

DID YOU KNOW?

Consultations With the School's Parents

The Governing Board

Number 4, April 2022

This bulletin, the fourth of six produced by the Ministère de l'Éducation to help you deepen your understanding of the governing board, will answer frequently asked questions about **consultations with the school's parents.**

The parents on the governing board (GB)

- The parents on the GB may consult the parent participation organization or all the school's parents on any matter related to educational services:
 - a special pedagogical project aimed at developing healthy living habits
 - the offer of academic and career guidance services or the options for community involvement
 - reception services and support services for French language learning
- Parents benefit from expressing their consultation-related needs, if any, during GB meetings.

The parent consultation process

- The power of consultation is granted to the parent members of the GB, who are not required to obtain the approval of the other members.
- The parent members of the GB are responsible for consulting the school's other parents, must ensure that personal information and results remain confidential and can use the educational institution's equipment and administrative support services.
- The general assembly of parents is an opportune time to gauge needs.

The parent participation organization

The parent participation organization may advise the parents on the GB with respect to any matters of interest to the parents.

Did you know?

Parents participation organizations are formed at the first general assembly of parents, which is generally held in September. While this organization is not compulsory, it can contribute to the dynamics of the school. It is suggested that at least two meetings per year be held in order to mobilize and motivate the parents involved.

What is the purpose of consultations?

- To take note of parents' needs and suggestions
 - E.g. To receive a message according to certain terms and conditions, to support their child
- To take note of dissatisfaction with services offered by the school
 - E.g. A lack of diversity in the proposed extracurricular activities
- To mobilize all stakeholders to work toward the students' educational success

Consultations cannot, however, target any specific individual, staff category, means of pedagogical intervention or evaluation instrument.

To go further

Examples of questions to ask as parent members on the GB:

- How can we foster connections with all the school's parents?
- What means should be established for consulting parents?
 - Examples of best practices:
 - Ask the principal or director of the educational institution and their team to validate the approach selected.
 - Create a consultation procedure.
 - Form a sub-committee to draw up questions, carry out the consultation and analyze the answers obtained.

Additional sources of information

- Information [Sheet 18](#) of the compulsory training for governing board members.
- Your proximate partners (the chair, principal or director, person responsible for school daycare services and the parent participation organization) can provide input as well.
- For any questions you may have, please write to us at the following address:

gouvernance@education.gouv.qc.ca