



2024 ANNUAL MEETING PACKAGE

Please share it with your members

Dear Delegates:

One of the benefits of belonging to OFHSA is the advocacy work done by the Federation on behalf of the membership. Our strength as an advocate for the needs of children, youth and families lies in our unique ability to present the opinions of our members. Those opinions are reflected in our Policy Document. OFHSA policies are derived from resolutions presented and adopted by association members at the Annual Meeting.

As an incorporated Federation, OFHSA is also bound by its Constitution and Bylaws. The OFHSA Annual Meeting is the only time that proposals may be brought forth to the membership to approve any changes to policy or bylaws. Proposals may include: new policy resolutions, amendments to existing policy statements, the rescission of existing policy statements; or new bylaws, amendments to existing bylaws, and the rescission of existing bylaws.

The attached package is divided into three sections for ease of use:

- A Bylaws**
- B Expiring Action Recommendations – 2021**
- C Policy Resolutions and Action Recommendations**

Before the Annual Meeting: As voting delegates you are representing your Association. Please take time to carefully review the issues with the members of your Association. If you have any questions or concerns about the Bylaws or Policy sections, please contact the appropriate submitting unit. Their contact information is provided in the appropriate section.

Amendments Prior to the Annual Meeting: Submitting units may amend their Bylaw or Policy motions before they come to the floor at the Annual Meeting, but once a motion has been moved and seconded at the Annual Meeting, it can only be amended by a motion of the voting delegates. Only amendments that do not change the intent of the main motion will be allowed.

At the Annual Meeting: During discussions of motions on the floor, the President or Policy Workgroup Leader will recognize speakers “for” and “against” in alternating order. The business procedures for the Annual Meeting outline these and other pertinent points of order. Please refer to them for further clarification.

Emergency Policy Resolutions: These are defined as ones that, because of circumstances and/or content of the resolution, were not available for submission by the deadline date. Emergency Resolutions must be approved by the members of the submitting unit. The submitting unit must notify the Policy Workgroup no less than 48 hours before the portion of the Annual Meeting dealing with policy resolutions and provide copies of the proposed Emergency Resolution.

A

BYLAWS

New bylaws, amendments or rescissions of existing bylaws of the Federation may be proposed for consideration at the Annual Meeting by any member, upon approval by an Association, Home and School Council, the Federation Executive Committee or the Federation Board of Directors, and by the Policy Workgroup of the Ontario Federation.

AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS (*Federation Bylaws, Article XVI, Annual Meeting, 4*)

1. Bylaws of the Federation shall be amended only at the Annual Meeting of the Federation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and entitled to vote, a quorum being present.
2. Amendments to the bylaws of the Federation may be proposed by any member, upon approval by an Association, Home and School Council, Federation Executive Committee, or the Federation Board of Directors, and by the Policy Workgroup of the Ontario Federation.
3. The notice of motion to amend the bylaws shall be received by the federation office no later than February 1st of each year and shall be sent out not later than 45 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

Any motions regarding the bylaws will be moved and seconded by accredited voting delegates at the Annual Meeting.

Each motion is open for discussion and amendment by delegates.

Each motion is usually dealt with separately.

There are no OFHSA Bylaws changes for 2024.

B

EXPIRING ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS

Action Recommendations related to policy resolutions are acted upon by the Federation for a period of three years. At the end of that period, the action recommendations must be resubmitted to the voting delegates at the OFHSA Annual Meeting. If they are again passed by the members, the action recommendations remain in effect for one additional year.

The Expiring Action Recommendations will be moved and seconded at the OFHSA Annual Meeting by the OFHSA Policy Workgroup.

There is usually no discussion of the recommendations as they were previously approved by the members.

Category B is voted on as a total unit.

EXPIRING ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS – 2021

In 2021 There were several Policy Amendments dealing with updating wording. 3 new Policy statements were voted in.

MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ACTION RECOMMENDATION #1:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations, Inc. petition the Minister and Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, the Minister and Ministry of Health, the Associate Minister and Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and the Minister and Ministry of Education, to develop comprehensive school-based mental health guidelines, in consultation with health-care professionals, and public health agencies concerned with Ontario's child and youth mental health system.

ACTION RECOMMENDATION #2:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations, Inc. petition the Minister and Ministry of Education to institute comprehensive mental health supports and programs in all Ontario public schools which will meet the needs of all children and youth.

ACTION RECOMMENDATION #3:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations, Inc. petition the Minister and Ministry of Education to provide Ontario educators with materials assembled and published designed to institute school-based strategies and supports for positive mental health promotion in all District School Boards.

ACTION RECOMMENDATION #4:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations, Inc. petition the Minister and Ministry of Health and the Associate Minister and Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions to expand community programs of mental health promotion through public agencies concerned with child and youth mental health in Ontario.

LATER SCHOOL START TIMES AND HEALTHY SLEEP

ACTION RECOMMENDATION #1:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations, Inc. petition the Minister and Ministry of Education to undertake a full study of the practical implications of Later School Start Times on healthy sleep needs and patterns which provide opportunities for sufficient, quality sleep for adolescents.

ACTION RECOMMENDATION #2:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations, Inc. encourage the Minister and Ministry of Education, education stakeholders, policymakers and appropriate organizations to collaboratively develop standards for sleep needs and patterns and create guidelines that identify and address the potential risks of insufficient sleep, including prevention strategies for sleep related difficulties.

ACTION RECOMMENDATION #3:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations, Inc. encourage District School Boards in Ontario to incorporate later school start times that support standards for sufficient, quality sleep for adolescents.

DAILY MINIMUM OUTDOOR TIME

ACTION RECOMMENDATION #1:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations, Inc. petition the Minister and the Ministry of Education to institute a 60 minute minimum standard for daily outdoor time that allows schools to provide extended recess/breaks, structured play, unstructured free time or instructional time in a way that works with their specific space, schedule and staff.

C

POLICY

New policy resolutions, amendments or rescissions of existing policy statements may be submitted for consideration at the Annual Meeting by Associations, Home and School Councils or Federation Workgroups.

Each policy motion is dealt with separately. The Policy Workgroup Leader will call the submitting unit to the microphone. The submitting unit will then identify themselves, stating their names and associations. They will then move and second each policy statement and each action recommendation individually. The same process applies for any policy amendments or rescissions (action recommendations are usually not required in these cases).

For each motion presented, the mover from the submitting unit may speak for five minutes. The seconder may speak for two minutes. The motion is then open for discussion from the floor, at which time there is 30 minutes maximum to discuss and complete the voting process. If the time expires, so does the motion.

Each motion is open for discussion and amendment by delegates.

Upon ratification by the membership, the policies become the mandate of the Federation. Policy statements are added or amended in the OFHSA Policy Document. Likewise, a rescinded policy statement will be removed from the OFHSA Policy Document. These are not common. Action recommendations will be actively pursued for three years and then resubmitted for action for one additional year.

*****Any questions you have regarding the policy resolutions, amendments or rescissions should be posed to the submitting unit BEFORE coming to the Annual Meeting. The names and contact information for the submitting unit are given in the appropriate sections. Your questions will help the presenters prepare their comments for both the Resolutions Workshop (which includes any Bylaws as well) and the Annual Meeting. It should also ensure that the time given at the Annual Meeting for debating the merits of a policy resolution, amendment or rescission is not spent clearing up questions or misunderstandings.***

There are no new Policy Resolutions for 2024