

P001

MILLERSNEUK PRIMARY SCHOOL BOARD

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17th May 2005

Scottish Executive Education Dept
Schools Division
Area 2-B North
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

Dear Sirs

Parental Involvement Bill Consultation

We disagree with the proposals contained within the Scottish Executive's draft bill on Parental Involvement as we feel the present structure of School Boards within East Dunbartonshire Council provides a model which works well. We are against the Scottish Executive proposals for the following reasons:

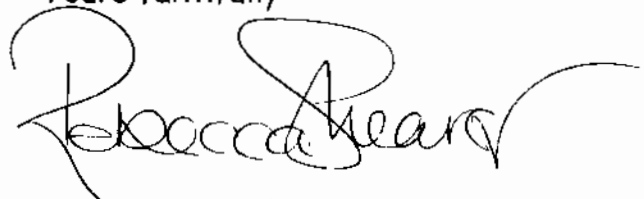
- not convinced that changes would promote greater parental involvement;
- no clerk, no minutes or agenda - could result in confusion. Present system regulates conduct at meetings;
- would reduce the effectiveness of what has proved to be successful;
- no election system - self-selecting system not healthy;
- two-thirds of Scottish schools already have School Boards - do not understand the need for change;
- East Dunbartonshire's School Board forum working very well - a model that other authorities could adopt;
- make communication less clear e.g. who does the authority communicate with - one person or 20 people?
- no clear guidance or parameters - a group(s) of parents could lobby others or attempt to drive an agenda. Sub groups or cliques could emerge, allowing promotion of self interest - safeguards in present system;
- no involvement of school boards in Senior appointments;

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- proposals confuse parental representation and parental involvement. Parents in many schools very much involved in the life of the school;
- a change to the new system could mean a total of one person involved with no staff representation or community members;
- no requirement for Head Teacher's attendance at meetings;
- no regulated period of time for membership.

Millersneuk Primary School Parents' Association are in full agreement with our views. Enclosed please find a petition from the families of Millersneuk Primary who are also against these proposals.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Rebecca Shearer
CHAIRPERSON

Enc.

cc Scottish School Board Association
John Simmons, Head of Education Services, East Dunbartonshire Council