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

Sent: 02 June 2005 15:07

To: Parental Involvement Bill

Subject: 442

Response from the Parentzone - Parental Involvement questionnaire

Name: Kate Broughton

Responding as: An individual

Individual: Yes

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

Behalf of groups:

Sharing responses / future engagement: Yes

Question 1: Yes

Question 2: yes

Question 3: Yes

Question 4: No. I do not think the parent body is likely to be able to define a Forum which will meet the needs of the school. I think parents have too many personal agendas to mould into a forum, and I am not convinced that strong, unbiased leadership will emerge from the parent body to oversee the establishment of the forum.

Question 5: No. I think decisions will continue to be made by the minority of active parents. It would be better for the appointment process to be established in the Bill.

Question 6: Yes

Question 7: No. I think the effect would be to dilute the community spirit which is vital to a successful school.

Question 8: I think the idea of giving "parents absolute freedom to decide on arrangements" does not take into account the busy schedules of parents. The vast majority do not have time to deliberate over the composition of a forum and would not be interested. I think a single forum type should be implemented by the Bill to take away such a big responsibility from parents.

Question 9: No. I think the Forums SHOULD be prescriptive, in marked contrast to the intention of the Bill. Again, I do not think enough parents will be inspired to get involved in setting up a forum; it will not involve the whole school community; will be seen as the offspring of a small minority; is likely to be viewed as elitist because of this; and could prove very divisive.

Question 10: Yes. Yes.

Question 11: No

Question 12: Yes

Question 13: I have no view on this. It seems likely that different meetings will attract and require different audiences.

Question 14: Yes

Question 15: I agree

Question 16: I think the issue of insurance is very important. Already community groups struggle to insure events and without the type of cover provided by the SPTC many school events would prove impossible.

Question 17: Yes

Question 18: Yes

Question 19: Yes

Question 20: I would prefer a statutory process for the appointment of headteachers. I do not think it necessary to have different processes in different parts of Scotland.

Question 21:

Question 22: Yes

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