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Sent: Friday, December 14, 2007 11:10 PM

Subject: Definition of SEN parents-ESF Bills Comm 17 Dec 07

Dear Hon Selina Chow, Hon Abraham Shek and Hon Tommy Cheung,

Thank you again for your continual support of the ESF (Amendment) Bill.

We are concerned about the definition of parents of SEN students because the definition of SEN (Special Educational Needs) adopted from the EDB is general and broad. Also, ESF stated that

1. "Creating and keeping up-to-date an electoral roll for parents with Special Educational Needs would be administratively complex and time-consuming." (in para 3.3, LC Paper No. CB(2)430/07-08(1), 22 Nov 07);
2. "Nominations of a parent of a child of SEN will be reviewed by the Principal of the relevant school and the ESF SEN Adviser to verify that the child concerned has SEN." (para 2.3a, LC paper No. CB(2)613/07-08(01), 12 Dec 07)

For point #2, we think

- a. The schools and ESF should keep a current updated list of the SEN students so that the schools can allocate resources and cater for their special needs.
- b. Adding the criteria to be reviewed by the Principal may impose some screening/censorship and not necessary. How would the Principal know all the SEN parents in the school (e.g. KGV has 1600 students) to give a fair judgment?
- c. "Nominations will require a proposer and a seconder

(para 2.2b, LC paper No. CB(2)613/07-08(01)), ...signed by nominated parent (para 2.2c) is simple and sufficient.

Further more, ESF states "Nominated candidates [of SEN parents] will be invited by the CEO to submit a personal statement giving brief details of their relevant experience and what they believe they can contribute to the Board of Governors." (para 2.3b, LC paper No. CB(2)613/07-08(01)).

Our questions are:

- a. Would the same procedures apply to the other parent candidates (not just SEN parent candidates)?
- b. Would there any nominations not invited by the CEO?

From our understanding, a SEN student in ESF is registered with either the Jockey Club Sarah Roe School(ESF Special Needs School), LSC (Learning Support Centre) or IN (Individual Needs-mild learning difficulties) within an ESF school so it should be easy to identify SEN parents.

Thank you very much and we are looking forward for a fruitful discussion on Monday.

Best regards,
A group of KGV SEN parents.

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