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

Sent: 22 April 2005 23:42

To: Parental Involvement Bill

Subject: 073

Response from the Parentzone - Parental Involvement questionnaire

Name: Christine Alexander

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Responding as: An individual

Individual: Yes

Confidentialiy: Yes, make my response, name and address all available

Behalf of groups: Yes

Sharing responses / future engagement: Yes

Question 1: Yes. I do feel that parental involvement is important but it is very difficult to get parents involved whatever the structure. I feel that have two forums, a school board to deal with more 'serious' agendas and a Parents Association to deal with the 'fun stuff' seems to work well at our school. It is important the school board retains its current powers so that Parents can have a real say in the running of the school which stems from a formal forum.

Question 2: Yes. So long as it is well considered and everyone's views are taken into consideration. I welcome this chance to hear what is being proposed and feed back.

Question 3: Yes. Would seem ok but I wouldn't know enough to really comment. Should be reviewed yearly to ensure strategies are being met.

Question 4: No. Disagree with some of the changes:

Should be mandatory to have staff representation; Members should be required to stand down; Conflict of interest should be declared; Minutes should be taken and distributed; Paid Clerk should be kept (This is important as it is difficult to get volunteers to take on this important and time consuming role.);Part of forum's duty should be to help raise standards of education in the school.

Question 5: No. Needs to be a structure set up as a starting point which can evolve and change as the school sees fit. There must be some formality or the forum would not be taken seriously.

Question 6: School Boards or an equivalent should be a requirement in all schools.

Question 7: What would happen if there is a disagreement within the cluster of schools as to whether a composite forum is set up. I feel every school should have a forum but the forums can get together on various issues or to pull resources.

Question 8: A combined School Board and Parents Association would not be feasible in our school as they both perform vastly different roles. I would suggest the status quo with annual reviews to determine if change is required to improve what is already available to the school and to make sure identified changes are taking place.

There seems to be an assumption that all parents want to get involved when, in fact, it is extremely difficult to encourage involvement and I feel that there are plenty of opportunities to get involved at all levels but this is not taken up as parents are, on the whole, happy with the status quo. a parent forum for all the parents in the school is 'cloud cuckoo land' as far as my experience is concerned.

Parents who are active in current system have schools best interest at heart but may be voted down by the larger number of parents who are not interested and therefore can't see the need for any kind of Forum.

Question 9: A local approach would seem to be best with guidance from other groups. An alternative would be the status quo as it seems to be working well in our school.

Question 10: Yes

Question 11: This is currently under review and we are awaiting the council to finalise the policy on disclosure checks.

Any current or proposed new forum would be required to follow recommendations. Any adult who directly supervises children or who, for any reason may find themselves alone with a child should be disclosure checked.

Question 12: Yes (See above)

Question 13: I believe the Head Teacher should be REQUIRED to attend and anyone else should be allowed to attend if they wish although not to disturb official business.

Question 14: Yes, all appropriate.

Obligatory:

raise quality and standards;

Promote contact

Question 15: Yes.

Any area of interest should be covered.

Question 16: Sounds like a compromise on current setup.

Question 17: Yes

Question 18: Yes. So why is the paid clerk position being lost?

Question 19: Yes but surely this information is available currently?

Question 20: Yes as long as new forum still allows the same involvement.

Question 21:

Question 22: Yes

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