

**PEI Home and School Federation**  
**AGM, April 15, 2023**  
**Round Table Summary: Home and School Successes and Challenges**

***Where Are We Now?***

The Roundtable Discussion gave many examples of successful fundraising and other initiatives/ events Island wide (e.g. we were given examples of successes from Belfast, Glen Stewart, Greenfield). In many of the examples given, school playgrounds (upgrading them, making them accessible) were and are a major fundraising goal for local Home & Schools. Staff Appreciation week was noted to be another consistent success for locals. When schools get awards like an Extra Mile Award, motivation and involvement increases in the school community.

***What Are the Challenges?***

- It's hard to get people involved; and to keep people involved once they get involved
- Fundraising and other activities slowed down considerably during Covid
- Locals' Facebook pages don't always have a large following
- Primary/elementary schools have better Home & School involvement than intermediate/ high schools

***What Do We Need?***

- Can locals create a "call list" of potential volunteers when they need someone?
- PEIHSF and locals need to recognize every parent contribution: parents need to understand that they don't need to commit a large amount of time, they can help out once and that is great!
- We need to adapt to the new pace of the world! Can we offer babysitting and Zoom/Teams access to local meetings?
- Locals need to be present at Welcome to Kindergarten and Meet the Staff Night, introduce who they are and what they do, WITHOUT any pressure to recruit members
- Locals need the support of Principals and staff
- Locals need to piggyback on other events, provide incentives like coffee cards, food, door prizes, and babysitters to increase attendance at meetings
- Link the local Home & School to the neighbourhood and local community
- Involve intermediate and high school students in Home & School to increase family participation
- Ask teacher reps what they need and could benefit from in terms of support from Home & School
- Engaging events like concerts, guest speakers, events, fitness classes, open gym nights to help fundraise and build community

***What Strategies and Suggestions Have Been Presented?***

- Create a hub fundraising model for families of schools (e.g. fundraising hub for Summerside Home & Schools within the TOSH Family of Schools, where locals can meet and collaborate)

***What Are the Action Items Identified for PEIHSF?***

- Parents need to know what Home & School is and what it does
- PEIHSF needs to communicate the cooperative aspects between parents and school administration
- Can PEIHSF give locals examples of challenges that turned into successes?
- Home & School needs to be presented as a part of the community, and something that is not intimidating or a huge time commitment
- Can PEIHSF help locals with succession planning when parents leave their local roles?
- PEIHSF should highlight success stories throughout the year (e.g. social media, newsletter)
- Can PEIHSF help locals make meetings easier to attend with Zoom/Teams access?
- Can PEIHSF help support more Parent Engagement Nights?