

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND HOME AND SCHOOL FEDERATION
2021 SEMI-ANNUAL
October 21, 2021, Gulf Shore Consolidated School
Heather Mullen, President's Report

On behalf of the PEI Home and School Federation, I want to extend an Island-wide Home and School message of appreciation to all of our administrators, teachers, admin assistants, custodians, and bus drivers who meet our children and youth every day with determined effort to teach and keep them safe. As a Federation, we are supportive of the measures taken by Chief Public Health Office to slow the spread of this virus in P.E.I. Working together, being patient, kind and listening to health care professionals, is essential. Last year's Semi-Annual meeting was cancelled due to the pandemic. This year, vaccinations have made it possible for us to meet in-person. We are in a better place!

The PEI Home and School Federation works with our partners in education and a strong board of directors to seek solutions that benefit all students in P.E.I. The Federation is fortunate to have committed parents and educators who represent their respective families of schools in the Federation's efforts to advocate for quality education and the total health and well-being of children and youth in P.E.I.

I would like to acknowledge, Jennifer Covello, President, other members of Gulf Shore Home and School Association, and Maria LaVoie, School Principal. Thank you for hosting the Federation once again, at your school located in the scenic fishing village of Rustico PEI. Note: We were here last Feb. to recognize one of your teachers, Robert Homes, with an Extra Mile Award.

DELL/PSB Communications

Back-to-School Policy: The Federation was consulted about the Back-to-School Policy and released a position statement on back to school plan specifically regarding masks.

Vax Pass Policy: The Federation inquired about the Vax Pass impact on volunteers and guests in schools. The PSB's new operational policy #609 is posted on their website.

School Bus Safety

PEIHSF, in partnership with the School Bus Drivers Union CUPE 1145, held a meeting School Bus Safety Stakeholders Meeting on Sept. 28/21 to address the crucial need for action around school bus safety and keeping PEI children and youth safe. A summary document with actions will be released in the near future.

School Governance

The Department of Education and Lifelong Learning is currently looking at the process and how the current legislation can be amended to incorporate an elected school board. When approval is granted, legislation is to be presented in the legislature for implementation, fall 2022.

Volunteer Training

Mon. Nov. 1 = Elm Street Elementary, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Thurs. Nov. 4 = Spring Park Elementary, 6:00 -7:30 PM

Trainers: Vicki Bryanton & Stephen Gould

Light refreshments will be provided. Pick up posters at registration table. Sign up this evening.

Healthy School Food Program

Quick facts to remind about PEIHSF's role:

- Home and School brainstorming consultations which resulted in concerns expressed about school food programs, January 2015

- PEIHSF resolution approved, April 2015
- Six School Food Pilots, Jan. 2020
- Covid-relief school food for families, provided by Dept. Social Development and Housing (SDH) as Covid support to families, March - August 2020
- Government of PEI Provincial Healthy School Lunch Program featuring pay-what-you-can model offers meals at \$5 each, Sept. 2020
- School Food Inc., non-profit began to manage the school food program, July 1, 2021
- PEIHSF and DELL partnered with Breakfast Clubs of Canada (\$86K) to secure additional federal dollars to support PEI's school food program.
- Partnership - PEIHSF and Education and Lifelong Learning (DELL) - Agri-Food Canada awarded PEIHSF with \$247,500 to support kitchen infrastructure in schools, Jan. 2021
- Partnership United Way to support pay-what-you-can school food model, Oct. 2021

The Federation continues to advocate for a universal provincial school food program in PEI schools.

Annual / Semi-Annual Meetings

The 2020 Semi-Annual was cancelled due to health restrictions. The 2021 68th AGM was held virtually on May 10, 2021. Resolutions were forwarded to the Education Minister and PSB Chair. All Federation meetings and activities are posted online at peihsf.ca. The Federation urges every school community to ensure they are represented at provincial meetings. Parents, teachers/school staff, and students are welcome to attend. **The 2022 AGM is scheduled for April 9th.**

Parent Leadership Projects

Applications for the 2021-2022 Parent Leadership Grant Program for up to \$1000 per Home and School Association will be accepted up to Nov. 30th. Find ideas on PEIHSF's website.

Awards of Merit/Recognition include:

Extra Mile Awards School Staff

School Crossing Guard

School Bus Driver

Home and School Volunteer

PEIHSF Life Member

***Extra Mile Award Application is Semi-Annual package.

Committees

School Calendar: Krista Murphy (Kinkora) is this year's committee representative; Tammy Hubley-Little leads this DELL committee in its work to develop a 3 year school calendar.

Youth and Vaping Working Group: Departments of Health and Education set up this committee to address current high rates of youth vaping in PEI. Melissa Munro Bernard/Sterling Carruthers chair this committee. Shirley is the PEIHSF representative.

Advocacy

The Home and School's focus continues to listen, learn, and share ideas aimed at advocating for the best interests of students in the Island's education system. Resolutions are used as the formal process for requesting needed change in education. Review past and current resolutions at: <https://peihsf.ca/agm>
Together, we, advocate for the best learning experience and total well-being of children and youth in PEI's education system.