



Nova Scotia School Boards Association



Association des conseils scolaires  
de la Nouvelle-Écosse

Nova Scotia School Boards Association

2017 Adopted Resolutions

Annual General Meeting

May 27, 2017

<p><b>Resolution A</b></p> <p>Study of factors related to literacy and numeracy achievement.</p> <p>Submitted by: TCRSB</p> <p><b>Adopted by the membership</b> <b>No Amendments</b></p>	<p>the reasons for student underachievement should be identified; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the student achievement levels in literacy and numeracy for all school boards, thus for the province, have demonstrated a trend of decline in recent years; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> having a more concrete understanding of the most likely reasons for the decline would enable each school board, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, and other provincial departments and agencies that serve children and families to collaborate in designing specific strategies to reverse the trend,</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT</b> the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development engage directly or through the Nova Scotia School Boards Association, a person or persons with the appropriate academic qualifications and experience to analyze the educational, social, economic and demographic data possibly relevant to the performance of Nova Scotia’s students, review the related professional literature on the determinants of student achievement, and submit a report to identify the most likely reasons to explain the decline in Nova Scotia’s student achievement levels in literacy and numeracy.</p>
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Topic/Submitted by	Resolution
<p><b>Resolution B</b></p> <p>Increased support for Primary classrooms.</p> <p>Submitted by: CBVRSB</p> <p><b>Resolution Adopted by the membership with amendments.</b></p>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> schools should be prepared for, to accommodate and to welcome all children who are beginning their formal education; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> some children arrive at school needing extra supports because they have challenges or delays in their physical, intellectual, emotional, social, language or behavioural development that have not been previously diagnosed; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> children may enter school with three types of <i>lags</i>: experience, maturational issues, or the result of a particular disability; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> undiagnosed children absorb a large amount of time and energy of the classroom teacher; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> additional adult support can also allow the teacher to conduct the literacy assessment as appropriate, this allowing challenged children the opportunity for immediate interventions.</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> that the Nova Scotia School Boards Association request, new year-long funding for extra human resources such as guidance counselors, speech language pathologists, and appropriate student services personnel to be placed in primary classrooms at the beginning of the school year to note obvious behaviours and challenges so that these children receive immediate and appropriate support, where needed.</p>

Topic/Submitted by	Resolution
<p><b>Resolution C</b></p> <p>Establish a Capital Planning Committee.</p> <p>Submitted by: HRSB</p> <p><b>Resolution adopted by the membership with amendment.</b></p>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has mandated that school boards develop a 10 year long range outlook for capital planning as part of the new school review process; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> school boards spend significant time and human resources preparing capital lists responding to the request of the Province of Nova Scotia; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> School Boards are actively working to address gaps in communications with community partners and partners in government; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> capital monies invested in schools impact all Nova Scotians; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the capital needs across the province of Nova Scotia vastly exceed the means of the province; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Auditor General identified the need for school boards and Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to work more closely on the planning process for capital investment; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> in the past, the now defunct Capital Construction Committee was a primary vehicle in helping to develop the annual capital plan; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Nova Scotia School Boards Association recently contacted the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development expressing their desire to re-establish this committee,</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT</b> the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development establish a non-partisan Capital Planning Committee with representation of School Boards to develop new processes for capital planning, prioritization, and selection for the benefit of all Nova Scotia taxpayers.</p>

Topic/Submitted by	Resolution
<p><b>Resolution D</b></p> <p>Reduce mandatory bus distance.</p> <p>Submitted by: HRSB</p> <p><b>Resolution adopted by the membership.</b></p> <p><b>No amendments.</b></p>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Department of Education and Early Childhood Education has a defined walking distance for students of 3.6 kilometers; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> a Student Walking Distance Review report was received by the Nova Scotia Department of Education (as it then was) in December 2007; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> this report recommended reducing the walking distance for elementary students to 1.6 kilometers and 3.0 kilometers for secondary students;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> school boards in Nova Scotia are subsidizing transportation expenses at a cost to each individual system,</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, reduce the mandatory bus distance of 3.6 kilometers in Section 6(1)(a) of the Governor in Council Education Act Regulations and provide appropriate funding accordingly.</p>

Topic/Submitted by	Resolution
<p><b>Resolution E</b></p> <p>Drug awareness and education.</p> <p>Submitted by: CCRSB</p> <p><b>Resolution adopted by the membership.</b></p> <p><b>No amendments.</b></p>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> the prevalence of substance use and the complications of mental health disorders and the connection to learning are of great concern for our children and youth; and,</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> targeted drug awareness and education is required; and,</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> school boards need to support our teachers and support staff with regard to increased drug awareness and education and the connection to learning and attendance in our schools; and,</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> school boards and staff members should not work in isolation with regard to addressing this concern,</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> that the NSSBA advocate to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development for improved and efficient interagency collaboration with regard to improving drug awareness and education in our schools, the connection to attendance and learning, and ensure appropriate funding is attached.</p>

Topic/Submitted by	Resolution
<p><b>Resolution F</b></p> <p>All schools be supported by a SchoolsPlus Site by the 2018-19 School Year;</p> <p>Submitted by: AVRSB</p> <p><b>Resolution adopted by the membership with amendments.</b></p>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> it is the responsibility of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the school boards to ensure the success of all students; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> it has been identified that additional measures are needed to support students’ social, emotional, and mental well-being; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> educational partners across the province, including the Nova Scotia School Boards Association, have been calling for a comprehensive, inter-agency approach to supporting Nova Scotia children and youth; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> SchoolsPlus only supports students in the areas where a site has been established, resulting in many students and their families not benefiting from the supports SchoolsPlus provides; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> school boards, supported by a formal review of SchoolsPlus, continue to believe it is one of the most impactful supports to be made available to students and their families for quite some time; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> there are a number of different expansion models that could see supports reach all students and families in Nova Scotia in a timely fashion,</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> that the Nova Scotia School Boards Association request the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development ensure all schools, students and their families are supported by SchoolsPlus site by the 2018-19 school year.</p> <hr/>

Topic/Submitted by	Resolution
<p><b>Resolution G</b></p> <p>Removal of Cornwallis Statue and renaming Park.</p> <p>Submitted by: NSSBA</p> <p><b>Resolution adopted by the membership with amendments.</b></p>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> the objects of the Association stated in the NSSBA Act include to <i>provide a common voice for member school boards in presentations to the Government, Department of Education, royal commissions and other authorities or organizations concerned with education, and co-operate with the Provincial and municipal governments and with other organizations in the furtherance of education;</i></p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the NSSBA advocates for equity in the education of all students; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the NSSBA supports culturally and linguistically relevant teaching and learning; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Nova Scotia public school curriculum is being revised to more accurately reflect the current understanding of historical events; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> current understandings of historical events have resulted in the removal of gestures honouring Edward Cornwallis in respect for the pain and suffering he caused the Mi'kmaq; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has been working on Treaty Education, dedicating resources to supporting Mi'kmaq students, and educating all students on Mi'kmaq culture and history; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Nova Scotia School Boards Association will be hosting the 2018 National Trustees Gathering on Aboriginal Education in Halifax, bringing hundreds of delegates to the city for professional development focused on Aboriginal education; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> other efforts have been made to rename sites and buildings memorializing Edward Cornwallis;</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> that the NSSBA request that the City of Halifax remove the statue of Edward Cornwallis from Cornwallis Park and rename the park, and that the NSSBA request the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development make the same request of the city.</p>

Topic/Submitted by	Resolution
<p><b>Resolution H</b></p> <p>Funding for Additional Languages services to support newcomers.</p> <p>Submitted by: CCRSB</p> <p><b>Resolution adopted by the membership with amendments.</b></p>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Government of Canada has set a goal of welcoming of 300,000 immigrants into our country each year; and,</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> many of the schools in our province have seen an increase in the number of newcomer students in their classrooms; and,</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> school boards have not realized an increase in funding to support the influx of newcomer students in our classrooms; and,</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> school boards need to support our teachers and support staff with regard to being able to provide appropriate levels of English as an Additional Language (EAL) support; and,</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> school boards and staff members should not work in isolation with regard to addressing this concern:</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> that the NSSBA request that the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development provide sufficient funding for enhanced English in an English school board, or enhanced French in the CSAP board, as an Additional Language services in our schools as a means of supporting our newcomers.</p>

Topic/Submitted by	Resolution
<p><b>Resolution I</b></p> <p>Circumventing superintendents and senior staff</p> <p>Resolution from the floor by: CSAP</p> <p><b>Resolution adopted by the membership.</b></p>	<p><b>Whereas</b> recent approaches to implementation and communication have not respected lines of authority and reporting; and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b> recent interpretations of legislation have led to confusion of reporting responsibilities; and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b> superintendents are employees of school boards; and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b> school board support appropriate collaboration between superintendents and the deputy minister; and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b> the NSSBA is committed to maintain and strengthen collaboration between the Minister and governing boards</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> that the NSSBA engage with the incoming Premier and Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to ensure compliance with the legislated roles, reporting structures, lines of authority, and operational authority of superintendents; specifically that superintendents report to and are accountable to school boards and cooperate with the Minister; and respecting that all other school board staff report to and take direction from the superintendent.</p>

Topic/Submitted by	Resolution
<p><b>Resolution J</b></p> <p>Funding model and approach towards sustaining Elementary schools in rural Nova Scotia</p> <p>Resolution from the floor by: SSRSB</p> <p><b>Resolution adopted by the membership with amendments.</b></p>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> the ONE Nova Scotia Coalition Collaborative Action Plan (Ivany Report) identifies that education is a vital component to a strategy preventing population loss in rural Nova Scotia; <i>Good quality and widely available health, education, and other public services are not only an important source of employment but are essential if we are to stem the depopulation of our rural areas and smaller communities;</i> and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> it is widely accepted that young children (Elementary) succeed and have greater community identity when they can learn where they live. Furthermore, rural schools are central to the health and wellbeing of our rural communities; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> rural School Boards across Nova Scotia are under increased financial pressures resulting in cuts and/or loss to rural schools; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> many of our rural school closures are made with a large emphasis placed on financial reasoning with less emphasis on what is best for the community; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> rural School Boards across Nova Scotia are unable to generate their own revenues; and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> current government funding models (HOGG Model) support/favour regionalization and consolidation; and</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> that the Nova Scotia School Boards Association request that the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development begin working on a new funding model and approach towards sustaining Elementary schools in rural Nova Scotia.</p> <p><b>FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> that the rules governing Hub Schools be amended so that School Boards across the Province have another tool to use that may lead to creative solutions to preventing the closure of rural schools.</p>

Topic/Submitted by	Resolution
<p><b>Resolution K</b></p> <p>Review of school administration and /or school boards</p> <p>Resolution from the floor by: NSSBA BOD</p> <p><b>Resolution adopted by the membership with amendments.</b></p>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> intentions to review school boards and administration have been declared during the 2017 provincial election campaign, and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> one of the legislated objects of the NSSBA is to cooperate with governments in the furtherance of education, and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> as one of the legislated objects of the NSSBA is to provide a common voice of school boards in presentation to Government, and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the NSSBA has the legislated power to do all things necessary for the attainment of its objects, and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the school boards provide a local voice in education for citizens, and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> school boards are apolitical, and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> local representation in public education supports student success, and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> centralization of other public services have resulted in a (perceived) lack of local voice, and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the NSSBA is committed to ongoing collaboration with government to enhance student learning and improve achievement,</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> the NSSBA engage with the incoming Premier and Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to ensure that any review of school boards and/or school administration is full, open, transparent, research-based, and conducted by an external accredited professional, with the NSSBA as a full-partner throughout all stages of the review.</p>

Topic/Submitted by	Resolution
<p><b>Resolution L</b></p> <p>Scope of the Council to Improve Classroom Conditions</p> <p>Resolution from the floor by: SRSB</p> <p><b>Resolution adopted by the membership with amendments.</b></p>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Council to Improve Classroom Conditions has identified an “additional priority for consideration” related to school board governance, and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the members of the council have no experience or expertise in school board governance, and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the mandate of the Council is to “identify the concerns of teachers and to study and make recommendations to the Department and/or school boards for implementation on systematic demands on teachers’ time that may limit teachers’ ability to facilitate student learning and success”, and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the NSSBA has been acting on recommendations of the Auditor General, and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development has supported the work of the NSSBA Governance Action Plan Steering Committee,</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> the NSSBA engage with the incoming Premier and Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to ensure that any and all “Council to Improve Classroom Conditions” topics related to school board governance be referred to the government endorsed NSSBA Governance Action Plan Steering Committee.</p>

Topic/Submitted by	Resolution
<p><b>Resolution M</b></p> <p>Representation on the Council to improve Classroom Conditions</p> <p>Resolution from the floor by: HRSB</p> <p><b>Resolution adopted by the membership with amendments.</b></p>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> the current makeup of the Council to Improve Classroom Conditions does not include subject-area experts able to ensure successful implementation, and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the negotiated makeup of the Council included superintendents, and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> acting on teacher input requires the successful implementation of the recommendations, and</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the NSSBA and school boards support input from classroom teachers,</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> the NSSBA engage with the incoming Premier and Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to ensure that the Council to Improve Classroom Conditions meets with representatives responsible for the delivery of the Public School Program (superintendent, programs and services directors and school-based administration), prior to providing recommendations.</p>