

## **PART II**

# **MECHANISMS OF PARENT PARTICIPATION**

**AT THE SCHOOL  
LEVEL**

➤ **Parent Participation  
Organization (PPO)**

**AT THE SCHOOL  
BOARD LEVEL**

➤ **Parents' Committee (PC)  
- Parent Commissioners**

➤ **Special Needs Advisory  
Committee (SNAC)**

## **Parent Participation Organization**

The purpose of the PPO, designed exclusively as a forum for parents, is to promote parent participation in school life.

### **Goals**

- ❖ Promote parent participation in the academic success of students.
- ❖ Encourage parents to collaborate in developing, implementing and evaluating the school's educational project (art. 96.2).
- ❖ Advise the parents' representatives on the Governing Board and the Parents' Committee (art. 96.3).

The General Assembly of parents decides whether or not to form a PPO (art. 96).

General Assembly determines:

- Name of the PPO
- Composition
- Operating rules
- Elects the members

## **Possible Projects**

- ❖ Provide parents with any available information.
- ❖ Start a parent volunteer bank.
- ❖ Fund raise for the governing board.
- ❖ Poll parents on the kind of fund raising they would like.
- ❖ Help organize extracurricular activities, celebrations and other events.
- ❖ Develop projects for improving the school.
- ❖ Create a telephone chain.
- ❖ Decorate the school.
- ❖ School photos.
- ❖ A parent get-together.

# Parents' Committee

## Composition

- One representative and one substitute from each school (art. 47).
- One representative from the Special Needs Advisory Committee (SNAC) (art.189).

## Operation

- Elects the Chair before October (art. 190).
- Establishes its rules of internal procedure and provides for at least 3 meetings every school year (art. 195.1).
- Adopts its annual budget, sees to its administration and gives an account to the school board (art. 197).
- Designates representatives to sit on School Board Committees.

## Functions

- 1) Promote parent participation in activities of the school board.
- 2) Give advice on any matter conducive to the most efficient operation of the school board.
- 3) Inform the school board of parents' needs.
- 4) Give its opinion to the school board on any matter the SB is required to submit to it (art. 192).

**Consultation Items** (see art.193 for complete list)

1. The SB's strategic plan and any updates.
2. The three-year plan and the deeds of establishment.
3. Policy on school closures.
4. The criteria for the enrolment of students in schools.
5. The dedication of a school to a special project and the criteria for the enrolment students in that school. (art. 240).
6. The school calendar.
7. The school board budget \*(see Bill 88).
8. Learning activities established by the SB and intended for parents.

**Bill 88** – Section 275 of the EA has been replaced. School Boards must consult both the governing boards and the parents' committee before establishing objectives and principles governing revenue distribution.

*This revenue distribution must take into account Management and Educational Success Agreements agreed to in each school.*

*Revenue distribution must provide for the amounts required for the needs of a school board's committees (e.g. Parents' Committee, Special Needs Advisory Committee)*

**Bill 88** - School Boards must consult the Parents' Committee before establishing a procedure for examining complaints (art. 220.2). The minister may determine the standards for a school board's complaints examination procedure (457.3).

*School Boards must consult the Parents' Committee before appointing a student ombudsman*

## **Parent Commissioners**

Elected by the Parents' Committee before the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in November.

- One parent commissioner - Elementary
- One parent commissioner - Secondary

Take office on the first Sunday in November following their election.

Must sign an oath swearing to fulfill their duties faithfully and to the best of their judgment and ability.

Term of office - one year (See Bill 88 below).

Parent commissioners attend the following meetings:

- Governing Board;
- Parents' Committee;
- Council of Commissioners;
- Executive Committee;
- Other Board Committees.

**Bill 88** - Section 143 of the Education Act is replaced. Included in the changes is the election of 3 commissioners representing the parents' committee. If the number of commissioners elected is greater than 10, 4 parent commissioners are elected - at least 1 from the elementary level, 1 from the secondary level and 1 from SNAC.

The term of office will be **two** years.

## Special Needs Advisory Committee

### Composition

♦ Parents of special needs students appointed by the Parents' Committee	
Representatives from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the teaching staff;</li><li>• non-teaching professional staff;</li><li>• support staff.</li></ul>	♦ Representatives of organizations that provide services to students with special needs.
♦ A principal.	♦ The director general or his representative (no vote).

The Council of Commissioners determines the number of representatives from each group.

### Functions

- Advise the school board on its Special Needs Policy.
- Advise the school board on the allocation of financial resources to the services intended for special needs students.
- May also advise the school board on the implementation of an individualized education plan (IEP) for a special needs student (Art. 187).

***Bill 88*** provides for one parent representative from SNAC to be appointed or elected to a two-year term as parent commissioner.

## **CONCLUSION**

- The PPO can make a huge difference at the school level.
- The Parents' Committee has a vital role to play at the school board.
- Parent commissioners play an important role at the Council of Commissioners.
- The Special Needs Advisory Committee provides an opportunity for parents of special needs children to advise the board and express the needs of the parents concerned.

**PARENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

