

GB training – Summary of Question Period

(including questions related to Bill 40, the application of which is suspended until further notice)

<p>Is it accurate to say that a GB can modify its membership, particularly the number of parents sitting on the GB?</p>	<p>There is an annual consultation from Council asking school GB's on their composition, before the Executive Committee adopts the final resolution in May.</p>
<p>Once a principal assumes the function of a GB for lack of quorum 3 consecutive times (s. 62 EA), can this situation be reversed?</p>	<p>This is an exceptional situation. If the conditions change, council can reverse the situation. Council can also determine a specific period at the beginning of the suspension.</p>
<p>Are LBPSB GB members covered by liability insurance?</p>	<p>Yes, the School Board must assume the defence of any GB member who is prosecuted in the exercise of their GB functions, but may ask for the reimbursement of the defence expenses in cases of criminal proceedings or if the GB member acted in bad faith.</p>
<p>A substitute can only vote if their presence is needed for quorum?</p>	<p>A substitute can vote if they are sitting in place of an absent member.</p>
<p>Can a substitute sit in temporarily if a member must excuse themselves because of a conflict of interest?</p>	<p>A member excusing themselves for conflict of interest is still considered present at the meeting but may not vote on the proposition. The substitute only sits if the member is absent of the meeting.</p>
<p>Should the budget be posted or distributed with the minutes?</p>	<p>The budget is a public document once it is passed by the school's Governing Board.</p>
<p>Can all members of the GB, including staff, be included in the voting process for the chair?</p>	<p>Yes. Section 56 of the Education Act states that all members of the GB choose the chair. However, the chair must be a parent.</p>
<p>If a school does not have a PPO does the GB take on that role?</p>	<p>PPO has a specific mandate (sections 96-96.4 of the Education Act). Mainly, it supports the GB in the implementation of the school's Educational Project and encourages parents' participation and collaboration.</p>
<p>If a parent has an issue with a specific academic orientation does that go to the GB?</p>	<p>In the context of evaluating the Educational Project only.</p>

<p>If a child graduates from school before the two-year term is up, does the parent of that child remain on GB?</p>	<p>In that situation, the parent can remain a GB member until the next AGA (Section 55 EA). Not to be confused with a Parent Commissioner who can finish their term of 2 years even if their child has graduated (s. 47 EA).</p>
<p>If a substitute is used to replace a member who has vacated, how is the substitute replaced</p>	<p>Substitutes can't be replaced until the next AGA.</p>
<p>Bill 40 (suspended): Half parents on the GB are elected at the AGA on even years and half on odd years. How does it work in the first year?</p>	<p>S. 54 EA with proposed modification of Bill 40: The term of office of parents' representatives on the governing board is two years and the term of office of the representatives of other groups is one year.</p> <p><u>Half of the parent representatives are elected for a term beginning on an odd-numbered year and the other half, for a term beginning on an even- numbered year. In the case of a new governing board, the elected parents shall determine who among them is to have a one-year term.</u></p>

<p>Bill 40 (suspended): Can a PC rep be a rep on a Board of Directors of a Service Center?</p>	<p>Yes. Criteria (s. 20 of the Act Respecting School Elections with proposed modifications of Bill 40):</p> <p>(1) be the parent of a child admitted to educational services provided by the school service centre;</p> <p>(2) be entitled to have his name entered on the school service centre's list of electors;</p> <p>(3) have been domiciled in the school service centre's territory for six months or more;</p> <p>(4) sit as a parent representative on the governing board of a school or of a vocational training centre that is under the jurisdiction of the school service centre or as a parent representative on the school service centre's board of directors; and</p> <p>(5) not be a member of the school service centre's staff.</p>
<p>Can a policy or program affecting students be discussed at a GB meeting?</p>	<p>Yes, during the public question period, but it must be pointed out that references to individual students or teachers cannot be discussed at the GB. GB members must be mindful that any issue that is clearly directed at a specific child or specific teacher or parent should be directed to a private conversation.</p>
<p>Bill 40 (suspended): Does the composition of GB's change for Centers under Bill 40?</p>	<p>Under Bill 40, the GB will still be composed of parents, staff, a community member, and where applicable, a daycare representative and a student representative. The number of GB members will be established at 12.</p>
<p>Are teacher substitutes voted at the AGM?</p>	<p>They determine their own election procedure at their own meeting (s. 48 EA). Normally that would happen at the same time as they elect their members (s. 51.1 EA).</p>
<p>Are Daycare Operating funds considered public?</p>	<p>The Daycare budget must be presented to GB, it is a public document.</p>

Is a homework program run by the daycare open to have volunteers? Can that be discussed at a GB meeting?	Yes
Are any GB members able to add items to a GB agenda? Does it matter where new items are added to the agenda?	The process for adding questions and building agendas is covered in the internal rules of the GB. The chair can also ask for additions at the beginning of the meeting. Where those new items go on the agenda is at the discretion of the chair.
Can the principal veto an agenda item?	No, but GB members must understand that certain questions may require information or consultation with staff that cannot be obtained at the last minute. Certain items may also fall outside the mandate of the GB.
What is the primary obligation of the Governing Board?	To fulfill its mandate as per the Education Act (sections 74-95 EA). All decisions must be taken in the best interests of the students.
Does Bill 40 change the mandate of the Governing Board?	As the bill stands, the mandate is fundamentally unchanged.
Who controls the GB budget? Who manages it?	The GB adopts the school's budget proposed by the Principal (s. 95 EA). The school manages the dispensing of the funds.
Can there be an internal rule on how a member is removed? For example, if they miss multiple meetings.	The GB does not have the right to remove them. It can only be explicit with them about their responsibility as a member and discuss the possibility that they consider resigning if they cannot fulfill the mandate.
Does the agenda have to be posted on-line? Does it have to be made available to the public?	There is no format dictated by law as to how it is posted. You are not obliged to post it on the website. That is a convenience. It is understood that any agenda is a draft until approved at the meeting.
If a GB member is also a Home and School member, is that a conflict of interest?	So long as there is no personal benefit for a Home and School member there is no conflict of interest. A GB member in a conflict of interest must disclose it and abstain from discussing and voting (s. 70 EA). Remember, however, that it is the GB which is giving the H&S permission to operate in the building.

<p>If Home and School has been raising money and wants to spend it, does that go back to the GB to spend it? Is it GB or H&S that decides upon how money is spent?</p>	<p>Contributions received for Home and School fundraisers should be returned to the school in a bank account controlled by the school and supervised by the Governing Board (s. 94 EA).</p>
<p>Does Home and School have to come to Governing Board to get permission to spend their funds?</p>	<p>Specific fundraisers are designed for specific expenses. The funds raised are designated for those expenses and should be dispensed as such, as approved by the GB.</p>
<p>Many schools now use car-pooling instead of bussing for field trips. What is the GB's liability? Does the principal need to bring the forms back to GB for proof?</p>	<p>Conditions concerning car-pooling are clearly defined in the LBPSB's Extracurricular and Field Trip policy Addendum E. It is the responsibility of the school principal to ensure that the necessary forms are completed. It is not necessary for the GB to review those forms.</p>
<p>Is there anything in the Education Act which limits the length of a GB meeting? Does a caretaker have to be present for a GB meeting to extend beyond the time of their shift?</p>	<p>Internal rules should dictate the process for extending a meeting regardless of the circumstance. A caretaker does not have to be present for a Governing Board meeting to be held so long as the principal or vice principal is present at the meeting.</p>
<p>The agenda does not need to be posted but the dates, times and minutes do?</p>	<p>Yes. Minutes are public documents. The public must be aware of when public meetings are held and be aware of the outcomes of those meetings.</p>