

Gov HO2: Role of school councillors response guide

Scenario	Considerations / response
<p>Scenario 1:</p> <p>The school council at a school in regional Victoria is recommending at tomorrow's council meeting that the school cleaning contract to be awarded to Nifty Cleaners. You have just been made aware that the owner of Nifty Cleaners is the brother-in-law of a school councillor.</p>	<p>Response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is within the functions of a school council. • Negotiating a cleaning contract is a function of school councils in regional Victoria. • There is a potential conflict of interest with the owner of Nifty Cleaners being the brother-in-law of a school councillor. • The school councillor should declare the conflict of interest and absent themselves from the discussion (unless invited to be present by the presiding member), and must not be present when a vote is taken.
<p>Scenario 2:</p> <p>A local franchise of a fast-food company has offered to donate four trampolines with attached safety netting to the school. Their logos would be attached to the equipment, but there would be no other advertising. Should the school council accept the offer?</p>	<p>Response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is within the functions of a school council. • School council might consider the offer as its functions include arranging for the supply of goods, services, materials and equipment. • However, it would need to carefully consider the implications of entering into a sponsorship arrangement with a fast-food company. Department guidelines are available in the Policy and Advisory Library (PAL) for schools on the Department's website.

Scenario 3:

A couple of parents have expressed concern to you about the performance of a particular member of staff. Should school council consider instigating a performance review process for the school's teachers?

Response:

This is not within the functions of school council.

The school principal is responsible for staff performance.

Parents with concerns should be advised to take them up with the principal.

Scenario 4:

You were elected to council as a parent member. You are also a member of the school's Parents and Friends group. School council has proposed changes to the Volunteers policy, changes that are concerning the Parents and Friends group. The group has asked you to vote against the recommendations when they put at the council meeting. How would you respond?

Response:

- This is **within** the functions of school council.
- A school's Volunteers policy must be consistent with the current [department policy](#).
- School councillors are not elected to represent the views of any particular group.
- School council might encourage individuals and groups to contribute to the policy review process by writing to the council via the school principal or school council president.
- School council might also conduct an open meeting to provide the group with the opportunity to communicate directly with the council (see the standing orders section in the [ISG manual p.46-51](#))