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From: Mailer-Daemon@scotland.gov.uk
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To: Parental Involvement Bill
Subject: 841

Response from the Parentzone - Parental Involvement questionnaire

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Individual: Yes

Confidentialiy: Yes, make my response, name and address all available Behalf of groups: Yes Sharing responses / future engagement: Yes Question 1: Just like mother's apple pie, parental involvement is clearly a 'good thing' - nobody can be against it. It would be fine to promote it, but not at the cost of destroying the current School Board system. Question 2: This seems to follow self-evidently from the inevitable response to Q1. Question 3: Yes Question 4: Absolutely not.

We have no idea where this proposal to destroy a system that works for one which gives parents fewer powers and responsibilities has come from. Certainly we have discovered no sign whatsoever that parents here are seeking change.

As a School Board we have sent out three separate mailings to all parents on the proposed bill and advertised the proposals in Newsletters, PTA meetings and Board minutes. Despite all the publicity when we sent a questionnaire to all parents fewer than one fifth responded. So there is no great animus for change.

Our first question was "Are you generally happy with the way School Board work or do you recognise a need for a change to the way parents are involved in monitoring and running the school?" All repondents said yes; none ticked "No, Boards should be abolished and replaced."

We then asked: "Suppose Boards were retained, could they be improved?" Most (60%) responded "no". Those who saw room for improvement wanted more parent involvement indeed (more parents on boards; parents consulted and reported more by boards) and more powers for the boards .

Our third, and final, question was "Suppose boards were abolished and replaced by parent forums, are you happy with the way the forums would work or would you like to see changes to the proposals?" ALL those who responded said : "No, I don't like the proposals".
When asked to explain why they didn't like them ALL respondents cited that they were unhappy with the powers proposed for the Forums and all but one complained that they didn't like the way the Forums would be constituted.

This whole exercise is at best a terrible waste of time and resources, time and money that could be far, far better be devoted to adding to classroom resources, for example. At worst, this is a cynical attempt to take power from parents by attempting to disguise it has as progress. Peter Peacock should be ashamed of himself. He should resign. Question 5: No Question 6: No because Boards should be retained. Question 7: No Question 8: No because Boards should be retained. Question 9: No because Boards should be retained. Question 10: No. Our questionnaire revealed that parents valued co-opted members and teacher member of Boards.

Yes, parents in majority.
Question 11: Usual procedures should apply.

Question 12: Yes

Question 13: No. Current arrangements are good.

Question 14: As a School Board I think we perform the functions envisaged already but I see no harm in encouraging greater consultation with and reporting to parents. Powers of Boards should be retained, of course.

Question 15: Yes Question 16: Yes Question 17: Too limited. Question 18: Yes Question 19:

Naturally Question 20: Like so many questions, this has strong rhetorical flavour. How could you say no to this? Question 21: Agree Question 22: Of course.

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