

Home & School Meeting Minutes

Date: March 10, 2026

Parent Representatives: Rachel Waugh (President)
Nichole Doucette (VP)
Maggie O'Brien (Treasurer)
Jessica Gorrill (Secretary)

Contact: somersetconshs@gmail.com

Attendees: Rachel Waugh
Maggie O'Brien
Jessica Gorrill
Lauren Gallant
Angela Griffiths
Sarah Condon

1. **Treasurer Report (Attached)**

- a. Causable
 - i. Balance as of January 31, 2026: **\$6,239.28**
 - ii. February balance not in this month's Treasury report, but \$4,100.00 will be withdrawn from the current balance to use toward playground equipment order
- b. Home & School Account
 - i. Current Balance in Bank Account: **\$24,057.72**
 - ii. Additional funds to be deposited from donations (listed below)

2. **Causable**

- a. Decided earlier this year to look into what other schools charge for sports fees.
- b. Angela has been in discussions with ACC. To proceed with a similar approach as the document presented at last meeting. They will work together to finalize the fees to be used, and paperwork to be distributed at the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year

3. **Playground Update**

- a. Have **\$48,111.75** of our goal (\$33,748.25 + grant)
- b. Current Balance in Bank Account: **\$24,057.72**
 - i. **\$23,948.25** in our account is specifically for the Playground
 - 1. *Somerset Run* \$400
 - 2. *Literacy Night* \$1,216.80
 - 3. *Drive a Honda* \$3,121.45
 - 4. *PCU Donation* \$500

Home & School Meeting Minutes

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|---------|
| 5. | <i>Aerospace</i> | \$500 |
| 6. | <i>Family Fun Day</i> | \$430 |
| 7. | <i>Mill River Raffle</i> | \$4,180 |
| 8. | <i>Somerset Consolidated</i> | \$1,000 |
| 9. | <i>Regis & Joan Duffy</i> | \$5,000 |
| 10. | <i>Evyonne Duffy</i> | \$100 |
| 11. | <i>Mclver Family Farms</i> | \$500 |
| 12. | <i>Home & School Contribution</i> | \$3,000 |
| 13. | <i>Somerset Festival</i> | \$2,000 |
| 14. | <i>Duffy's Construction</i> | \$2,000 |
- ii. **\$9,800** in donations to be deposited (Cheque ready for pickup at school March 10th)
- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---------|
| 1. | <i>Somerset Gardens</i> | \$1,000 |
| 2. | <i>Hilltop Produce</i> | \$1,000 |
| 3. | <i>Kinkora Council</i> | \$500 |
| 4. | <i>Seymour Desroches</i> | \$1,000 |
| 5. | <i>MWM Farm Limited</i> | \$2,000 |
| 6. | <i>Country View Farms</i> | \$200 |
| 7. | <i>Causable</i> | \$4,100 |
- c. **\$14,363.50** Department of Early Years Grant (not in account)
- d. Updated February 2026 Quote (**See attached**)
- i. **\$30,542.85** for equipment + wood chips for around the orb rocker + delivery
1. \$1,924 increase from October 2025
- e. **Equipment ordered March 9th, 2026**
- i. Will invoice for the full amount once the equipment ships
- ii. Percussion play equipment arrives in boxes that are easily moved around
- iii. Swing & Orb Rocker separately; Orb Rocker is 550lbs so will need a machine to unload
- f. William Duffy at Somerset Gardens
- i. Will honor the quote provided last year for installation - **\$14,341.56 (See attached)**
- ii. Rachel reached out to William Duffy on March 9th
1. Equipment can be delivered to their shop to use their machines to unload, just needs a few days notice to ensure someone is available on site
2. Wants clarification for project completion - as soon as equipment arrives vs after the school year ends?
- a. Will install when makes the most sense - school will work around the construction process and Angela to determine where equipment will go ahead of installation

Home & School Meeting Minutes

4. Fundraisers

- a. *Mill River Raffle* – \$4,180 (\$3,955 after \$225 used for top seller prizes)
- b. *Halloween Dance* – \$728.40 (\$693.81 after \$34.49 glow stick purchase)
- c. *Christmas Bazaar* – \$917.80 (\$425.80 after \$492 given for Caps Games)
- d. *Anne's Chocolates* – \$960.00 (\$810.00 after \$150 used for top seller prizes)
- e. *Literacy Night* – Scheduled for May 13th, 5-7 PM
 - i. Further planning to be discussed at April meeting

5. Home & School Federation Updates

a. AGM & Convention – Rodd Charlottetown

- i. Registration available and posted at: <http://peihsf.ca/agm>
- ii. Saturday April 18th – Rodd Charlottetown from 8:40am-2:50pm
- iii. Can send up to five voting members.
 1. *Our voting members will be Rachel, Jessica, and Maggie*
- iv. Home & School will sponsor 3 more attendees, but anyone can register they will just have to pay their own registration.
- v. A parent reached out March 9th interested in the 3 sponsored spots. Once they have confirmed registration, they will be reimbursed their registration cost

b. Resolutions for AGM – present and get votes for voters to bring forward to AGM

- i. Integrating Playground Equipment Into Provincial Capital Budget
- ii. Increased Psycho-Educational Assessment Capacity for School-Aged Children in PEI
- iii. Repeal Section 43 and Prohibit Corporal Punishment of Children
- iv. Urging Compliance with PEI Teacher Librarian Directive by Hiring a Provincial Teacher-Librarian Leader

c. Call for Nominations – PEI Home & School Federation Provincial Board of Directions

- i. Elections will take place at the AGM.
- ii. Seeking nominations for several 2 year terms (April 2026 – April 2028)
 1. Executive:
 - a. President
 - b. Vice President
 2. Regional Directors:
 - a. Charlottetown Rural
 - b. Colonel Gray
 - c. Kinkora
 - d. Montague
 - e. Morell
- iii. The Board meets every two months from September to June, alternating between Charlottetown and Summerside. Members may also join virtually

Home & School Meeting Minutes

when travel is difficult. Mileage costs are reimbursed, and carpooling is encouraged.

- iv. Serving on the Board is a meaningful way to become more involved in Home and School at the provincial level, gain insight into public education, and contribute to positive change in Island schools.
- v. For more information about the Board, its membership, and the nominations process, visit peihsf.ca/board.

6. Bike Rodeo

- a. Kensington Lions Club interested in supporting and helping set up a Bike Rodeo in Kinkora if our school/community is interested in hosting
- b. This is a successful event in Kensington and could have the potential to be in Kinkora as well
- c. Discussed limiting to elementary age children in Kinkora Family of School
 - i. Somerset Consolidated
 - ii. ACC
 - 1. Send home registration forms with students if they want to attend/participate
- d. If any parents/community members are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Home & School
- e. Angela to reach out to Lions Club to determine the level of support they can provide; any volunteers would partner with the Lions Club to run the event

Home & School Meeting Minutes

Somerset Consolidate Home and School – Financial Report – March 10, 2026

Two to sign accounts, held at Provincial Credit Union. Share Savings (mandatory account for membership fee of \$5.00). Business Chequing Account (SELECT ACCOUNT) fee of \$7.00 monthly – currently waived due to balance over \$6,000.00

Signing authorities:

Rachel Waugh – Home and School President

Maggie O’Brien – Home and School Treasurer

February account update:

Funds received from parents to go toward Teacher Appreciation - **\$180.00**

Funds spent on Teacher Appreciation so far - **\$388.24**

Deposit of donations for Playground from Somerset Festival and Duffy’s Construction - **\$4,000.00**

Balance as of February 28, 2026 = \$18,077.72

March account update:

Deposit of cheque for multiple donations towards Playground - **\$6,100.00**

Funds spent on AGM Registration for Rachel, Maggie & Jessica - **\$120**

Balance as of March 10, 2026 = \$24,057.72

COSPEI GOLDRUSH UPDATE

At the end of the school year in June, COSPEI changed their process for disbursing funds to schools. They no longer deposit the funds directly into the Home and School account. Funds now must be requested by Home and School, and funds will be disbursed as needed.

Balance as of September 30, 2025 - \$3,581.85

Balance as of October 31, 2025 - \$5,109.91

Balance as of November 30, 2025 - \$5,226.41

Balance as of December 31, 2025 - \$5,266.00

Balance as of January 31, 2026 - \$6239.28

Balance as of February 28, 2026 - \$TBD

Requests for funds since last meeting:

Playground Improvement \$4,100.00

Total funds granted since beginning of school year \$8,759.25

Home & School Meeting Minutes



Quote: 2026-855

Date: February 11, 2026

Prepared For: Somerset Consolidated Home and School

Project: Somerset Consolidated Home and School

Description:

Outcome	Price
Freedom swing	\$2,594
Orb Rocker	\$14,142
Rainbow Chimes Percussion Play	\$2,541
Congas (pair) Percussion Play	\$1,548
Major Posie Percussion Play	\$3,151
20 yards of woodcarpet	\$2,584
Total (taxes not included):	\$26,559

Home & School Meeting Minutes



Somerset Gardens Inc

New Project

Please confirm your work areas

Play Ground Installation (Equipment Supplied by Customer) work area on hold Price: \$14,341.56

Item

PROJECT LABOR
Crew Truck
Equipment Mobilization
Skid Steer
Mini Excavator (3 Ton)
12" Sonotube
Concrete - 32 MPA
Geotextile Fabric - Type 1
Disposal (Organic)

Home & School Meeting Minutes

RESOLUTION 2026-01 INTEGRATING PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT INTO THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL BUDGET

Submitted by Prince Street Home and School Association

WHEREAS play is essential for children’s development and for their physical, mental, and social health. [Canadian Pediatric Society, July 2024], and

WHEREAS the right to play is recognized in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to be as fundamental as the rights to be cared for and protected from violence. [Canadian Pediatric Society, July 2024], and

WHEREAS the Government of Prince Edward Island states that

*“It is steadfast in its efforts to improve child well-being across the province; **every child deserves the opportunity to grow, thrive, and feel supported in every aspect of their life.** In Prince Edward Island, we are committed to creating a brighter future for our youngest residents **by addressing the key dimensions of their well-being. From nurturing emotional resilience and physical health** to ensuring economic stability, safety, and a sense of belonging, our province is taking meaningful steps to support children and families at every stage of their journey. [Initiatives for Young Children in Prince Edward Island, 2019-2025, Government of Prince Edward Island, February 2025]”, and*

WHEREAS parent committees struggle to fundraise enough money to purchase CSA-certified playground equipment. Due to the high cost of living, the level of charitable giving in Canada is falling. “From 2013 to 2023, almost every province recorded a drop in the share of aggregate income donated to charity, with the largest being the 24.7 percent decline seen in PEI.” Fraser Institute, National Newswatch, Dec. 15, 2025, and

WHEREAS parent committees are volunteers and may not have the legal expertise currently required to purchase playground equipment for schools. “PEI Parents Group Upset After New Playground Equipment Didn’t Meet Standards,” CBC News, Dec. 17, 2025, and

WHEREAS the Government of Prince Edward Island currently offers a Playground Equipment Fund contributing up to 50% (max \$25,000) for equipment at CSLF or PSB schools. A single CSA certified playground structure can currently cost up to \$150,000.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEI Home and School Federation urges the Department of Education and Early Years and the Public Schools Branch to establish playground equipment and accessible outdoor play spaces as standard components within the provincial capital budget for new school builds, expansions, and major renovations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this capital funding commitment cover not only installation, but also the timely replacement of expired or unsafe equipment according to best practices and CSA standards;

Home & School Meeting Minutes

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that consultation with parent advocates, accessibility organizations, and school communities be included in the planning process to ensure equity and inclusion.

RESOLUTION 2026-02 INCREASE PSYCHO-EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT CAPACITY FOR SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Submitted by Stratford Home and School Association

WHEREAS psycho-educational assessments are essential for identifying students' learning, cognitive, emotional, and behavioural needs, enabling schools and families to implement appropriate and timely supports and interventions, and

WHEREAS timely access to psycho-educational assessments is critical to student success, yet students in Prince Edward Island (PEI) frequently experience wait times of one year or longer for school-based assessments due to limited capacity and increasing demand, and

WHEREAS provincial reviews and reports have identified **lengthy wait times for psycho-educational assessments as a systemic concern**, noting that delays can negatively impact student outcomes and place additional strain on educators and classroom resources, and

WHEREAS **delays in accessing assessments create inequities for families**, as those with financial means may pursue private assessments at significant personal cost, while others must remain on extended wait lists for publicly funded services, and

WHEREAS **without timely assessment and identification, students may be unable to access appropriate accommodations**, individualized programming, or interventions, potentially affecting their academic achievement, social-emotional well-being, and long-term educational outcomes, and

WHEREAS **increasing psycho-educational assessment capacity** aligns with inclusive education principles and supports early identification and intervention, which are proven to improve outcomes for students with diverse learning needs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the PEI Home and School Federation requests that the Department of Education and Early Years (DEEY) and the Public Schools Branch (PSB):

1. Invest in additional school psychologists and psycho-educational assessment **positions** within future staffing allocations to significantly reduce wait times for assessments for school-aged children across Prince Edward Island.
2. Establish and communicate **clear provincial timelines and service benchmarks** for the completion of psycho-educational assessments and the sharing of results with families and schools.
3. Provide **annual public reporting** on psycho-educational assessment wait lists, completed assessments, and staffing levels to ensure transparency and accountability.

Home & School Meeting Minutes

4. Explore and expand **alternative service delivery models**, including partnerships and pilot initiatives, to increase assessment capacity and meet the growing demand for services.

Home & School Meeting Minutes

RESOLUTION 2026-03 REPEAL SECTION 43 AND PROHIBIT CORPORAL PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN - Submitted by Colonel Gray Home and School Association

WHEREAS Canada's Criminal Code still allows adults to hit children through section 43, which creates a special defense for parents, teachers, and "persons standing in the place of a parent" who use "reasonable" force by way of correction, making children the only group in Canada singled out in law as people who may be physically punished if an adult can convince a court the force was "reasonable"; and

WHEREAS over time, Canadians have removed legal defenses that once allowed physical punishment of prisoners, sailors, apprentices, wives, and others, strengthened protections for animals, and affirmed that violence is not an acceptable way to resolve conflict, yet have left in place the defense that allows adults to cause pain to children in the name of discipline; and

WHEREAS Canada has signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and promised to protect children from "all forms of physical violence," yet section 43 remains, sending a confusing message to children when they are taught that "violence is never the answer" while the law still says being hit is sometimes acceptable if you are small enough and call the person hitting you "Mom," "Dad," or "teacher"; and

WHEREAS love grounded in dignity and non-violence uses evidence-based guidance and discipline, not fear and pain, and a substantial body of research has accumulated against corporal punishment, with sixty-seven countries around the world having abolished similar legal defenses and moved to fully protect children from physical punishment by 2025; and

WHEREAS Canada, a country that sees itself as a leader on human rights, is now trailing behind many other nations in offering children full legal protection from physical punishment in their homes, schools, and other child-serving settings; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the PEI Home and School Federation urges the Government of Canada to repeal section 43 of the Criminal Code and to remove any legal defense that permits the use of corporal punishment or other forms of physical punishment against children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PEI Home and School Federation calls upon the Government of Prince Edward Island, the Department of Education and Early Years, and the Public Schools Branch to update all relevant provincial legislation, regulations, and policies to

explicitly prohibit corporal punishment and all forms of physical punishment in all child-serving settings, including schools, early learning and child-care programs, and residential or institutional settings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PEI Home and School Federation urges the provincial government and education partners to provide and fund positive, non-violent, evidence-based tools for guidance and discipline, so that parents, caregivers, and educators are supported to use approaches that align with messages of kindness, anti-bullying, and healthy relationships promoted in schools throughout the year.

Home & School Meeting Minutes

RESOLUTION 2026-04: URGING COMPLIANCE WITH PEI TEACHER LIBRARIAN DIRECTIVE (MD 2025-05) BY HIRING A PROVINCIAL TEACHER-LIBRARIAN LEADER

Submitted by: Bloomfield & O’Leary Home and School Associations

WHEREAS young people in Prince Edward Island have increasing information literacy needs particularly in the face of rapidly developing AI, social media, and

WHEREAS the Public Schools Branch and the Department of Education and Early Years value Inquiry-Based Education, and

WHEREAS certified Teacher-Librarians are specialists in teaching information literacy and inquiry-based education, and are at the forefront in developing AI literacy education, and

WHEREAS School Libraries (also known as Learning Commons) are a tried and true means for sharing resources in difficult economic times, with Teacher-Librarian District Leaders ensuring consistency and professional development in the field, and

WHEREAS the Education Authority Staffing and Funding Program Ministerial Directive MD 2025-05 provides guidance of minimum full-time equivalent (FTE) allocations for certified Teacher Librarians based on school enrollment to ensure equitable access to library programs and literacy support, and

WHEREAS these allocations specify 0.25 FTE for schools under 200 students, 0.5 FTE for 200–299 students, 1.0 FTE for 300–799 students, and 1.5 FTE for 800+ students, as a distinct category under instructional non-supervisory personnel, independent of grade configuration, and

WHEREAS very few PEI schools are in compliance with these allocations, and few PEI schools have certified or trained Teacher-Librarians, and

WHEREAS there is currently no Teacher-Librarian Leader in either the Department of Education and Early Years, or the Public Schools Branch, to track progress towards the Ministers’ Directive, to provide professional development for Teacher-Librarians, or to monitor hiring practices so that all students across the Island have

the benefits of a fully certified/trained Teacher-Librarian in their school library, and

WHEREAS consistent implementation supports student learning and well-being, fosters parent

Home & School Meeting Minutes

and community collaboration, and upholds educational equity across Prince Edward Island, and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the PEI Home and School Federation respectfully urges the Department of Education and Early Years and the Public Schools Branch to hire a full-time Teacher-Librarian Leader to strengthen and enhance school library programs across the province, while monitoring progress toward compliance with the Minister's Directive on School Libraries, to coordinate system-wide improvement, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this position also provides leadership in professional learning for lead Teacher-Librarians, supports the hiring of certified and trained Teacher-Librarians in all schools, thereby promoting the development of a shared culture of Learning Commons within Island schools.