

DID YOU KNOW?

The decisions of the governing board (GB) members are based on three elements: they are in the best interests of all the students; they respect the principle of equal opportunity for all; and they are intended to help

The GB is required to indicate whether or not it agrees with various proposals formulated by the principal or director or school team. The GB cannot modify or amend these proposals: if it disagrees with them, it can return them, along with the board members' comments, to the principal or director or school team for modification.

The GB can or , by a majority or unanimous vote, proposals pertaining to:

The subject-time allocations

The financial contributions that may be required of parents

The educational institution's code of conduct and safety measures

The material for personal use

The terms and conditions governing the application of the *Basic school regulation*

The educational activities which entail changes in the students' regular time of arrival and departure, or which require the students to leave school premises.

The GB has full control over the content of the documents, proposals or projects it deals with. The GB can modify them in whole or in part, amend them, receive them exactly as submitted or refuse to adopt them. The document is eventually adopted by majority or unanimous vote. These powers require GBs to carefully evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of its decisions.

The GB is responsible for proposals about the following (among other things):

The educational institution's educational project

The anti-bullying and anti-violence plan

The educational institution's annual budget

The operating rules of daycare services

The GB's annual report

The GB is required, during the school year, to give its opinion on various topics covered in the documents submitted by the principal or director of the educational institution or by the board of directors of the school service centre.

The GB must be consulted on the following topics, among others:

The choice of textbooks and instructional material

The selection criteria of the principal or director of the educational institution

The modification or revocation of the *deed of establishment* of the school or centre

Issued by the SSC, the deed of establishment determines the main attributes of the institution including its name and address and the levels of education it offers. It also determines the premises and immovables that the SSC places at the institution's disposal.

The GB must meet with the students or a group of students once a year on subjects relating to the functioning of the educational institution. Parents on the GB can also meet with their peers on various subjects related to educational services.

Finally the GB has a right of appeal that allows it, following a vote by at least two thirds of its members, to give the principal or director of the educational institution its opinion on all matters conducive to the smooth operation of the educational institution.

In discussions among themselves or in communications with the principal or director of the educational institution, the members of the GB must strive to stay informed, and keep their peers informed, so that they can make the best possible decisions to ensure the smooth operation of their institution and the students' success.

Before each meeting of the GB and before each decision on a given matter, the board members:

about the matter

the relevant sections of the *Education Act*, if appropriate

the principal or director precise questions

the matter among themselves and come to a common understanding

The GB members can also decide to create sub-committees to discuss certain issues in greater depth.

Your local partners (GB chair, principal or director of the educational institution and the various committees) could provide input.

If you are unsure about something:

gouvernance@education.gouv.qc.ca