

Prince Edward Island Home and School Federation Inc.
68th Annual General Meeting Minutes (Draft)
Monday, May 10, 2021
Virtual using Zoom

18:36 PM **WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Heather Mullen, President welcomed everyone to the 68th Annual General Meeting, the second virtual meeting of the PEI Home and School Federation. Zoom protocols were reviewed and sound issues resolved. Pertinent business meeting documents can be viewed on the shared screen and in the 2021 Book of Reports online at: peihsf.ca/AGM. PEIHSF eligible voting members include five delegates per local association having paid membership fees for 2020-2021. Voting occurs through Zoom polls for members who choose to move or second motions. Use the vote option on screen to be managed by executive director, Shirley S Jay.

Introductions:

- Hon. Natalie Jameson, Minister Education and Lifelong Learning
- Bethany MacLeod, Deputy Minister
- Owen Parkhouse, Past President, Parliamentarian
- David Wright, Chartered Accounting Services
- Isaac Williams, Tech/Sound
- Norbert Carpenter, Director, Public Schools Branch
- Tammy Hubley-Little, Director English Programs, Education and Lifelong Learning
- Elizabeth Kennedy, Student Well Being Teams
- Terri MacAdam, Public Schools Branch Student Services
- Chef Austin Clement, Culinary Institute of Canada
- Sterling Carruthers, Education and Lifelong Learning
- Katelyn MacLean, Education and Lifelong Learning

Heather welcomed delegates, board members and guests opening with a Diversity Welcome.

Semi-Annual Meeting 2020 statement:

The Federation cancelled the fall 2020 Semi-Annual Meeting was cancelled in support of the ongoing efforts of the Chief Public Health Office to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. The Federation will plan to hold an in-person 2021 Semi-Annual. This decision will be determined, pending CPHO guidelines.

Semi-Annual Meeting 2021:

The Federation plans to hold an in-person 2021 Semi-Annual in October pending guidance from the Chief Public Health Office in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Quorum is met with forty Home and School Associations and eighty delegates registered.

1. ADOPTION OF AGM AGENDA 2021

MOTION: To adopt 2021 AGM agenda as circulated.

Moved by Donna MacLeod

Seconded by Michael Stanley

MOTION CARRIED.

2. ADOPTION OF 2019 AGM MINUTES

MOTION: To adopt 2020 AGM Minutes as circulated.

Moved by: Andrea Richard

Seconded by: Mary Kendrick

MOTION CARRIED.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Heather Mullen, President, reported the following highlights from her report.

- Elected School Board Model: The Federation continues to educate about the elected school board model. Members of the board met with the government standing committee and consultant to provide information supporting elected officials to represent families of schools. We look forward to working with decision-makers to bring back an elected school board.
- School Bus Safety: There is a need for continued advocacy and public awareness concerning school bus safety. There is a need for a culture change; drivers continue to pass stopped school buses when children are loading and exiting. The more we talk about this, the more momentum it gets.
- NuWel Com: The Federation had an opportunity to work with NuWel Com, an Island company that brings communities together. The company developed an App that translates information into eleven different languages, which works to help people access Island information in their own language. The Federation's monthly Home and School News will be posted on the App. Additionally, they will assist with translation of the Federation's fall 'Welcome to Home and School' materials, in preferred languages.

The PEIHSF president's report is accepted as circulated.

4. ADOPTION OF FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Report for the fiscal year ending December, 2020, was presented by Donna MacLeod, Treasurer and David Wright, Accountant.

Summary: Net assets \$62,875

Revenues: 209,721

Expenses: 206,072

Breakfast Clubs of Canada grant (Covid relief for school food provided to Island families.)

Net Assets: 37,108

MOTION #1: To approve the Finance Report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020 as presented.

Moved by Donna MacLeod

Seconded by Haley Zavo

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION #2: I move to appoint David Wright's Accounting Services for the PEIHSF's next fiscal year.

Moved by Donna MacLeod

Seconded by Andrea Richard

MOTION CARRIED.

5. OTHER REPORTS

Heather thanked Home and School presidents for fantastic ideas shared in their local reports this year. See pages 32-84 in the Book of Reports. Thank you for submitting your annual reports and Covid-19 additions. (Reports write the history of the work of Home and School in Prince Edward Island.)

Heather called on the Hon. Natalie Jameson, Minister of Education and Lifelong Learning for greetings and an update on the work of her department. Highlights include:

“If you look at some of the most recent resolutions brought forward at your AGMs – the re-establishment of elected school boards... a universal school food program ... better school websites and communication ... these are all initiatives currently underway.”

- Number one priority this school year was to ensure we could resume in-class learning because we know that the best option for our students is to be with their teachers face-to-face, to interact with their peers, and to be within their safe school environment. We have seen only one positive case of COVID within our schools and a brief move to remote learning for our Charlottetown and Area high schools in December. The recent news of vaccine approval for 12-15 year olds, and the commitment from our CPHO to have these students fully vaccinated by September, is extremely encouraging.
- The Province added 186 FTE – teachers, bus drivers, education assistants, counsellors, autism assistants, administrative assistants and cleaners, and the 2021-2022 budget will maintain 20 teachers, 34 educational assistants, 12 counsellors and four autism consultants to ensure that students learn and thrive and that their mental health and wellbeing is a priority.
- A universal healthy school lunch program was implemented this year and thus far, over 320,000 meals have been delivered to students across the province. This year’s budget provides funding to ensure that the school food program can continue this summer while students are at home; will pave the way for the introduction of a new non-profit organization, PEI School Food Inc., to carry on with the delivery, management, and growth of a sustainable, healthy food program within our Island schools.
“I would like to recognize your president, Heather Mullen, who is one of the inaugural members of PEI School Food Inc.
- Construction will continue at West Royalty Elementary and start at both Montague Consolidated and Eliot River Elementary. Additionally, 22 other schools will see repairs over the summer including roof and boiler replacements, sprinkler system upgrades, gym floor replacements and upgrades to parking lots. Progress continues to be made on plans for a new Sherwood Elementary and Stratford High School. Both schools will be built with Net Zero in mind. Additionally, the Province purchased 12 new electric school buses that are on the road.
- Recent consultations on the reinstatement of elected school boards indicate clearly that Islanders want to see increased geographical representation, elected voices, and a board that has a strong connection to the PEI education system. The elected school board model and composition will be guided by our goal to develop a structure that respects our cultures, our communities and puts students at the centre of all decisions. The minister is committed to school board elections to begin in the fall of 2022, and hopes the PEI Home and School Federation and its local representatives will work with government and be a strong voice to encourage participation in school board elections.
- We will continue to look at ways to be innovative, to include more play-based and experiential learning, and to celebrate the diversity and individuality of our student body.

6. RESOLUTIONS

Andrea Richard, Vice President, chaired the resolutions section of the business meeting.

RESOLUTION 2021-1 K-12 E-LEARNING IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND **Submitted by Colonel Gray Home and School Association**

WHEREAS the COVID 19 pandemic has clarified the need for virtual schooling options for K-12 students in Prince Edward Island, and

WHEREAS with the exception of Prince Edward Island, all Canadian provinces offer free distance and online public education to K-12 studentsⁱ, and

WHEREAS the move to online learning during the pandemic has shone a light on both the benefits and challenges of virtual schoolingⁱⁱ and presents a unique learning opportunity to move forward with virtual schooling in this province in a way that is collaborative, informed, and innovative, and

WHEREAS it is recognized that *most* students learn better in a classroom setting, *some* students, who may otherwise fall through the cracks in our system, will benefit from virtual schooling,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEI Home and School Federation requests the Public Schools Branch and the Department of Education and Life Long Learning to form a working group, with PEIHSF representation, to review public K-12 virtual education in Prince Edward Island and how to better serve PEI students.

DESTINATION: Public Schools Branch
 Department Education and Lifelong Learning

MOTION: To move Resolution 2021-1 to the floor for discussion.

Moved by Sandy Nicholson, Colonel Gray

Seconded by Patricia Callaghan, Charlottetown Rural

Discussion ended with a friendly amendment which was approved by Mover and Seconder:

“Create a more defined working group” with the final BE IT RESOLVED statement to read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the P.E.I. Home and School Federation requests the Public Schools Branch and the Department of Education and Lifelong Learning to create a more defined working group, with PEIHSF representation, to review public K-12 virtual education in Prince Edward Island and how to better serve P.E.I. students.

MOTION CARRIED.

**RESOLUTION 2021-2 REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE TO REVIEW FUNDING OF REPLACING
EXPIRED OR UNSAFE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT**

Submitted by Greenfield Home and School Association

WHEREAS playground equipment is a valuable tool for developing school age children's physical strength and co-ordination, social skills such as sharing, teamwork and competition and mentally preparing them for classroom expectations.

WHEREAS playground equipment located on school property benefits not only the students of that school but the surrounding community as well. Many school yards house the only playground structure for their particular communities.

WHEREAS playground equipment, even when properly maintained, due to age, normal wear and tear, changes to CSA standards or vandalism may be deemed by the PSB to be unsafe or unfit for use and be removed or ordered to be removed from site.

WHEREAS PSB operational procedure 202.1, subsections 4.4 and 4.5 state: "4.4 A school, Home and School Association or other school affiliate will be fully responsible for all costs related to site preparation, purchasing and installing playground equipment and protective surfaces, to CSA standards; 4.5 The Public Schools Branch will assume ownership, upon final inspection, of the playground equipment that has met CSA and Public Schools Branch standards and will take responsibility for all ongoing costs related to inspection, maintenance, warranty and insurance related concerns."

WHEREAS schools and Home and School Associations have very limited means to fund replacing removed playground equipment.

WHEREAS the PSB owns, inspects, maintains, warrants and insures playground equipment purchased by schools and Home and School Associations, as per PSB operational procedure 202.1, the PSB should share with schools and Home and School Associations some of the responsibility for replacing removed playground equipment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEI Home and School Federation requests the Public Schools Branch and Department Education and Lifelong Learning to form a committee, with Federation of Municipalities, PEIHSF representation, to review school community supports for the provision of safe school playgrounds across the province.

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Lifelong Learning
Public Schools Branch

MOTION: To move Resolution 2021-2 to the floor for discussion.

Moved by Sarah Buckley, Greenfield

Seconded by Jocelyn Mills, Greenfield

Friendly amendments were discussed and approved by Mover and Seconder with additions as follows:
PEI Federation of Municipalities + independent municipalities + community partners + inclusion of outdoor space + safe and inclusive school playgrounds + For the provision of safe and inclusive school playgrounds and outdoor spaces.

The final resolved statement to read as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that the PEI Home and School Federation requests the Public Schools Branch and Department Education and Lifelong Learning to form a committee, with the Federation of Municipalities, independent municipalities, PEIHSF representation and community partners to review school community supports for the provision of safe and inclusive school playgrounds and outdoor spaces across the province.
MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION 2021-3 WEEKLY UPSTREAM MENTAL HEALTH AND OUTDOOR CURRICULUM

Submitted by Hernewood Home and School/Parent Council

- WHEREAS the first and second pillars (priorities) of the P.E.I. Public Schools Branch Strategic Action Planⁱ are Student Success and Wellness, and
- WHEREAS a study on Canadian Children by the Canadian Index for Child and Youth Well-beingⁱⁱ revealed only 46.9% of children feel positive about school, 26.8% have more school work than they can handle, 35.2% experience discrimination, 1/4 experience fighting, regular bullying, and/or violence at home, 59.8% go to school feeling tired, 34.2% have weekly mental distress, and 1 in 4 live in poverty, and
- WHEREAS numerous peer-reviewed studies including ones from Berkley and the University of Californiaⁱⁱⁱ highlighted the direct correlation between student success and time spent connected to nature; academic gains and attitudes improved in language arts, math, social studies and science when outdoor lesson time was incorporated into weekly learning; scores in science improved an impressive 26%; teachers in the same study reported improved connections with all types of learners and an increase in their own job satisfaction, and
- WHEREAS numerous peer-reviewed studies including one from Harvard,^{iv} show a link between reduced anxiety, hostility, stress and depression with time spent outdoors; a study conducted by the American Institute for Research^v published that 75-93% of the children studied, reported that an outdoor setting calms them down when angry; a study published in the Journal for Attention Disorders^{vi} shows children with ADHD behave better and have less severe symptoms when they are outdoors and rate their experiences with outdoors education more positively compared to traditional classroom settings, and
- WHEREAS numerous peer-reviewed studies, including one published in the Oxford Journal of Medicine,^{vii} showed outdoor learning activities help combat childhood obesity and may help reduce the risk of nearsightedness, and
- WHEREAS children and teens are spending less and less time outdoors due to changes in technology and societal norms resulting in nature deficit disorder^{viii}, and
- WHEREAS half of all mental health conditions start by 14, but the majority remain undetected and untreated with only 1 out of every 5 youth who need mental health services receiving them; whereas suicide is the leading cause of death in 15-24 year-old Canadians, second only to accidents, and ranked as the second-highest hospital care expenditure in Canada^{ix}, and
- WHEREAS the current cost to our economy due to mental health illness^x is at a minimum 50 billion dollars per year and growing; with 1 in 5 Canadians suffering each year and 3.2 million youth aged 12-19 at risk for developing depression; 1 out of 2 Canadians will have or have experienced a mental illness by the age of 40 - which are notably pre-COVID19 statistics, and

WHEREAS there are continuous shortages of qualified workers in PEI leading to vacancies within the social work, guidance and psychology fields and there are many students who will not receive help or not know they need help because of a lack of weekly upstream mental activities, and

WHEREAS daily mental health activities and/or interaction with nature are integral to student's mental and physical health; and strong pillars of Student Success and Wellness cannot be achieved without upstream mental health and outdoor education,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the P.E.I. Home and School Federation requests the Department of Education and Lifelong Learning to implement weekly upstream mental health and outdoor curriculum time into the education stream to coincide with its commitment to Student Success and Well-being.

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Lifelong Learning

MOTION: To move Resolution 2021-3 to the floor for discussion.

Moved by Sandee MacLean, Hernewood

Seconded by Danielle Sprigg, Hernewood

Discussion focused on concern around teacher load and access to resources to tie in to curriculum. A 'whereas' statement was accepted as a friendly amendment by Mover and Seconder to read as follows:

WHEREAS an education which promotes and emphasizes a greater awareness and understanding of local ecosystems - and local and global environmental issues - will give children the background needed to become informed citizens and future leaders;

MOTION CARRIED.

7. NOMINATIONS REPORT / ELECTIONS

Mike Stanley presented the full slate of officers and called for further nominations three times from the floor. As there were no further nominations, Mike called for a motion to cease nominations and accept the Slate of Officers as presented.

<u>Position:</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Term Ends:</u>
Treasurer	Dionne Tuplin	2023
Secretary	Mary MacDonald-Pickering	2023
Bluefield	Melissa Rommens	2023
Souris	Krystal Jamieson	2023
Westisle	Katie MacLennan	2023
Kensington	Bev Campbell	2023
Three Oaks	Tammy Norden	2023

MOTION: For nominations to cease and accept the PEI Home and School Federation's 2020-2021 slate of officers as elected.

Moved by: Jana Newsome

Seconded by: Donna MacLeod

MOTION CARRIED.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to be part of PEIHSF. We appreciate the time and service you give to PEIHSF.

Owen Parkhouse, Parliamentarian, carried out the induction of the new 2021-2022 board of directors.

Heather welcomed the new board, and thanked outgoing board members: Donna MacLeod, Haley Zavo, Rosie MacFarlane, Darby McCormick, and Maria McMahon.

Thank you to all board members for your community service, for attending delegates, for members who volunteer and contribute to children's education in every school community across Prince Edward Island.

8. New Business.

No new business was brought forward.

9. Heather called for adjournment.

MOTION: To adjourn the business meeting. Moved by Andrea. No seconder required.

Heather declared the 2021 68th Annual Meeting of the PEI Home and School Federation adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Haley Zavo, Recording Secretary