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

Sent: 06 June 2005 10:56

To: Parental Involvement Bill

Subject: 642

Response from the Parentzone - Parental Involvement questionnaire

Name: Maureen Denham

Responding as: An individual

Individual: Yes

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

Behalf of groups:

Sharing responses / future engagement: Yes

Question 1: Yes, but they are already supposed to do this.

Question 2: they should have policies to promote parental involvement and should monitor and improve the effectiveness of such policies

Question 3: strategies should be incorporated in the existing statements, and indications of how well authorities are implementing them, but the strategies and performance indicators should also be sent to all parents on an annual basis

Question 4: NO!!! Absolutely not. School board members are elected by us as parents of our school and are responsible to us. They have legal powers and everyone knows what is the School board's responsibility and what is the Authority's. School boards have more clout because they represent a larger number of parents, and cannot be fobbed off as individuals may be.

Question 5: No. There must be accountability to the parent body as a whole, school boards currently are. There is in the draft Bill, the opportunity for a pressure group to take over a parent forum, or a group hand-picked by the headteacher which is equally unrepresentative. Also, there should be a consistent approach across Scotland.

Question 6: NO - School boards should be kept. By the way I am not now, never have been, and am very unlikely ever to become a school board member. Parent forums are not a good way forward, they are open to abuse by a small, determined group of parents, who will not be accountable to the parent group as a whole.

Question 7: No - each school has different needs and expectations, clusters tend to be taken over and run by the high school partner. The current routes of communication should however be improved and strengthened.

Question 8: Yes, if we are forced to have parent forums, if only to ensure a balance of parent views and opinion, and to keep the Headteacher from selecting acceptable parents. I would rather keep school boards because they are elected.

Question 9: No - it is too open to abuse. The forums should be the same across the whole of Scotland so that parents know what their rights are re the forums.

Question 10: Forums need the information provided by the Headteacher and a member of the authority in order to fully consider proposals. Parents should not necessarily be the majority.

Question 11:

Question 12: yes, it may put people off becoming members, but should be checked if they are involved in any school activities.

Question 13: I think they should be open meetings as the current School Board meetings are.
Question 14: School boards should stay and should continue to have the right to be involved in the appointment of senior staff, etc The Bill seems to take away the rights parents currently have to have a representative on selection panels
Question 15: I agree with this as a general point, but where matters of individual teaching personnel, support staff or children should not be discussed.
Question 16: no - the authority should keep such functions, therefore insurance should not be necessary
Question 17: how would the authority deal with complaints about the membership or operation of the forum?
would they have the right to ignore or disband a recalcitrant or badly run group?
Question 18: yes, if we are forced to have parent forums
Question 19: they are supposed to do that already!

School borads can provide backing for parents when necessary, so that it is not always down to the individual parent to take on an educational authority

Question 20: yes, but they can do that without removing school boards

Question 21:

Question 22: yes

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