

Why an effective PTA or a School committee with elected representatives of schools is important :

Schools have assumed unlimited authority to raise fee, charge on various accounts in the name of improving facilities and providing better services and hence milch parents. They also have preferred vendors who possibly have negotiated good deals with schools.

While the charges are not always unjustified, the parents can play a constructive role in setting the priorities and having a say based on the budgets they have for their children's education.

School and Parents Committee formation:

1. At least one parent representative per class be elected by a system of draw of lots of interested parents. Since parents do not know each other or capabilities this may be best.
2. For classes below 9 and 9 and above depending on number of divisions each class has, there could be a collegium of such parents who further elect say 3 representatives each from amongst them. Again by draw of lots.
3. The election method must be explained in a Parents meeting and put up on website and notice boards one month prior to the elections.
4. So totally 6 parents can represent junior-mid and senior classes.
5. These parents can further call meetings every month of the collegium of parents to help take key decisions.
6. The role of such a Parents Body must be to partner, consult, advise and take joint decisions with the school administration on following matters including:
 - A. Grievances, complaints related to facilities, teaching, hygiene etc.
 - B. Audit of accounts on quarterly basis
 - C. Cost escalations, new charges and their justification, amounts, alternatives
 - D. Priorities in developing / adding new facilities/ services / tools etc.
 - F. Breakup of funds for working capital vs investment in future development
 - G. Vendor management system to assist in price regulation and quality
 - H. Teaching quality
 - I. Technology upgradation from time to time
 - J. Best practices from other schools
 - K. Ensure monitoring of Form 6 submission
 - L. Information to all parents
 - M. Other means to raise funds
 - N. Innovative teaching aids
 - O. Adhere to law of the land, State and Board regulations
 - P. Grievance and grievance cell to be set up

This Body would meet 6 reps from school administration to take joint decisions on above :

1. Monthly basis
2. Decisions to be made by majority voting
3. Amicable and open atmosphere
4. Reasonable
5. Weighing both costs and development
6. No compromise on quality of education
7. Protect autonomy of schools from unnecessary Govt interference

The issue of costs a school has to bear must be taken up with authorities.

If schools are not to be profit making institutions then private sector needs to be incentivised to provide quality education. What would this incentive be ? Hence, the difference between profit making and profiteering has to be clarified.

Two, the cost borne by schools in acquiring land and getting permissions needs to be regulated too.

Three, will parents be able to appreciate a Promoters constraints and vision ?

Four, removal of political nexus with School promoters by various means