

九龍城區家長教師會聯會

Federation of Parent-Teacher Association, Kowloon City District

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Our response to the Education (Amendment) Ordinance (2002)

On the mission and aims of the school

The mission and the aims of the school as specified in its constitution must fall within the general framework of education in Honk Kong as set out by the Department of Education. This must apply to all schools that are directly or indirectly funded by the HKSAR.

On the composition of the School Management Committee

The composition must reflect a balanced view from all parties that are directly or indirectly connected to the school.

- The Committee must compose of qualified personnel and professionals to meet the demands that are arisen from managing the school.
- It must provide channels to professional consultation.
- Ways have to be set to ensure that the composition remains balanced, fair and open.

On the eligibility of the school manager

As the school managers are there for the purpose of policy making, execution and monitoring. The eligibility issue has to be more specially addressed.

- The number of managers is of less importance than their representation. For those who are representatives of the staff, parents, alumni or other interested groups, we believe that they have to be fairly and openly elected. These done, would ensure that their views are indeed the views of the group that they represent. Mechanism has to be set in place so that they cannot intentionally or unintentionally violate their roles or mis-represent the interest of their groups.
- Provisions must be set to ensure that the candidates and the on-going managers are aware of the role they are expected to play in the Committee. Rules and regulations must be disseminated to the individuals concerned in the form of courses or seminars where the participants must attend. We believe that legal issues, role and responsibility, conflicts of interests, ethics, education issues, institutional and school structures can only be learned by formal coaching. Moreover, the individual must achieve a certain standard in the aforesaid courses

in order to be qualified to serve as school manager. Furthermore, the manager, once elected is, from time to time, to attend courses in order to refresh and update their knowledge. Some kind of licensing practice or professional recognition for this seems appropriate. For practical difficulties, grace periods might need to be allowed.

On the responsibility and deregistering of the school manager

It is of utmost importance that the school manager carries out their duties as reflected or instructed by the groups they represent. This is to make sure that the Committee has a true and balanced view from the designed composition.

- Division of labour must be clearly defined internally within the Committee. The school manager besides looking at all the aspects of running the school is assigned a specific area to which he is to concentrate on.
- As a regular practice or upon the request of his represented group or, the school manager has to provide a written report detailing the task that they are have been performing.
- Mechanism must be set up so to ensure that the manager does and is continuously doing the task that he is elected to do.
- Regular channel must be set to gather the views of the groups. This information, while made available to the school manager, must be made confidential so as not to discourage negative comments. The statistics of views can be made open as it serves as a feedback to the parties concerned.
- In the case where the school manager is proved to be grossly misconduct and failed to carry out his task, mechanism must be set in place so the school manager has a chance to improve. Failing that, the manager must be removed any may be replaced.

On the dissolving of the School Management Committee

When the Committee fails to carry out its mission as specified in its constitution or grossly violates its role or commits illegal activities, the Committee must be dissolved and replaced.

- Ways to monitor the effectiveness of the Committee must be set up clearly and made known prior to all parties concerned.
- Criteria for judging its proper functioning must be set up.

- The Director of Education can exercise his right to dissolve the Committee when he sees fit but he must also be answerable to the general public and the Chief Executive Officer of the HKSAR.