Governing Board Training

Thursday, October 20, 2016
AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- Goals of the Training Session
- Roles and Responsibilities of the Governing Board
- Operating the Governing Board
- The School Budget
- Partnerships for Student Success
- Bill 105
- Question period
GOALS OF THE TRAINING SESSION

• Provide an overview of the roles and responsibilities of Governing Boards’ members to help them achieve a common understanding of their mission

• Provide tools and resources that will help them fulfill their role
A GB is a representative body established in each school and composed of (ss. 42-46 EA):

- Parents
- School staff (teachers, non-teaching professionals and support staff)
- Daycare staff members (elementary level)
- Students (high school level)
- Members of the community (optional)

- The Principal must take part in meetings but is not a member of the GB
- Commissioners can attend but do not have the right to vote

- The number of seats reserved for parents must equal the number of seats reserved for staff representatives. Only the required number of parents (as determined by the School Board) must be filled to form the GB (s. 52 EA)
Adult Education or Vocational Training Centres also have GBs.

They are composed of (s. 102 EA):
- Students attending the Centres
- School staff (teachers, non-teaching professionals and support staff)
- Members of the community
- Parents of students (vocational centres)
- Representatives from local enterprises (in the case of vocational centres, enterprises which operate in economic sectors related to programs offered in the centre)

- The Centre Director must take part in meetings, but is not a member of the GB
- Commissioners can attend but do not have the right to vote

- The fact that a group falls short of the required number of representatives (as determined by the School Board) does not prevent the formation of the GB (s. 106 EA)
TERM OF OFFICE - Schools’ GBs

- Parents are elected for a 2 year term
  **EXCEPT**: During the GB’s 1st year, when half of the parents serve for only 1 year

- All other members are appointed for 1 year

- The members remain in office until they are re-elected, re-appointed or replaced (s. 54 EA)

- If a GB is unable to meet for lack of quorum after 3 consecutives notices have been sent 7 days apart, the Principal can be assigned to exercise the GB powers and functions by the School Board (s. 62 EA)
TERM OF OFFICE - Centres’ GBs

- All members are elected for a 2 year term

- The members remain in office until they are re-elected, re-appointed or replaced (s. 102 EA)

- If a GB is unable to meet for lack of quorum after 3 consecutive notices have been sent 7 days apart, the Centre Director can be assigned to exercise the GB powers and functions by the School Board (ss. 62 and 108 EA)
• If a parent resigns before completing his or her mandate, another parent is appointed by the other parents on the GB

• Vacancies of other members (in case of resignation or disqualification - i.e. if they no longer qualify as a member, for example a member of staff who takes a position in another school mid-year) are appointed according to the procedure for the election of the member (s. 55 EA)

• A parent whose child no longer attends the school remains a GB member until the next AGA of that school
A vacancy of any member (in case of resignation or disqualification - i.e. if they no longer qualify as a member, for example, if a parent on a Centre’s GB becomes a member of the Centre’s staff) is filled for the remainder of the term according to the procedure for the election of the member (s. 102 EA)
Roles and Responsibilities of the Governing Board

Schools & Centres
The GBs exist to govern the school or centre, not manage its daily operations.

The powers and functions grant responsibility and decisional authority in general matters of school governance, such as educational and community services, as well as material and financial resources.

GB members should consult the relevant policies and by-laws on the LBPSB website.
The School Board is obligated to consult the GBs on certain matters, i.e.:
- Amendment or revocation of a deed of establishment
- Selection criteria of Principal or Centre Director

The GB also advises the School Board on certain matters, i.e. any matter:
- that the School Board is required to submit to it
- that may facilitate the operation of the school/center
- that may improve the organization of services provided by the School Board
SUMMARY – Powers and Functions of GBs

Functions and Powers Summary

- Approves:
  - Success Plan
  - Subject Time Allocation
  - Approach for implementing the Basic School Regulation
  - Rules of conduct & safety measures
  - School Fees
  - Use of Premises
  - Field Trips

- Adopts:
  - Educational Project
  - School Budget
  - Annual Activity Report

- Acts:
  - Analyses the school’s situation
  - Reports on the evaluation of the implementation of the success plan and on the AVAB plan

- As consulted/intervened:
  - Selection of textbook and instructional materials
  - Criteria for Selection of Principal
MOST IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER:

Every decision of the GB must be made in the best interests of the students (ss. 64 and 108 EA)
OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS:

• Conflict of interest (ss. 70 and 108 EA)
  - A GB member who has a direct or indirect interest in an enterprise that puts that member in conflict of interest with the school must disclose the interest in writing to the Principal or Centre Director.
  - In such a case, the member should withdraw from the meeting while the issue is being discussed/voted on.
  - Having a conflict of interest is not prohibited, but not declaring it could lead to forfeiture of office.
OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS:

- Conduct (ss. 71 and 108 EA)
  - The GB members must act within the scope of the function and powers conferred on them and exercise the care, prudence and diligence that a reasonable person would in similar circumstances.
  - They must also act with honesty and loyalty, in the interest of the school, the parents, the school staff, the School Board and the community.
Operating the Governing Board

Schools & Centres
GB Meetings are *public*, however it is recommended that the meeting be closed to the public (in camera) if a matter examined could cause injury to a person (ss. 68 and 108 EA)

Members (parents, students, staff) must be informed of the date, time and place of GB meetings. The public may attend the meetings and must be given an opportunity to speak at an appropriate time. Copies of the agenda and minutes of meetings should be made accessible (ss. 67 and 108 EA)
● Decisions are made in public and recorded in the minutes.

● The examination of any matter must fall under the mandate of the GB. Not included under the mandate are issues related to a particular individual (i.e. a situation involving a specific student or matters governed by the staff’s collective agreement).

- For example, if a member of the public begins to make comments or to complain about a member of staff, the speaker must be interrupted immediately and directed to the Principal or Centre Director.
One of the parent members is elected as the Chair to preside over the meetings for a term of 1 year. If the Chair is absent or unable to act, another parent must be designated as chair by the GB (s. 56 EA)

Quorum is DOUBLE: a majority of members AND at least half the parents members

EX 1: Where there are 15 GB members and 6 are parents, quorum requires at least 8 members, 3 which are parents.

EX 2: GB of 15 members including 5 parents, the same numbers of members (8 members including 3 parents) are required to achieve quorum for the meeting

The Chair has a casting vote (in case of a tie, he/she can vote a second time, not necessarily the same way as the first time)
The Chair is elected from among the community representatives, the parents of vocational students, or from the representatives of local entreprises to preside over the meetings for a term of 1 year. If the Chair is absent or unable to act, one of these members must be designated as chair by the GB.

Quorum is a majority of members.

The Chair has a casting vote (in case of a tie, he/she can vote a second time, not necessarily the same way as the first time).
DUTIES OF THE CHAIR

• To preside (open and close the meetings)
• To follow the agenda prepared with the Principal or Centre Director
• To keep discussions on track
• To render information accessible to the members in due time
• To ensure that internal procedures are respected
• To grant the right to speak to members or guests
DUTIES OF THE CHAIR

• To frame the debate by summarizing positions, questions or answers that have been expressed by the members, and by stating clearly each motion before it is debated, and again before it is voted on in order to ensure that the matters are understood by all members.

• To help members reach a common position.
• To give each member a chance to speak.
• To be fair, impartial, polite, flexible and to keep the meeting under control and within the agreed timeframe as much as possible.
DUTIES OF OTHER GB MEMBERS

• To speak
• To receive information and ask questions on issues discussed
• To bring up proposals
• To raise points of order
• To vote
• To respect the authority of the Chair
• To let others speak freely
• To respect the decision taken by a majority of members
• To abide by the rules of discretion
RUNNING THE GB MEETING

MEETING GUIDELINES

• Well-planned agenda, distributed in advance, along with the minutes of the previous meeting and any other relevant documentation

• Guidelines on conduct agreed to and respected by all members

• Involvement of all members in the discussions

• A timeframe for agenda items

• Open-mindedness and a sense of collaboration
THE VOTE

• A GB is composed of a maximum of 20 members (all voting for Centres and 18 voting members for Schools), representing different groups, therefore each vote carries much weight

• The power of the vote is granted only to those voting members who are present at the meeting. Abstention from voting by any member (including the Chair) is allowed. A member may abstain if they feel they are in a conflict of interest, don’t feel sufficiently informed or if they feel that the matter under consideration is not within their mandate
• The power to make decisions on behalf of the groups represented is granted, in conjunction with the responsibilities of becoming informed on the issue under consideration, understanding the voting process and taking a position when a vote is called

• The representatives of each group must make an effort to understand and reflect the attitude of their peers through their vote

• All members should be free from repercussions that are based on their vote

• Once a decision is taken by a majority, it must be respected
RULES OF INTERNAL MANAGEMENT – a tool to make meetings more effective. They address matters not already regulated by the EA in order to establish rules of operations for the GB.

For example:

- How and when to bring up a proposal
- Frequency and duration of members' interventions and procedures regarding the question period for the public (when, how, how long, etc.)
- Notice to parents on the dates and times of the meetings (minimum 5/year)
- Rules of procedure for meetings (duration, time limits on agenda items, procedure for adding items to the agenda, etc.)
- Guidelines for the conduct of members
- Procedures for calling special meetings
However, Rules of Internal Management do not supersede the EA (they cannot review the composition or formation of the GB).

Rules of Internal Management should not address:

• Term of office for members
• Consequences of repetitive absences from meetings for any member
• Voting outside of public attendance
The Minutes are the official recording of proceedings (decisions), not of all the discussions held at a meeting. Once approved, the minutes are accepted as a true representation of the proceedings they record.

The minutes include:

- Date, time and place of the meeting
- Names of members present and regrets from those absent
- Verification of quorum
- Adoption of the agenda (with any modifications)
- Adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting (with any modifications).

[Note that corrections should not change the sense of what was recorded but address a clerical or factual mistake, include a clarification or state an omission]
The minutes also include:

- The exact wording of motion
- Record of the votes
- Brief summary of items of discussion and reports (not detailed)
- Items tabled or deferred
- Time of adjournment

The minutes are signed by the Chair and the Principal or Centre Director (or the person appointed to do so) and must be kept in a register open to the public (ss. 69 and 108 EA)
The GB budget is used to operate the governing board.

Typical expenses may include:
- Postage
- Photocopying
- Meeting refreshments
- Training materials
- Babysitting
- Transportation/Mileage
- Consultations

Funds are not intended for donations to any activities, funds, bursaries, etc.
Budgets

Schools & Centres
• Advise the principal on the needs of the school.
• Adopt the school’s annual budget proposed by the Principal, and submit the budget to the School Board.
• Receive updates (monitoring).

**To Note**
• The budget can be available to the public.
• Schools and Centres are not permitted to run deficits.
• Any school or centre surplus becomes the property of the School Board.
Fund 1 – Operating Funds

• Operating funds are used for purchases that are usually depleted within one year.
• Operating funds are assigned on a per student basis (Elementary).

Examples:
• Consumable materials
• Printing, paper...
• Administrative expenses
• Computer software
Fund 2 – Capital Funds

• Capital funds are used for purchases of a more lasting nature.
• Capital funds are assigned on a per student basis.

Examples

• Computer hardware
• Desks and chairs
• Furniture
• Playground equipment
• Building upgrades
School/Centre Budgets - Other funds

**Fund 3 Salaries**
- Salaries are the responsibility of the school board and are not presented to governing boards.

**Fund 4 Daycare**
- Elementary schools are assigned operating funds in Fund 4 for daycare and lunch program.
- This fund should be included in the school’s budget.

**Fund 5 Special Programs**
In-and-out budgets
PELO, student teachers, director’s days...
PARTNERSHIP FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

The proper functioning of the Governing Board permits co-operation between those providing the educational services and those receiving them.
Mutual Responsibility

**Approve:**
to accept or reject a proposal without the possibility of making changes (the power to say yes or no). If rejected, a new proposal must be requested.

**Be consulted:**
provide an opinion on a matter with the possibility of influencing the final decision.

**Adopt:**
to change, add, remove one or more elements of a proposal.

**Be informed:**
to receive information after a decision is made with no possibility of reconsidering the decision.

**Request:**
to initiate consideration of a subject or to request information.

**Propose:**
to submit an idea with a view to supporting it.

** Decide:**
make a decision without necessarily having received a proposal.
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<td>• Adopt GB Annual Report &amp; Financial Report</td>
<td>• First meeting of GB</td>
<td>• Adopt November Revised budget</td>
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<td>• AGA</td>
<td>• Adopt GB Budget</td>
<td>• Review success plan/management agreement</td>
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<td>• Internal Rules of Management</td>
<td>• Review rules of conduct and anti-bullying plan</td>
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<td>• Review Emergency Preparedness Plan</td>
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<td>• Capital budget priorities</td>
<td>• Approve School/Centre Annual Report</td>
<td>• GB Composition</td>
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<td>• Approve subject time allocation and</td>
<td>• Budget Consultation begins</td>
<td>• 3 Year Plan of Allocation</td>
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<td>implementation of BSR</td>
<td>• Selection Criteria for Principal</td>
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<td>• Review school/centre fees</td>
<td>• Prepare GB Annual Report and Financial Report</td>
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<td>• Adopt proposed budget</td>
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Role of the Principal/Centre Director

• Assists the Governing Board in its functions and powers.
• Ensures the implementation of the decisions of the Governing Board.
• Ensures that proposals are prepared and submitted to the Governing Board.
• Ensures that the Governing Board is provided with the necessary information.
• Encourages concerted action between parents, staff and students.
Effective Meetings

• Well-planned agenda and established process for setting agenda.
• Meeting documents available prior to the meeting.
• Clear expectations for rules of conduct.
• Regular attendance.
• Chairperson who:
  i)  Respects internal rules
  ii) Listens and encourages all to speak
• Discussion respects mandate of GB
• Respect for the principle of equity and equality of opportunity to permit success for the greatest number.
• Communicate with the community:
  i)  GB Annual Report
  ii) Posted agenda – time – date of meeting
  iii) Posted minutes
Available Resources

- LBPSB Website
- AGA
- PPO
- Elections
- GB Expenditures, Annual Report
- Sample Agenda, Minutes
- Sample Internal Rules of Management
- Parent Committee Website
- Education Act
- Basic School Regulation, Basic Adult General Education Regulation, Basic Vocational Training Regulation
- Other relevant regulations: Childcare Services provided at School, Transportation, Complaint Examination Procedure established by a School Board
BILL 105: Summary of proposed amendments

- Voting right to Parent Commissioners and possibility to be appointed Vice-Chair of the School Board

- 1 Co-opted Commissioner (if so decided by Council by a majority vote) in sports or health sector

- The school’s Educational Project carries out the school’s mission (no more implementation of Success Plan)
The School Board’s strategic plan is replaced by a commitment-to-success plan (updated to include the consultation of PC, SNAC, AACP, GBs, teachers, staff members and students).

Creation of a Resource Allocation Committee (RAC). The School Board will have to consult with GBs and PC and take into account the RAC’s recommendations in establishing the School Board’s allocation of subsidies.
• Possibility of delegation of certain functions and powers from Council to GBs and the RAC

• The EA stipulates that the Complaint Examination Procedure (By-law #9) includes homeschooled students

• Minister can issue directives to school boards