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From: Mailer-Daemon@scotland.gov.uk [mailto:Mailer-Daemon@scotland.gov.uk]

Sent: 23 March 2005 13:19

To: Parental Involvement Bill

Subject: 027

Response from the Parentzone - Parental Involvement questionnaire

Name: Michelle Campbell

Responding as: An individual

Individual: Yes

Confidentiality: Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

Behalf of groups: Yes

Sharing responses / future engagement: Yes

Question 1: Yes as they are best placed to give feedback on the needs of their children

Question 2: Yes, as this will clearly lay out the roles and responsibilities for parents

Question 3: I think they should be a separate document and should be readily accessible to parents in hard copy format and on-line from the Schools

Question 4: Yes, as the School Board structure is too rigid and formed from too tight a group of parents

Question 5: Yes, as this will provide a more flexible approach to representation by different individuals

Question 6: Yes, as currently I am involved in the PTA but this is just a fundraising committee in essence but we have had good support from the teaching side and I would expect the same response to parent forums in our School

Question 7: As long as the parents agree that this would be the best option suited to their needs - although different schools may operate slightly differently

Question 8: Yes, as this would give the general basis for starting out the forum. However, then it should be left to the individuals involved as to how the different parents forums will evolve.

Question 9: Yes, as different forums will wish to put in different rules depending on the context and the way in which they should operate

Question 10: By its very nature it should be composed of parents with appropriate support and communication channels to the teaching side and education authority as appropriate

Question 11: Unsure of the definition

Question 12: Yes - I do not see the need to have parent forum members checked unless they are actually engaging with children. Anybody can be a member of the PTA without having a disclosure - it may be bureaucracy gone mad if we expect everybody who wants to get involved to be subject to this check even when they have nothing to hide

Question 13: Other individuals should be allowed and expected to attend by invitation as their input may be required on numerous occasions depending on their level of expertise

Question 14: Yes - functions are appropriate and it should be up to the individual forum which matters they involve themselves with depending on the local context as long as this can be demonstrated. However, it should not be so loose a format for the forum that it ceases to be effective for what it was established to do.

Question 15: Yes - I think it should be an open-ended provision apart from issues of national concern as and when appropriate

Question 16: Parent forums should have appropriate means of feeding into the system but the issue of liability should still rest with the education authority

Question 17: Yes they are appropriate

Question 18: Yes - financial support as with other forms of support should be demonstrated

Question 19: Yes, definitely - I sometimes think you do not get enough information from the School on your child's education apart from at parents evenings and this option should be available to parents as and when requested and formalised in this way

Question 20: No - I think there should be a formalised process and for the sake of continuity this should not be altered with too much

Question 21: Teachers and the education authority are best placed to advise who has the appropriate expertise to fill senior appointments in schools. Parents should stick to what they are good at i.e. informing the school of specific needs of their children

Question 22: Yes, to ensure transparency and accountability but this should be consulted upon so that it is not too rigid.

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