

Charlene Azzopardi

From: Vincent A Degaetano
Sent: 25 November 2025 08:34
To: Dimech Charles at MEYR
Cc: Grima Clifton at MEYR; Vella Matthew at MEYR; Magro Josephine D at MEYR; CEDUC; Cassar Oreste 1 at OPM
Subject: CEDUC-25-6837

Categories: Related to Salesforce

Dear Mr Dimech,

Thank you for the three-and-a-half-page letter (and several attachments thereto) of the 13th instant, which I assume to be in reply to this Office's Final Opinion of the 10th instant.

While the background to this case may be interesting from a historical point of view, you or the Ministry clearly fail to appreciate that every parent of a minor of compulsory school age has the right to convey his views to the education authorities – even if that parent or parents at any school is or are in a minority – in connection with the minor's education and also the right to be represented in the process by persons of his or her choice, and that the education authorities have the corresponding duty to listen to those views and take serious, and not merely perfunctory, notice of them. That was the issue, and the narrow grounds, upon which this Office has ruled.

The secondary issue of the provision of the basic time-table is no longer being pursued by this Office, in view of the clarifications on that point.

Your letter is evidence, if any were needed, that the whole issue was precipitated by the hostility within the Education Division towards A.B. and C.B. Something that could have been solved with consummate ease by holding the meeting with the minority parents and allowing them to be represented by the people of their choice – as they have every right to do – has been escalated out of sheer pique on the Division's part to the detriment of the six parents of the minors concerned. No amount of administrative jargon and circumlocution can attenuate the shocking reality of the haughty attitude towards, and lack of empathy with, the complainants, not to mention disregard of a fundamental right.

This Office could have made reference in the Final Opinion to much correspondence – including that over the Parent Carer Committee – to highlight the totally insensitive way in breach of Art. 22(1)(2) of Cap. 385 that the Education Division has handled this whole affair vis-à-vis the complainants, but that could have led one to miss the wood for the trees.

In the circumstances, this Office has no alternative but to proceed as per subarticle (4) of Article 22 of Cap. 385.

Yours sincerely,

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