

Resolutions Adopted at the 2014 AGM

Topic/ Submitted By	Resolution
<p><u>Resolution 1</u> NSSBA Resolution re SchoolsPlus</p>	<p>WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the School Boards to ensure the success of all students;</p> <p>WHEREAS ensuring a student's success in school requires a broad view and comprehensive plan to support the whole student, including their social and emotional well-being;</p> <p>WHEREAS Educational partners across the province, including the NSSBA, have been calling for a comprehensive, inter-agency approach to supporting Nova Scotia children and youth;</p> <p>WHEREAS SchoolsPlus has been an invaluable support to students and their families in those areas where it has been established;</p> <p>WHEREAS School Boards, supported by a formal review of SchoolsPlus, believe it is one of the most impactful supports to be made available to students and their families for quite some time;</p> <p>WHEREAS only a limited number of Nova Scotia students and their families currently benefit from the services offered by SchoolsPlus, and the announced plan for expansion is not adequate, equitable, nor timely;</p> <p>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia School Boards Association strongly encourage the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to make it a priority to ensure all students and their families are supported, through a family of schools model, by a SchoolsPlus site by the 2015-16 school year.</p>
<p><u>Resolution 2</u> Expansion of Service Providers for Personal Development Credits</p>	<p>Whereas it is the responsibility of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to develop regulations prescribing the public school program of education to be provided and administered by school boards in accordance with Section 145 (1) (p) of The Education Act;</p> <p>Whereas it is the responsibility of school boards to implement the provincial curriculum and make provision for the education and instruction of all students enrolled in its schools and programs in accordance with Section 64 (2) (a) of The Education Act;</p> <p>Whereas many students residing in Nova Scotia, particularly in more rural areas, may be challenged to access the recognized programs for Personal Development Credits approved by the Department Of Education and Early Childhood Development.</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia School Boards Association petition the Minister of Education</p>

	<p>and Early Childhood Development to expand the list of recognized service providers and their course titles which are eligible for a personal development credit.</p>
<p><u>Resolution 3</u> Supporting Students in Moving Towards a 21st Century Learning Environment</p>	<p>Whereas it is the responsibility of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to develop regulations prescribing the public school program of education to be provided and administered by school boards in accordance with Section 145 (1) (p) of The Education Act;</p> <p>Whereas it is the responsibility of school boards to implement the provincial curriculum and make provision for the education and instruction of all students enrolled in its schools and programs in accordance with Section 64 (2) (a) of The Education Act;</p> <p>Whereas the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has identified technological competence as one of the six essential graduation learnings;</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia School Boards Association in the digital learning era petition the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to provide all students at the grade 9 level and above the opportunity to participate in an on-line learning experience.</p>
<p><u>Resolution 4</u> Funding Decisions</p>	<p>WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to provide funding to Schools Boards to carry out their mandate;</p> <p>WHEREAS School Boards have had to make some very difficult decisions over the past four years to ensure students in Nova Scotia continue to receive a world-class education while at the same time managing significant budget reductions;</p> <p>WHEREAS the current government has stated they will be reinvesting in education</p> <p>WHEREAS School Boards are in the best position to make decisions consistent with their Annual Educational Business Plans and to support the success of students in their respective communities;</p> <p>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Nova Scotia School Boards Association strongly encourage the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to provide flexibility to allow School Boards to make decisions as to the best use of any additional funding that is made available to public education in Nova Scotia.</p>
<p><u>Resolution 5</u> Procurement</p>	<p>Rationale: The Province of Nova Scotia, through the “Strategic Procurement Initiatives” awarded contracts to vendors in a number of different areas (managed print services, technology, contingent IT labour, fleet duty vehicles, heavy equipment, bulk fuel purchasing, fleet card system, office supplies, etc.). It was anticipated that substantial savings would result, however this has not been the experience for school boards.</p> <p>Therefore,</p> <p>WHEREAS School Boards have been informed that their participation in these contracts is mandatory; and,</p>

	<p>WHEREAS School Boards have traditionally achieved significant savings through their own joint purchasing initiatives; and,</p> <p>WHEREAS certain contracts may have resulted in minor savings and increased value (i.e. additional features); and,</p> <p>WHEREAS other contracts have or will result in significant costs (i.e. fleet card system, furniture); and,</p> <p>WHEREAS financial resources to schools are limited;</p> <p>WHEREAS Nova Scotia School Boards have been more than efficient in the purchase of goods and services and have always endeavored to support local businesses and;</p> <p>WHEREAS the Province of Nova Scotia has directed school boards to purchase under the provincial purchasing agreements and;</p> <p>WHEREAS this process has in many cases increased the purchasing costs to School Boards and has placed an additional financial burden on local business and can cause a time delay in receiving the products;</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED that the NSSBA request that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development advocate on behalf of school boards, to the Province of Nova Scotia, Provincial Procurement, to reconsider the mandatory participation of school boards in the strategic procurement initiatives and to have the option to purchase goods and services where they can obtain the best value following the guidelines of each individual school board’s purchasing policy.</p>
<p><u>Resolution 6</u> Government funding</p>	<p>WHEREAS section 64D of the Education Act directs that school boards provide for the supervision of students at a public school during the student’s lunch break at no cost to the student;</p> <p>WHEREAS school boards have not been allotted any additional funds from the EECD to cover these costs;</p> <p>WHEREAS funds that were once directed to the classroom are now being spent on lunchtime supervision in some school boards;</p> <p>Be it Resolved That: That the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development provide appropriate funding to school boards to cover the costs associated with the supervision of students at a public school during the student’s lunch break.</p>
<p><u>Resolution 7.1</u> Audit Verification of School Based Funds</p>	<p>RATIONALE Several audit reports of School Boards in the Province of Nova Scotia are qualified for completeness of School Based Funds as they are not subject to satisfactory audit verification.</p> <p>The Office of the Auditor General has mandated Schools Boards to develop a plan to enable these funds to be subject to audit verification.</p>

	<p>In order for Boards to achieve an unqualified opinion, schools should be accounting for School Based Funds on the basis of accrual based accounting rather than performed on a cash basis. Another important/vital component for audit verification would be to introduce a “cashless” system for the payment/receipting of student fees.</p> <p>THEREFORE</p> <p>WHEREAS the collective value of School Based Funds provincially is estimated at \$30,000,000 mostly all cash;</p> <p>WHEREAS parents, students, school administration and staff are over burdened with the handling of cash in paying/receipting and accounting for student fees;</p> <p>WHEREAS the opportunity for fraud/theft is much more likely with the cash system that most Boards are currently using;</p> <p>WHEREAS the Auditor General requires School Boards to submit unqualified audited financial statements;</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED that the NSSBA recommend to the Department of Education that targeted funding be approved to fund the required FTE support (School Based Fund Accountants) to enable School Based Funds to be subject to audit verification.</p>
<p><u>Resolution 7.2</u></p>	<p>BE IT RESOLVED that In addition that the Department of Education in consultation with School Boards explore product options that could effectively deliver an on line “cashless” system for all schools in Nova Scotia.</p>
<p><u>Resolution 8</u> Storm Days</p>	<p>Rationale</p> <p>The winter 2013/14 has been a particularly harsh winter and School Boards across the province have had numerous school closures due to safe transportation of students.</p> <p>Whereas The number of teaching days in a school year is 195 days.</p> <p>Whereas The possibility of makeup days during regularly scheduled vacation periods would exceed the claimable days.</p> <p>Whereas A number of days for professional development are set in the school year calendars.</p> <p>Be It Resolved That the NSSBA recommend to the Department of Education that days previously set aside for professional development can be used as full teaching days if the number of storm days in a given school year exceeds 5 days.</p>

<p><u>Resolution 9</u> Inclusion of Acadian / Francophone community in government discussions</p>	<p>Whereas the CSAP is recognized as the only francophone school board in Nova Scotia and its obligations to the Acadian and Francophone community are unique;</p> <p>Whereas all decisions taken by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development have a direct impact on the operations of all boards; Whereas these decisions can have a different impact on the CSAP than on other boards (for example, Cyberbullying, and the Study of the education system in Nova Scotia);</p> <p>Whereas it is essential that the views of the CSAP be considered in the actions/decisions of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to ensure the equity of the system;</p> <p>Be it resolved that the Nova Scotia School Boards Association intervene with the Minister of Education to recognize that the CSAP is distinct from other Boards because of its language of operation and its provincial geographic mandate and for these reasons, a representative of the Acadian/Francophone community be included in all discussions and decisions when new programs and services are being initiated by the province.</p>
<p><u>Resolution 10</u> Walking Distance</p>	<p>WHEREAS The Nova Scotia Department of Education (as it then was) commissioned Chester Sabeau to compile a Student Walking Distance Review which was delivered to the Department in December 2007,</p> <p>AND WHEREAS one of the recommendations of that review was that ‘We recommend that the walking distance for elementary students be 1.6 kilometers and for secondary students, 3.0 kilometers. That is Section 6 of the Regulations, subsection (1)(a) be changed to read “one more elementary students who reside more than 1.6 kilometers from the school to which they are to be transported and one or more secondary students reside more than 3.0 kilometers from the school to which they are to be transported”.’,</p> <p>AND WHEREAS currently the province has defined the walking distance for all students as 3.6 kilometers,</p> <p>AND WHEREAS the most appropriate walking distance for public school students in Nova Scotia is one that is long enough to allow students to obtain exercise while travelling to school but short enough so as not to provide an inequitable hardship to some students,</p> <p>AND WHEREAS currently Nova Scotia School Boards are having to subsidize transportation costs at the expense of other educational items in their limited discretionary budget in order to reduce the number of students who must walk near the maximum distances to prevent such inequitable hardship,</p> <p>Be it resolved that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Education adopt the recommendation from the Sabeau Review of Student Walking Distances that that the walking distance for elementary students be 1.6 kilometers and for secondary students, 3.0 kilometers and provide adequate funding to enable boards to provide additional transportation to students who live beyond the limits of the new Walking Distances.</p>
<p><u>Resolution 11</u> Active, Healthy</p>	<p>Rationale Some of the SSRSB schools have been great promoters of the importance of active and safe means of travel to and from school and in the communities in general. Studies have shown that</p>

<p>Living</p>	<p>students benefit tremendously from these types of physical activities such as biking and walking.</p> <p>Over the past couple of years, there has been success in increasing physical activity. Results have been tracked each year through parent surveys each fall. Implementing a walking school bus, monthly scheduled school walks and the Making Tracks Program are a few examples of the positive changes that have been achieved. Several community partners are supportive along with the Ecology Action Centre.</p> <p>We at the South Shore Regional School Board feel that the positive changes to promote active and healthy lifestyles would be an excellent resolution for other schools to adopt in their community.</p> <p>Whereas Partnerships are being established between School Boards and other partners to provide students with engaging and healthy lifestyle opportunities</p> <p>Whereas Current research indicates that student achievement is directly linked to student health and well being</p> <p>Be it resolved that the Nova Scotia School Boards Association advocate and encourage the Nova Scotia Departments of Education and Early Childhood Development to involve Community Services, Justice, and Health and Wellness to provide assistance by funding a pilot site in each School Board to increase physical health to staff and students by implementing the walking school bus and/or the Making Tracks Program.</p>
<p><u>Resolution 12</u> Using technology for NSSBA meetings</p>	<p>Whereas, we live in the age of technology;</p> <p>Whereas elected board members are seen as the leaders of educational change;</p> <p>Whereas, a basic working knowledge of technology is indispensable and its use is both cost and time effective;</p> <p>Whereas, committee meetings of the NSSBA could be held using technology;</p> <p>Whereas the money saved would allow the NSSBA to do more things in the area of advocacy and research that would directly impact students learning;</p> <p>Whereas the technology for meetings has been used effectively for over 10 years by many school boards in Canada;</p> <p>Whereas there are significant pressures on school board budgets in this province;</p> <p>Whereas a resolution was adopted at the AGM of the NSSBA in 2009 encouraging the NSSBA to investigate using technology as a means of carrying on a part of the normal business of the organization;</p> <p>Be it resolved that the NSSBA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide an optional in-service session for all elected board members on the use of technology for meetings. - ensure that at least one committee meeting, using available technology, occurs for all NSSBA

	<p>committees beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, unless the committee only holds one meeting per year.</p> <p>- become a leader in the use of technology for its committee meetings.</p>
<p><u>Resolution 13</u></p> <p>Digital Citizenship Policy</p>	<p>WHEREAS technology plays a significant role in students’ lives and education;</p> <p>WHEREAS digital citizenship is “defined as the norms of responsible behaviour related to the appropriate use of technology” (PEEL school board policy);</p> <p>WHEREAS we support student achievement and crucial to this achievement is the ability to use technology responsibly;</p> <p>WHEREAS digital citizenship is an important part of a what students learn in school;</p> <p>Be it resolved that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development develop a Digital Citizenship policy for implementation in school boards across Nova Scotia.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>
<p><u>Resolution 14.1</u></p> <p><u>African Nova Scotian Students</u></p>	<p>WHEREAS the Minister of Education to Reality Check 2009 stated the following:</p> <p>"We have developed a network of supports, and now we have opportunities through committed leadership to make our educational system even richer and more successful"</p> <p>WHEREAS the consultants Dr. Enid Lee and Mr. Clem Marshall encouraged Nova Scotia's educational structure to work more as a team with African Nova Scotian communities and all our partners to gather data, to reflect on what the data is telling us, and to adjust our programs and strategies accordingly, the model the Consultants presented has the potential to help not only African Nova Scotian students but all students in our system, we however cannot lose sight of the fact that African Nova Scotian learners face greater obstacles, which have their roots in racism</p> <p>WHEREAS the NSSBA, HRSB and DOEEC agree that systemic racism undermines the commitments of our society to build an inclusive community, and it is the responsibility of the institutions, such as the public school system, to act and be part of the solution;</p> <p>Whereas we have challenging times ahead, we will strive to work with our partners to make the Reality Check Recommendations a reality;</p> <p>Be it resolved that the NSSBA will strongly encourage and support all school boards to review the IPP of every ANS student and make changes in programming where deemed necessary.</p>
<p><u>Resolution 14.2</u></p> <p><u>African Nova Scotian Students</u></p>	<p>Be it resolved that the NSSBA encourage and support educational partners in collecting quantitative data on the academic performance, and the opportunities to learn, that are provided to ANS students.</p>

<p><u>Resolution 14.3</u> <u>African Nova</u> <u>Scotian Teachers</u></p>	<p>Be it resolved that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development in partnership with NSSBA will encourage Boards and the NSTU to intensify efforts to recruit more ANScotian teachers while negotiating with unions where necessary to align the positions, and salaries.</p>
<p><u>Resolution 15</u> <u>Schools Plus</u></p>	<p>Whereas the NSSBA (2010) delivered a report calling for greater interdepartmental delivery of services to youth and families in Nova Scotia;</p> <p>Whereas an independent, external three year evaluation has demonstrated and acknowledged the SchoolsPlus program as a model that demonstrates positive outcomes for children, youth and families;</p> <p>Whereas SchoolsPlus is experiencing success at the local school and community level due to the extra-ordinary efforts of front-line staff (Facilitators and Community Outreach Workers) in creating cooperative relationships with front-line staff of other agencies;</p> <p>Whereas these cooperative, local working relationships continue to be limited due to systemic barriers due to a lack of change in individual agency policy and protocol;</p> <p>Whereas the government of Nova Scotia has acknowledged the success of the SchoolsPlus model by providing additional support and action for the SchoolsPlus program by expanding the program;</p> <p>Whereas the program does require commitment, action and resources from other agencies to accomplish the objectives;</p> <p>Whereas our experience with SchoolsPlus, so far, is that the model continues to have shortcomings due to the inability to have a genuine and productive collaborative approach to comprehensive service planning for students by some of the partner agencies;</p> <p>Whereas the co-location of the majority agencies in the school setting is still a challenge;</p> <p>Whereas the lack of vertical communication between senior levels of government and the field operations is very limited or still non-existent and appears to be one of the reasons better collaborative relationships are not developing systemically;</p> <p>Whereas the inter-agency model is still suffering from the “silo” effect due to lack of policy implications and protocols;</p> <p>Be it resolved that the NSSBA request that the Province and NSSBA establish a joint ad hoc committee of senior officials, ministers and deputy ministers to review the policy and protocol barriers of inter-agency service delivery and establish measures to effect collaborative approaches by all agencies to improve the effectiveness of the programs to youth and families.</p>