

Fundraising – The Why and the What For?

Due to a lack of adequate investment in Québec schools, parents have taken on the responsibility of filling the funding gaps so that students benefit from new programs and materials. Although fundraising **is not supposed to be** the sole mandate of Home and School, the QFHFA recognizes the importance of this to local associations.

This Fall it has come to the attention of the QFHSA Membership Committee that the allocation of fundraising monies is becoming a contentious issue for some local associations. Please keep in mind the following when planning fundraisers and provide your members with as much information as possible so they can allocate funds responsibly.

- **Allocation Plan:** In consultation with the administration, look at what the priorities are for the school year and where there is a need for resources (not staffing). Is a new program being implemented, is there going to be an influx of new students, does the school yard need to be improved, etc.? Start each school year with a wish list of items and projects.
- **Target Fundraising:** Although parents should always be aware of where fundraising dollars are going, have target fundraisers for specific projects.
- **Spend to benefit all students:** When allocating funds, spread the money out to benefit the most students possible. Even though all teachers may not take advantage of the wish list offer, give all staff a chance to participate.
- **Carry-Over:** Yes, a Home and School is permitted to carry-over some funds to get the next year started or if the association is saving for a long-term project. QFHSA-recommended carry-over amounts vary depending on school population, opening year activities, etc.
- **Number of Fundraisers:** Home and Schools are encouraged to spend their funds in a timely manner. Please be mindful that parents often fundraise for hockey, Scouts, Guides, etc. Cut back on fundraisers, have a year of “giving back” and give your volunteers a break if your Home and School fundraising has been very successful or if a project has been cancelled resulting in surplus funds.
- **Communication:** Communicate Home and School projects and plans with the Administration, Home and School parents and Governing Board. “Toot” Home and School’s horn when fundraising monies have paid for activities, events and materials.