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**From:** Ken Meech <kmeech@nssba.ca>  
**Sent:** November-23-12 1:39 PM  
**To:** Office  
**Subject:** FW: comments re proposed amendment to education act -clarity between Board and administration

Here is our submission from the nova scotia school boards association relative to bill131 thanks

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments to the education act.

We want to speak to the amendments to provide greater clarity to the role of Boards versus the role of the senior administration .

While we agree that the amendment proposed is consistent with the recommended practice we hold the view that this is well understood by Boards ,unfortunately with any elected body there are individuals who will challenge the accepted practice and placing wording in the act will not resolve the issue fully .Also the governance model in practice has shades of grey between the elected board and administration which in many instances is best served by a sharing of advice ,information and a joint agreement on the direction.

We recommend a more comprehensive examination of the role of boards versus the senior management and including a review of the roles and relationship between the elected boards and the Minister /Doe . While it is not unique to Nova Scotia there has been significant change in the landscape of school boards role ,authority and relationship between the provincial education authorities and locally elected boards. There has been significant amalgamation to reduce the number of boards and a greater demand by parents ,public on accountability for student achievement .Suffice to say many of the changes has and continues to undermine the role and legitimacy of the elected school board model . The system is moving in a direction of tighter controls and more standardization and yet the evidence points to a system that needs to respond to diversity and customization for individual students rather than the cookie cutter approach .

To conclude we suggest that we jointly review the issue to ensure that the interests of the students are best served by the model /system .

We ask that you consider approaching the issue on a positive front by outlining the purpose role and function of elected school boards as part of the educational system . As an example we suggest that the act delineate the larger purposes for elected school boards to be Leadership, Advocacy, Oversight and Accountability with the core focus to improve student engagement and achievement .