



PEI

February 2, 2016

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS OF IOWA

It's Your Voice!

This past Monday evening Iowans exercised their freedom and voiced their opinions in the caucuses. What a privilege we have to freely cast our votes! PEI was established in 1981 on the premise of being a membership driven association. For that reason, we survey our members each year before entering into the legislative session and lobbying on your behalf. The results of the 2016 PEI Legislative Survey have been calculated and are now being distributed to every legislator and the governor. Close to 400 members completed the survey. **Thank you!** Legislators want to hear the opinions of our front line teachers. It is their desire to hear from those who are committed to our students and whose profession is being affected by laws enacted.

This year our membership has given a clear message on the issue of Smarter Balanced Assessments. To see the results of the survey in full, click here: bit.ly/1PhOtDg. We are still in the process of compiling comments, but if you are interested, please let us know and we will forward those on to you.

PEI Professional Learning Networks

by Joel Illian

As we all know, collaboration has been a point of significant emphasis in our profession in recent years; and not just in education - group effort is a hot topic everywhere. As an association, we feel it is part of our calling to help our members find other professionals with whom to collaborate. However, collaboration need not be limited to formal "team building exercises." Sometimes collaboration simply means bouncing ideas off a colleague, or discussing a topic entirely unrelated to teaching. Many times our best ideas come to us when we're thinking about something else entirely.

Perhaps you would be interested in connecting with fellow PEI teachers who live in your part of the state. Maybe you are looking for a group of teachers in your own field or who teach the same grade level as you. It could be that you would like to take a young first- or second-year teacher under your wing and mentor them in an informal way. Or perhaps you are an administrator looking to network with fellow PEI admins around the state. In any of these cases, you might consider connecting with colleagues in a Professional Learning Network (PLN).

Read on here: bit.ly/1SYgN3n.

PEI Scholarships For Students and Educators!

PEI is pleased to announce the Association and Foundation scholarship program for 2016 with over \$5000 available! The PEI Foundation was established to create an ongoing network of educational awareness for Iowans, while supporting worthwhile academic endeavors by awarding students and educators scholarships.

To view this year's scholarship offerings, go to:

<http://www.peiowa.org/about/peif-scholarships/>



Pro-PEI Bill Introduced in the Iowa Senate

Senator Brad Zaun has introduced a bill in the Iowa Senate to fight discrimination against Iowa's independent educators. Currently, almost every public school in Iowa gives union members the option of having their dues paid by payroll deduction. This bill, SF2038 will require districts to level the playing field by allowing payroll deduction for educators and other education associations. Obviously, this bill would be a help to PEI members, but also to several other non-profit education groups.

The bill was recently assigned to a subcommittee chaired by Senator Robert Dvorsky (Johnson County) robert.dvorsky@legis.iowa.gov. The other two subcommittee members are Senator Rita Hart (Clinton County) rita.hart@legis.iowa.gov and Brad Zaun (R Polk County) brad.zaun@legis.iowa.gov. There is a chance that this great bill could be killed right here if the subcommittee is not called to meet. We urge you to contact all three members to ask them to meet and support SF2038.

If you believe that all teachers should be treated fairly, email your senator and representative and ask them also to support SF2038. To find your legislators follow this link: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find>.

To read the bill follow this link: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=86&ba=SF2038>.

Guest Opinion

by Jared Jensen, Sigourney-Keota Football Coach



For the good of the game?

Every coach, player, and fan of Iowa high school football, has different opinions on the changing of the playoff format. The qualifications have grown from district champions to the top 4 teams in each district. Now the IHSAA has retreated to 2 teams. What is best? It depends on who you ask.

Growing up a Creston Panther and playing in Class 3A, District 8, Harlan and Denison-Schleswig seemed to dominate the district and we had little chance to make the playoffs since they were great teams. Creston had a playoff caliber team, but in that district, the Panthers were staying home. Periodic redistricting helped and eventually Creston made the playoffs. Read on here: bit.ly/23Ja7dg.