



**2c. ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS:**

Your name and address as respondees **will be** made available to the public (in the SE library and/or on SE website). Are you content for your response to be made available also?

Yes

No

**3. SHARING RESPONSES/FUTURE ENGAGEMENT**

We will share your response internally with other SE policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the SE to contact you again in the future in relation to this consultation response?

Yes

No

NOTE - WE SENT THE SSBA SUMMARY OUT TO ALL PARENTS AT THE SCHOOL. I AM THE CURRENT CHAIR OF THE BOARD AND AM RESPONDING AS AN INDIVIDUAL, BUT ONE WHO HAS ASKED THE ENTIRE PARENT BODY AT FLORA STEVENSON PRIMARY SCHOOL. WE DO NOT SUPPORT THE ABOLITION OF BOARDS, BUT WE DO SUPPORT THE INVOLVEMENT OF MORE PARENTS, WITH PARENT FORUMS BEING SET UP WITHIN THE CURRENT STRUCTURE OF SCHOOL BOARDS. WE DID NOT RECEIVE ONE REPLY IN SUPPORT OF ABOLITION OF THE BOARD.  
FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME IF YOU WANT ANY MORE INFORMATION.

23/5/05

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**ADDITIONAL SSBA QUESTIONS:**

- 1. Do you believe there is any need for repeal of the School Boards (Scotland) Act 1988, or do you think that parental representation could be modernised by merely 'tweaking' the Act?

NO.

- 2. Do you believe that the Draft Bill will achieve the stated aims of involving more parents in their children's learning?

NO.

Are you responding as

A School Board?

YES

A PTA/PA?

YES

Jointly on behalf of School Board and PTA/PA?

YES

After consultation with parents?

YES - WE SENT THE QUESTIONS OUT TO ALL PARENTS AND DIDN'T RECEIVE ONE REPLY IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL (THAT'S 7250 PARENTS)

Name of School (voluntary)

FLORA STEVENSONS PRIMARY SCHOOL

**MAKING THE DIFFERENCE – INVOLVING PARENTS BETTER IN SCHOOLS  
CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Question 1: Do you agree with the placing of a new duty on education authorities to promote parental involvement?**

WE ARE CURRENTLY INVOLVING MORE PARENTS WITHIN THE EXISTING BOARD FRAMEWORK. WHERE WE HAVE FORMED SUB-GROUPS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES eg BULLYING. WE WILL SET UP MORE AND THUS INVOLVE PARENTS AS WELL AS KEEPING THE BOARD. OF COURSE WE WANT MORE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT, IN A STRUCTURED FASHION.

**Question 2: Do you agree that education authorities should be required to prepare new Strategies for Parental Involvement (SPIs)?**

YES - IN CONJUNCTION WITH EXISTING SCHOOL BOARDS.

**Question 3: Do you agree that incorporating these Strategies in existing Annual Statements of Education Improvement Objectives and School Development Plans (as set out in the 2000 Act) is the right way for education authorities to set out their intentions? Or should this be done in some other way?**

SOME OTHER WAY

**Question 4: Do you agree that the current system of parental representation i.e. School Boards should be replaced by a more flexible system of parent forum, as decided locally by the parents, in a way which best suits them and their school best?**

SCHOOL BOARDS SHOULD BE FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE ANY LOCAL PREFERENCES ALREADY. AND WHERE THERE IS APATHY OR CONFLICT, AN APPOINTED SCHOOL BOARD CAN SORT IT OUT.

**Question 5: The Bill does not prescribe the means of appointment to the new forums (elections to Boards are mandatory) but provides for parents to decide this locally. Do you agree?**

NO. AGAIN IT SHOULD GO ALONGSIDE EXISTING STRUCTURES.

**Question 6: Do you agree that education authorities should have a new duty to promote the establishment of a parent forum in each school and to support their operation?**

FOR EXAMPLE - A SCHOOL BOARD! WHICH EXISTS ALREADY.

**Question 7: Should the Bill provide for 'composite' parent forums where this is the preferred option of parents in each school in a combined school or cluster of schools?**

YES - IF THAT'S WHAT THEY WANT. A COMPOSITE BOARD GROUPING WOULD BE BETTER

**Question 8: Do you agree with the proposal for the involvement of education authorities to get the initial parent forum off the ground? If not, what alternative would you suggest?**

WHY DON'T THEY ISSUE GUIDELINES TO EXISTING BOARDS AND SUGGEST THE SETTING UP OF GROUPS BASED ON SEPARATE AND COMMON ISSUES.

**Question 9: The draft Bill leaves the forum's 'constitution' to be determined locally, either by the parents or initially under the education authority scheme. Do you agree with this approach? If not, what alternative would you suggest and why?**

PARENTS ARE CONFUSED ENOUGH ALREADY, AND THE IDEA OF HAVING TO SET UP A CONSTITUTION WOULD PUT A LOT OF PEOPLE OFF. USE THE EXISTING BOARDS TO BUILD MORE FLEXIBILITY.

**Question 10: Do you agree that membership of a parent forum should be confined to parents (the broad definition) of children attending the school or individuals co-opted by the parent forum? Should parents always be in the majority?**

IF THEY ARE TO EXIST, YES.

**Question 11: Do you have a view as to how the needs of looked-after children should be addressed and catered for in the Bill?**

NO.

**Question 12: Do you agree that the Bill should not result in parent forum members being subject to automatic disclosure checks but that members, like any other parent, should only be checked when engaging in activities defined under the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003?**

YES.

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**Question 13: On balance, do you agree that 'rights of attendance' for certain non-members of a parent forum should not be a part of the new arrangements? In other words do you agree that non-members of the parent forum should attend only by invitation or do you believe the headteacher should have the right to attend, with the councillor or other individual by invitation?**

ANYONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ATTEND, BUT NOT VOTE ON ANYTHING.

**Question 14: Do you consider these functions appropriate to parent forums? Would you suggest removing or adding any, or making some obligatory and others optional?**

? NO COMMENT.

**Question 15: The Bill has been drafted to allow the parent forum to find out and report the views of parents in the school on any matters which are of interest or concern to them. Do you agree with this open-ended provision or would you suggest defining the areas of interest more restrictively?**

OUR CURRENT SCHOOL BOARD DOES THIS WITHIN CERTAIN PRIVACY PROVISIONS. AN OPEN MINDED APPROACH COMBINED WITH A SUGGESTED TOPIC LIST MAY BE HELPFUL.

**Question 16: Do you agree that the Bill should designate parent forums as 'agents' of the education authority for the purpose of their dealings with third parties, and that the issue of insurance should be looked into further? Or do you take an alternative view?**

YES. AS WITH EXISTING SCHOOL BOARDS AND PTA.

**Question 17: Are these the appropriate obligations to place on education authorities in relation to their working with parent forums?**

YES - THEY SHOULD ALSO BE OBLIGED TO DO THIS WITH EXISTING BOARDS AND PTA'S.

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**Question 18: Do you agree with the provisions requiring education authorities to provide financial support or support in kind to parent forums or would you suggest alternative arrangements?**

YES - WITHIN REASON.

**Question 19: Do you agree with the proposed duty on education authorities to provide advice and information to individual parents on request, on matters relating to the education of their children?**

YES.

**Question 20: Do you agree that education authorities should be enabled to replace the current system of appointing headteachers and deputy headteachers with more modern, flexible processes and procedures?**

YES - THIS SHOULD BE UPDATED - WITH THE SCHOOL BOARD AND PERHAPS THE FORMATION OF AN AD-HOC APPOINTMENTS SUB-GROUP OF INTERESTED PARENTS.

**Question 21: If you do not agree that the principle of parental involvement should be retained by the involvement of parent forums in the new senior appointments processes, please give your reasons.**

n/a

**Question 22: Do you agree with the proposal to require education authorities to establish complaints procedures in relation to the way they exercise their functions under the Bill?**

ISN'T THIS ALREADY IN PLACE ?

**Please remember to complete the SSBA's 2 additional questions on page 3**

**Please return your response by 31 May 2005 to –**

Scottish School Board Association

Newall Terrace

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