

## Parent Participation Organization Report for January 10, 2024

A main function of the PPO as written in the Education Act (96.2) is to encourage the collaboration of parents in developing, implementing, and evaluating the school's Educational Project.

The PPO does not feel that the consultation of at most 6 parents out of over 1800 without advance warning regarding their input on the Educational Project constitutes a proper sounding of the Royal West parents' population; it is unclear if the other non-PPO parent members on the Governing Board were even invited to offer input.

The PPO has asked the RWA Administration for permission to have access to the RWA parents' e-mail list in order to complete its legally mandated work of consulting parents for input on the Educational Project as it is being conceived. The plan was to offer a survey to all the parents, seeking their input, which the PPO would collate and pass on to the Administration. Access to school support services is guaranteed to the PPO in the Education Act (96.4), in consultation with the principal and the Governing Board.

The Administration has responded that consultants at the EMSB have told them that such a consultation of parents is neither necessary nor advisable. The Education Act does not describe a role for board consultants to be making such decisions in this process, but it clearly does give such a role to the Governing Board. In addition, we know that a significant number of other EMSB schools have conducted surveys of the entire parent population as part of their educational project, suggesting that this is a widely accepted practice.

As a result of this impasse, the PPO cannot properly fulfill its mandate of consulting the parents as is laid out in the Education Act and thus it seeks guidance from the Governing Board on how to proceed. Ideally, the PPO would like to have a motion allowing it to send out the same three-question survey that was presented to PPO members via the school's e-mail list, and to have the PPO collate the data and pass it on to the Administration. A draft motion to this effect is included, below:

*Whereas the Parent Participation Organization (PPO) is mandated by the Education Act to "encourage the collaboration of parents in developing, implementing and periodically evaluating the school's educational project", be it resolved that the Governing Board supports a survey of all Royal West parents via email using the same three questions asked of the PPO representatives on October 30, 2023. Results will be collated by the PPO and shared with all Governing Board members.*

We are including as an appendix to this report highlights of text from the [Ministry of Education's Educational Project Guide](#) (English version, February, 2022) that we believe support our request to survey the entire RWA parent population. Quotes from the Education Act in relation to this work are also included.

## Appendix

*(Noteworthy sections of the Educational Project Guide and the Education Act; bolding has been added by the PPO)*

### The Educational Project Guide (Feb 2022) – Ministère de l'Éducation

[https://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/site\\_web/documents/PSG/politiques\\_orientations/projet-educatif-guide-ANG.pdf](https://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/site_web/documents/PSG/politiques_orientations/projet-educatif-guide-ANG.pdf)

“This document is intended to support the various stakeholders who are interested in educational success and involved in the development, implementation, and evaluation of educational projects. The document reflects the new legislative provisions introduced with the coming into effect of Bill 40...on February 8, 2020” – *Foreword*

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“Results-based management is **a collaborative approach requiring the collaboration of all those involved**. This approach makes it possible to grasp the context in which an organization operates and to **define the issues to be taken into consideration**, as well as the orientations to be pursued and the objectives and results to be achieved. Finally, it provides for mechanisms to ensure public accountability.” -- *Page 6, Introduction*

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Knowledge of the context is the cornerstone of the process involved in preparing an educational project. **The educational project must set out an analysis of the external and internal environment in which the educational institution acts.**

**All stakeholders with an interest in the educational success of students of all ages should be consulted** to ensure that the description of the context truly reflects the community's expectations and the students' characteristics and needs. **It is also important to work in cooperation with the groups concerned (e.g. conduct a survey of parents and the local population).**” -- *Page 11, Context in Which the Educational Institution Acts*

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“The analysis of the educational institution's external environment should briefly describe the significant aspects of the **community's needs, expectations and major concerns**, as well as the social, economic, demographic, ethno-cultural and technological trends that will have an impact on the strategies used by the institution for the period in question” -- *Page 11-12, External Environment*

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**“The educational project must take into account the analysis of certain aspects of the context**, including the characteristics and needs of the students, regardless of age, who attend the educational institution, and the **community's expectations with regard to education**.... The educational project is prepared **jointly and in collaboration with all stakeholders concerned, including the members of the governing board.**” -- *Page 14-15*

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**“Transparency and the requirement of accountability are conducive to effective communication and to the development of a relationship of trust between the educational institution and all stakeholders concerned with the school and student success.”** -- Page 15, *The Process of Developing an Educational Project*

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**“To that end, the governing board shall encourage the collaboration of students, parents, teachers, other school staff members, and community and school service centre representatives.”** -- Page 17, *Concerted Action*

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**“At some stage in the preparation of the educational project, the governing board will be required to carry out various consultations** together with the school administration, which provides overall coordination. The main community stakeholders can contribute a variety of perspectives, depending on the group to which they belong. **It is therefore recommended that consultation include** students, **parents**, teachers, daycare staff and support staff, as well as members of the community and of the school service centre...

**The EA states that the parent participation organization and the student committee must encourage their members to collaborate in defining, implementing and periodically evaluating the institution’s educational project...**

**A consultation plan should be prepared with the stakeholders concerned** to ensure that the consultation process is carried out effectively...

Throughout the consultation process, it is important for those responsible to keep in mind the winning conditions for successful communication:

- be open to the opinions of the groups consulted
- be transparent
- show how the opinions of the groups consulted were used to prepare the educational project and explain why certain opinions were not taken into account

The success of the consultation process will depend to a large extent on the **quality of communications with the groups concerned**. Those responsible for the consultation should therefore be offered training to help them carry out the consultation process effectively.” -- Page 17-19, *Consultations*

## Education Act

### Chapter 3, Division II – GOVERNING BOARD

74. “The governing board shall analyze the situation prevailing at the school, principally the needs of the students, the challenges tied to educational success and the characteristics and expectations of the community served by the school. Based on the analysis and taking into account the commitment-to-success plan of the school service centre, the governing board shall adopt the school’s educational project, oversee the project’s implementation and evaluate the project at the intervals specified in it.

**Each of these stages shall be carried out through concerted action between the various participants having an interest in the school and in educational success. To that end, the governing board shall encourage the collaboration of students, parents, teachers, other school staff members, and community and school service centre representatives.”**

### Chapter 3, DIVISION III - PARENT PARTICIPATION ORGANIZATION

96.2. “The purpose of a parent participation organization is to **encourage the collaboration of parents in developing, implementing and periodically evaluating the school’s educational project** and their participation in their child’s educational success.

96.3. A parent participation organization may advise the parents’ representatives on the governing board regarding any matter of concern to parents or any matter concerning which the organization is consulted by the parents’ representatives on the governing board.”