

■ Section 1 – Introduction

On July 1, 1998, linguistic school boards were formed as part of a wide reform of the educational system in Quebec and the Lester B. Pearson School Board (LBPSB) was created to serve the Montreal communities from Verdun to the Ontario Border. As stated in [A New Direction for Success](#), a publication of what was then called the Ministry of Education of Quebec (now called the Ministry of Education, Post-Secondary Education and Research): “The purpose of this reform is to give schools more responsibility so that they can better adapt their teaching and organization to the needs and characteristics of their students.”

Governing boards were created that year as part of the decentralization of powers to schools. They have, in essence, taken the place of orientation committees and school parent committees, but with increased power. They bring together parents, school staff, senior high school students and community members who work in partnership towards a primary goal of making decisions that benefit our students.

This is the online edition of the manual. It contains information in accordance with the provisions of the [Education Act](#) and the [Basic School Regulation](#). Links to the [Education Act](#) appear throughout the document. Links to the [Basic School Regulation](#) appear where warranted.

The governing board manual is intended for administrators and all governing board members. We hope that you will find it useful.

What is a Governing Board?

A governing board is a representative body established in each school according to [section 42](#) of the [Education Act](#). It is composed of the parents, teachers, representatives of both the non-teaching professionals and support staff, day care (elementary), students (cycle II high school), representatives from enterprises which, in the case of a vocational training centre, operate in economic sectors corresponding to the vocational education programs offered by the centre and community representatives who work in partnership to ensure that all students receive the best possible learning opportunities. The school principal/centre director attends governing board meetings but is not a member and is not entitled to vote.

Definitions

Parent	All parents with a child attending the school.
Parent Representative	Parents who are elected or appointed to the GB of the school.
Parents’ Committee Representative	Person elected by the parents assembled at the AGA from among the Parent Representatives elected or appointed to the GB.
Parents’ Committee Substitute	As above – replaces the PC representative and votes at meetings of the Parents’ Committee when the PC representative is unable to attend.
Propose	To submit a policy, procedure, plan, project, approach or any other suggested or required initiative for the governing board’s consideration. <i>e.g. section 84 – The governing board is responsible for approving the approach proposed by the principal for the implementation of the basic school regulation.</i>

Adopt/Approve	<p>To accept on behalf of the school community a proposal which will become an integral part of school governance and on which future decisions by the governing board may be based.</p> <p><i>e.g. section 74 – The governing board shall adopt, oversee the implementation of and periodically evaluate the school's educational project.</i></p>
Give an opinion	<p>Express one's ideas on a certain topic.</p> <p><i>e.g. section 192 (2) – The parents' committee gives advice on any matter conducive to the most efficient operation possible of the school board.</i></p>
Be consulted	<p>Provide an opinion on a matter with the possibility of influencing the final decision.</p> <p><i>e.g. section 79 - The governing board must be consulted on the revocation or amendment to the school's deed of establishment.</i></p>
Participate	<p>Become involved in a conversation, activity or work group.</p> <p><i>e.g. section 89 – Proposals... shall be developed in collaboration with the school staff.</i></p>
Casting vote	<p>The chairperson has a casting, or deciding vote, when the vote is evenly divided. The chair is free to vote for or against the motion regardless of the way he or she voted previously.</p>
Table	<p>Continue at a later date. An item on the agenda can be postponed for different reasons and addressed at another time.</p>
Quorum	<p>Quorum is the minimum number of voting members that need to be present to be able to vote on any resolution at the meeting. Normally it is 50% plus one of the members. In the case of governing boards, quorum is 50% +1 of all members and at least 50% of the parent members.</p> <p><i>e.g. section 61 - A majority of the members of the governing board who are in office, including at least half of the parents' representatives, is a quorum of the governing board.</i></p>