

10th March, 2003

Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central, Hong Kong

Hon Cyd Ho,

Our Institute is dedicated to educate the youth to become honest and conscientious citizens. Our schools are not very prestigious but we offer quality education to all walks of life especially those working class. The proposed Education (Amendment) Bill, 2002 makes me quite worried. We would like to bring forward points:

1. Functions of the supervisor transferred to the principal and IMC.
 - (a) Incorporated management committee (IMC) to manage school – 40AC
 - (b) The substitution of “management authority” for “supervisor” wherever it appears in:
 - (i) Education Ordinance
18(1), (2) and (3), 18A(1) and (2), 20(1), 21(2) and (3), 49(1)(a), 50(1)(a), 60(1), (d) and (e), 82(2)(a), 84(1)(u),(v) and 91(1)(c) and (d)
 - (ii) Education Regulations
15(1), (2)(a) and (b) and (3), 44, 48(2), 53(1), 56(6), 60, 60A(1)(ii), 61(1), 62(2), 63, 64, 77, 78, 91(2), 94, 98(2) and 99A(2)
 - (iii) Grant Schools Provident Fund Rules
8(2), (2A) and (3), 9(3) and 9A(3)
 - (iv) Subsidized Schools Provident Fund Rules
8(2), (2A), (3), (4) and (5), 9(3) and 9A(3)
 - (c) “responsible person” of a school is the “principal”
Education Regulations 2
 - (d) The substitution of “responsible person” for “supervisor”
2(b), 3, 20, 21(1) and (2), 23, 52(2), 57(1), (2) and (3), 79 81, (82), 89(2) and 92(8), (10) and (12), 96(1) and (2).

Comments:

- If the principals are not yet ready, in terms of ability and experience, to take up the responsibilities it would create problems with adverse effects on teaching and learning.
- IMC to manage the school and the substitution of 'management authority' for 'supervisor' result in group responsibility. This means that nobody would really get down to work regularly or to supervise the principal in the running of the school.
- SB should have the power to appoint a supervisor to oversee the day to day running of the school and to serve as its link with the IMC.

2. Inadequate empowerment of the sponsoring body (SB) to fulfill its functions and actualize its vision and mission.

- (a) no vetoing power;
- (b) in exercising its power IMC is not subject to the directions of the SB
【40AE(3)】 ;
- (c) The constitution of the IMC is subject to the approval of the Director
【40AD(1)(g)】

Comments:

- The SB should have the power to dissolve the IMC when it does anything deviating from its vision and mission.
- The exercise of the power of the IMC should also be subject to the direction of the SB.
- The draft constitution of the IMC should not be subject to the approval of the Director. The SB should have full autonomy in deciding the provisions of the constitution.

3. The provision for alternate managers 【40AH(2)(g)(h)】

Comments:

- The alternate managers should attend IMC meetings only when the registered managers fail to turn up because though they have no voting power their presence in the IMC meetings would raise the percentage of non-SB managers to more than 40.

4. Functions of the IMC chairperson insignificant

【4DAJ】

Comments:

- It seems that the chairperson is expected just to chair the meetings and to handle paper work.
- The chairperson should be appointed by the SB to supervise the principal, ensuring that the school is run according to its vision and mission.

We hope the Government can trust the Sponsoring Body. We have been good partners for years and we strive to provide whole person education to the next generation. No one would doubt our achievement and contribution to the society. With confidence and trust in each other, we can equip our young ones to cope with the ever-changing world.

Yours truly,

Sr. Cecilia Tse
Provincial Superior