

**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND HOME AND SCHOOL FEDERATION
APPROVED RESOLUTIONS -
ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 14, 2012**

**RESOLUTION 1 /2012 REQUEST THE GOVERNMENT OF PEI TO
INVESTIGATE AND IMPLEMENT SCHOOL
EFFICIENCIES**

WHEREAS the PEIHSF recognizes the need to work cooperatively to develop long term strategies to deal with fiscal challenges while maintaining a focus on the quality of education provided to our children, and

WHEREAS there is a need to identify whether the fiscal challenges are due to insufficient funding or inefficient spending practices;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEIHSF requests that the Province of PEI work in partnership with the other Atlantic Provinces identify areas of efficiencies that may be effective in generating financial savings and operational improvement within the education system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these savings and improvements shall include, but not be limited to: consolidation of various services and/or operations, coordinated purchasing to obtain savings through economies of scale, and a thorough review of the Education Budget in conjunction with an annual performance audit.

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
 School Boards
 Premier of PEI

RESOLUTION 2/2012

**RENAME THE CAPITAL BUDGET LINE ITEM
FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

WHEREAS the line item in the Province of Prince Edward Island's capital budget for capital spending on information technology is labelled "Computer Refresh," and

WHEREAS this label does not accurately reflect the true purpose of this line item, which incorporates all capital spending related to information technology by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEIHSF requests the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development move to re-label this line item in future capital budgets to "Computers and Information Technology".

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
School Boards
Premier of PEI

RESOLUTION 3/2012 RESTORE CAPITAL FUNDING FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

WHEREAS the capital budget for information technology in the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has been reduced, in fiscal year 2012-2013 from \$500,000 to \$0, and,

WHEREAS the Minister's IT Advisory Committee on Computer Information Technology has clearly stated that "A robust, reliable network is essential for enabling students, teachers and administrators to use digital tools and resources that are crucial for providing a 21st century education." and that "Students must have access to information and tools to be able to apply innovation and creativity in solving real world problems.", and,

WHEREAS the Minister's IT Advisory Committee on Computer Information Technology has identified that the state of the computers, network and supporting infrastructure in the provinces schools is in need of significant investment, and,

WHEREAS principals, teachers and staff have provided anecdotal reports that the current state of technology infrastructure in Island schools leaves them lacking the appropriate tools and network resources to pursue curricular goals in a way that best integrates computer technology,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEIHSF 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 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.

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
 School Boards
 Premier of PEI

RESOLUTION 4/2012 SIMPLIFICATION OF THE ‘ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

WHEREAS Minister’s Directive MD 2010-02, *Directive for the Acceptable Use of Computer and Information Technology*, is a complex technical document that is seldom read nor understood by parents or students, and

WHEREAS proposed drafts of a replacement Minister’s Directive being reviewed by the Minister’s IT Advisory Committee on Computer Information Technology serve only to make the document more complex and less likely to be read or understood, and

WHEREAS the place of information technology in the classroom and in daily life has evolved significantly from the era when the “Acceptable Use Policy” was first drafted, and,

WHEREAS it is generally recognized that it is not possible to adequately describe all possible appropriate and inappropriate uses of information technology, nor to adequately describe all possible benefits and dangers of information technology use, and

WHEREAS it is desirable to increase the adoption of information technology and to foster creative uses of technology in meeting curricular goals, not to see information technology as a threat nor a dangerous force to be artificially contained, and

WHEREAS the use of common sense and a spirit of personal and community responsibility in making decisions about the use of information technology is a skill we wish to foster in students,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEIHSF requests the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development replace the current “Minister’s Directive for the Acceptable Use Communication and Information Technology,” with a simple statement, to be signed by students and affirmed by parents: “I agree to use computers, the Internet and related resources in a manner that will not be contrary to school or school district policy. I will respect these resources, and therefore agree not to be involved in any inappropriate activities or visit any websites that are not approved by the school or the school district.”

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
 School Boards
 Premier of PEI

REFERENCES: Minister’s Directive MD 2010-02, online at <http://l.ruk.ca/pei-aup>

**ENHANCE AND AFFIRM THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE
MINISTER'S IT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
COMPUTER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

WHEREAS the Minister's IT Advisory Committee on Computer Information Technology consists of representatives from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, the Department of Finance, the School Boards, the PEI Teachers Federation and English and French parent groups, together representing the key stakeholders in information technology use in schools, and,

WHEREAS the Minister's IT Advisory Committee on Computer Information Technology is supported by the professional advice of officials from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and Department of Finance, and

WHEREAS it is vital to the successful implementation of information technology infrastructure in the education system that decisions are made professionally, in a systematic, equitable fashion that considers the needs of educators, students, and the curriculum, and,

WHEREAS when significant decisions about spending and policy on education technology outside the deliberative process afforded by Minister's IT Advisory Committee on Computer Information Technology (for example the implementation of "Smart Boards" in schools) the resulting non-systematic approach can result in a lack of proper resources, training and ongoing support,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEIHSF requests the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development reaffirm the responsibility of the Minister's IT Advisory Committee on Computer Information Technology to provide the Minister with systematic, deliberative advice, and that the Committee's counsel be factored into future decisions about information technology planning and spending in the province.

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Department of Finance
School Boards
PEI Teachers Federation
Premier of PEI

**RESOLUTION 6/2012 THE IMPORTANCE OF INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES IN THE HOME**

WHEREAS the Minister's IT Advisory Committee on Computer Information Technology has stated "Students must have access to information and tools to be able to apply innovation and creativity in solving real world problems.", and,

WHEREAS there is significant opportunity for learning at home, especially when the home is equipped with a computer and access to the Internet and the information and tools it provides, and,

WHEREAS there is a clear trends toward an expectation by the education system that all homes *are* equipped with a computer and access to the Internet, both for communication to parents, for homework, and for students to gain general facility with technology, and

WHEREAS not all homes can afford the cost of a computer and Internet access, and,

WHEREAS there is no concrete information about the availability of computers and Internet access in the home,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEIHSF requests the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development take steps to:

1. To establish a baseline initial survey and then regularly survey parents on the availability of computers and Internet access in the home,
2. Provide the results of the survey to the Minister's IT Advisory Committee on Computer Information Technology and directly to parents and educators,
3. Request the Minister's IT Advisory Committee on Computer Information Technology develop guidelines, based on the results of the survey, as to what can reasonably be expected of parents and students as regards technology in the home,
4. Take steps to address the "digital divide" between homes with technology, network access and expertise and homes without, ensuring that all Island students have sufficient technology in their homes to allow them to meet curricular goals and expectations,
5. Community Access Sites continue to be funded so to continue to provide access for families without technology in the home.

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
 Department of Finance
 School Boards
 PEI Teachers Federation
 Premier of PEI

RESOLUTION 8/2012

EQUITY IN ALL PEI SCHOOLS

WHEREAS the P.E.I. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development states "The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is the leader in ensuring equitable opportunities for lifelong learning"¹, and

WHEREAS the learning opportunities in all rural and urban schools in Prince Edward Island are not equitable, and

WHEREAS Home and School Associations should not have to fund raise for items that are funded for some schools and not for others such as resource materials, technology equipment and physical education equipment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEIHSF request that the P.E.I. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development ensure all schools are equitable in all areas of school life

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
School Boards

BACKGROUND: 1. Quote was taken from- <http://www.gov.pe.ca/education/dg.inc.php3>

NOTE: RESOLUION 7/2012 = TABLED FOR FURTHER RESEARCH