certain areas and help him/her thrive as an individual?

French Teacher Shortage

Why do you allow non-speaking French teachers to teach French? You would not permit this in any other location of government.

Funding

Educational funding is a vital part of the school system; making cuts to programming hurts the students. How will you ensure adequate funding stays in place and improves – to ensure our students and teachers are equipped for a better future?

Guidance Counsellors

Presently, elementary schools share one guidance counsellor from September to April 2019. Both Ellerslie and Miscouche do not have a dedicated counsellor. In your opinion, is this acceptable and, if not, what do you believe is the best solution to this issue? And should each school have a dedicated guidance counsellor?

Impact of Student Social Promotion

Although self-esteem is very important, why is it now acceptable to not fail or hold kids accountable for doing work. From K-9 children are pushed through regardless if they meet the requirement. Then when they arrive in high school, if they do not do the required work, they fail. We are setting our children up for failure. Why does PEI's school system use social promotion K-9 and fail students in grades 10-12?

Length of School Day

In Kensington, we start (our school day) at 8:35 a.m. and are out at 2:20 p.m. Why is our school day so short?

Mental Wellness

Mental wellness is a huge concern for PEI. Why are we not investing funds for school councillors and increasing their positions? Shouldn't our government be proactive instead of reactive?

Professional Development (PD)

Provide teachers and staff professional development days to attend out of province OR conference of their choice.

Ratio / Classroom Composition

What do you plan to do to address classroom size and composition issues?

Are you committed to increasing teacher/staff numbers and reduction class sizes? (Concern over large classes and class composition.)

School Bus Safety

How will the parties support the diverse class composition issues in every school, yet they have no support to assist with driving and monitoring/helping with the children. Early learning in education has a limit to the ratio for teachers /educators to children, yet, we permit 60 children on busses with one bus driver who's responsible for the safety of those children. Why do we not help bus drivers?

School Construction, Rezoning, Closure

Will you commit to developing a long term plan for school construction, renovation, closure, rezoning? What is your position on the value of small rural schools and the importance of providing quality education province-wide while keeping basic rural infrastructure intact? Where do you stand on closing small schools? What do you plan to do to keep small schools open? Can you make our schools community hubs?

School Food and Nutrition

Why does a teeny island with a World Class Culinary Institute have to struggle to have a food program implemented?

School Librarians

A Family of Schools should have a full time librarian. Kensington schools do not have a full time librarian. Queen Elizabeth Elementary school has a small ratio. How can we allow kids to graduate grade 12 without ever having a librarian help with research, etc.?