

## Resolutions Adopted at the 2015 AGM

Topic/ Submitted By	Resolution
<b>Education Goals and Programs</b>	
<p><b><u>Resolution 1</u></b> Expansion of Discovering Opportunities in Grade 9</p> <p><i>Submitted by: AVRSB</i></p>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> Nova Scotia students would benefit from increased program options prior to reaching grade 10; and,</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> it is recognized that providing opportunities for increased student engagement at the grade 9 level would positively affect attendance, student success, and better prepare students for high school; and,</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the high school Options and Opportunities (O2) program is a model that has proven successful in challenging academically capable students; and,</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> Discovering Opportunities, a grade 9 program currently offered at three schools in Nova Scotia, has been built on the successful components of Options and Opportunities; and,</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> Discovering Opportunities has proven to provide a valuable option to re-engage students and provide a pathway to success at the schools where it is offered;</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> that the Nova Scotia School Boards Association strongly encourage the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to provide adequate resources to allow for an expansion of Discovering Opportunities at the grade 9 level to all schools in the province.</p>
<p><b><u>Resolution 2</u></b> EECD support for a strong middle level philosophy/ structure</p> <p><i>Submitted by: AVRSB</i></p>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> it is recognized that many schools with grades 6-8 in Nova Scotia operate using a "middle level philosophy"; and,</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the organizational and instructional practices evident in many middle schools across our province have been successful at providing students a strong foundation for which to grow and develop; and,</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> it has been some time since provincial priorities have supported a focus on the needs of students in "the middle years"; and,</p>

	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> students benefit from a provincially coordinated approach to implementing effective educational practices; and,</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> many Nova Scotia schools currently have or are moving towards a middle level configuration by combining grades 6-8 as a school or as a school within a school;</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> that the Nova Scotia School Boards Association strongly encourage the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to increase the focus and provide the necessary resources to support a strong middle level philosophy and structure across our province.</p>
<p><b>Resolution 3</b> Future growth of arts curriculum</p> <p><i>Submitted by: CBVRSB</i></p>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> the "Report of the Advisory Committee on Public School Programs (1989)" established the role in education: "Education in the arts assists us in perceiving, analyzing and interpreting ourselves, our community, our environment and our cultural heritage. It adds a new dimension to the students' abilities to see the world, perceive problems, and take action toward their solution - education in the arts-provides a unique mode of experience that stimulates creative and intuitive thought while developing the intellect. Arts education assists in perceiving and responding to the environment through the senses."; and,</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> participation in the arts engages students in ways not normally used, thus leading to better student attendance, understanding of diversity, promotion of social skills (team players);</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> that the Nova Scotia School Boards Association advocate to the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to commit to providing funding to sustain programming and support the future growth of arts education in Nova Scotia schools.</p>
<p><b>Resolution 4</b> Recruitment of quality male applicants for elementary education, African descent applicants, Mi'kmaq applicants, and Acadian applicants.</p>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> all school boards are or will soon be experiencing similar challenges related to the recruitment of teachers to the profession in general, and specifically of teachers of African descent, Mi'kmaq teachers, Acadian teachers, as well as male teachers for elementary schools; and,</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the number of Mi'kmaq, African descent, Acadian, and male (for elementary) Bachelor of Education students applying for, being accepted into and graduating from Bachelor of Education programs in Nova Scotia is not sufficient; and,</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the African Nova Scotian and Mi'kmaq Education Task Force made recommendations with the aim at increasing the number of persons of African descent and Mi'kmaq to be accepted into Bachelor of Education programs</p>

<p><i>Submitted by:</i> <i>CCRSB</i></p>	<p>offered at Nova Scotia Universities; and,</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has committed to “implement a teacher recruitment campaign to attract new members to the teaching profession, including Acadian, African Nova Scotian and Mi’kmaq teachers” (p. 30, <i>Nova Scotia’s Action Plan for Education 2015, The 3 R’s: Renew, Refocus, Rebuild</i>); and,</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has committed to “develop standards for the accreditation of University Schools of Education in Nova Scotia” and “Accredit University Schools of Education” (p. 33, <i>Nova Scotia’s Action Plan for Education 2015, The 3 R’s: Renew, Refocus, Rebuild</i>);</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> that the NSSBA advocate to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to collaborate with, support the efforts of and require through an accreditation process that University Schools of Education in Nova Scotia have effective recruitment strategies to attract and train sufficient numbers of quality male applicants for elementary education, African descent applicants, Mi’kmaq applicants, and Acadian applicants.</p>
<p><b>Resolution 5</b> Development of strategies to maximize the use of instructional time</p> <p><i>Submitted by:</i> <i>SRSB</i></p>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> inclement weather conditions in Nova Scotia may result in the cancellation of classes and the loss of valuable instructional time for students; and,</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development issues the annual school calendar as outlined in Section 2 (1-6) of the Ministerial Education Act Regulations;</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> that the Nova Scotia School Boards Association petition the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to invite representatives of School Boards, the Nova Scotia School Boards Association, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, and others as deemed necessary, to jointly develop strategies to protect and maximize the use of instructional time to support student achievement and success.</p>

**Education Finance and Capital**

**Resolution 6**  
Alignment of TCA  
Capital Plan with  
Board Long Range  
Plan

*Submitted by:*  
CBVRSB

**WHEREAS** the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development requires Boards to have a long range outlook; and,  
**WHEREAS** the long range outlook prepared by Boards requires capital funding to support these long range outlooks;  
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Nova Scotia School Boards Association advocate to the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development align the capital planning process with the school review process.

**Resolution 7**  
Funding for costs  
associated with  
Nova Scotia's  
Action Plan for  
Education

*Submitted by:*  
CSAP

**WHEREAS** the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development has released Nova Scotia's Action Plan 2015, "*The 3 R's Renew, Refocus, Rebuild*"; and,  
**WHEREAS** many of the recommendations to be implemented, some as early as September 2015, will require additional resources of time, training and/or equipment, to be successfully implemented; and,  
**WHEREAS** many of the recommendations to be implemented will require appropriate professional development for teachers, administrators and support staff; and,  
**WHEREAS** the implementation of most recommendations elaborated in the Minister's plan will require additional funding for school boards;  
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the NSSBA petition the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to ensure that before any of the initiatives contained in the plan, "*The 3 R's Review, Refocus, Rebuild*" be implemented, that the funding be in place to defray any and all cost associated with such implementation.

**Resolution 8**  
Funding for  
building  
maintenance

*Submitted by:*  
CCRSB

**WHEREAS** the increasing amount of deferred maintenance impacts our educational programs and; and,  
**WHEREAS** the time principals and school-based administrators spend dealing with facilities issues can limit attention to student learning initiatives; and,  
**WHEREAS** preliminary models from provincial school boards are indicating deferred maintenance of at least \$270,000,000 excluding P3 schools; and,  
**WHEREAS** an industry guide is to spend 1% to 3% of the current \$150 replacement building cost per square foot annually for major maintenance and infrastructure replacement; and,  
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Nova Scotia School Boards Association request that the Department of Education, in addition to

	operational services funding, provide additional dedicated funding annually of 1% of a building’s replacement cost (\$1.50 per square foot) to begin to address deferred maintenance.
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<b>School Governance and Legislation</b>	
<p><b>Resolution 10</b> Educate publics and enforce adherence of red light violations</p> <p><i>Submitted by:</i> <i>TCSB</i></p>	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> the growing concern of school bus red light violations on our roads continues to be at alarming levels; and,</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the responsibility of transporting our students and employees in the safest manner possible is of a top priority; and,</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> it is the role and responsibility of our policing agencies to ensure the rules and laws on our roads are followed; and,</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> it is every citizens responsibility to want to protect and ensure the safety and well-being of our children;</p> <p><b>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED</b> that the Nova Scotia School Boards Association advocates and encourages the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Child Development, the RCMP and local policing agencies, the Department of Justice, the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, the Department of Municipal Affairs, and all school boards to work together to educate and enforce adherence to the awareness and requirement to recognize and respect the presence of school buses in the safe transportation of our students.</p>