

# School Council

**'You simply cannot run  
a good school without a  
good school council'**

# Legal Framework

- ◆ Legal entity
- ◆ Section 13 of the Education Act 1958
- ◆ Constitution
- ◆ Crown must indemnify a school council member (or former member)

# Necessary Reading

- ◆ Education Times
- ◆ Making the Partnership Work
  - *Roles and Responsibilities*
  - *Rules & Procedures*
  - *Contents Page handout*
- ◆ Standing Orders
- ◆ Agenda and the minutes
- ◆ Draft policies and have input

# Be Familiar With

- ◆ Annual report
- ◆ Annual Implementation Plan
- ◆ Strategic Plan

# Membership

- ◆ Parent/Parent
- ◆ Teacher/Parent
- ◆ Staff Member
- ◆ Principal – Executive Officer
- ◆ Optional Community Member
- ◆ Constitution
- ◆ You are a member of council in your own right but it is essential to canvas parental opinion on some issues

# Effective Councils

- ◆ Concentrate on your mandate and actively keep away from involvement in other areas.
  - Beach volleyball
- ◆ Induction/Professional Development
- ◆ Submit any agenda items at the appropriate time
  - many school councils will not make decisions on important issues submitted during the current meeting
- ◆ No General Business
- ◆ Minutes distributed soon after the meeting

# Effective Councils

- ◆ It's a partnership – all about people getting on with people
- ◆ Confidential
- ◆ Work as a team
- ◆ Pick a few things and do them well - not a lot poorly
- ◆ Discuss issues and items you do not understand or would like to know more about – with principal, president or other councilors. - Acronyms
- ◆ Celebrate regularly

# What does School Council do?

- ◆ Develop and monitor:
  - Strategic Plan
  - Student Code of Conduct
  - Student Dress Code
- ◆ Determine
  - Educational Policy of the school
  - Procedures for supporting the school in the community
- ◆ Approve
  - Budget expenditure
  - Excursions



# ...What?

- ◆ Contract
  - CRT & SSO
  - Cleaning
- ◆ Recommend
  - Appointment of new principal to the Secretary of DE&T
- ◆ Maintain
  - Grounds
  - Buildings
- ◆ Report
  - To DET & community

# Most important!

- ◆ Policy development – School Council
- ◆ Policy implementation – Principal and staff
- ◆ Is the issue about an individual?
  - Yes
  - Then it's usually not a school council issue
- ◆ Principals have a significant responsibility to the clients but also to support education in their cluster and network
  - Innovation & excellence
  - Group days
  - Network meetings etc

# Effective sub committees

- ◆ Number and type vary from school to school
- ◆ Annual goals
- ◆ Written reports
- ◆ Not fully discussed

# Effective School Councilor

- ◆ Openness
- ◆ All the necessary information
- ◆ Effective Communication
- ◆ Support and Trust
- ◆ Complementary roles
- ◆ Personal development
- ◆ Cooperation
- ◆ Appropriate Procedures
- ◆ Good Leadership
- ◆ Goals and Priorities