



WHERE INDIVIDUALS THRIVE



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26th April 2016

Dear parents, carers, staff and other stakeholders,

Decision

Last evening the governors of Burley School and Sopley School met to discuss the recommendations of the joint working party that has been examining the current governance model followed by both schools. The decision of both governing bodies was to proceed with the Federation as set out in the consultation document.

Over the course of the consultation period both governing bodies have been very keen to gather the views and opinions of all of the prospective stakeholders and in particular the views and opinions of current and future parents and carers of the children of both schools.

Not unsurprisingly there have been passionate views expressed both for and against the proposal to federate and on behalf of the full governing bodies of both schools we would like to thank each and every person who has attended any of the drop in sessions organised or who has completed and returned a feedback form. All comments and feedback was given to the full governing bodies ahead of last evening's meeting.

We would also like to thank the various representatives of Hampshire County Council who have given, unstintingly, their time, support and expertise over this consultation period.

Likewise we would like to thank the teachers and learning support staff of both schools for their considered input into this process.

Process

Last evening began with a presentation by the working party to the full governing bodies of both schools, detailing the consultation process and summarising the various views expressed. Those governors not involved in the working party were then able to ask any questions they had. In addition to the full governing bodies, there were two representatives of Hampshire County Council in attendance in order that they could make their expertise available as required.

The two governing bodies then met independently of each other to consider their views on the proposal. There were only three possible outcomes of these discussions:

Federate as detailed in the proposal document previously issued;

Federate with amendments to the proposal issued;

Not to Federate.



Once these individual meetings had concluded, the two governing bodies reconvened in order to deliver the individual decisions of each governing body.

Both governing bodies elected to Federate as detailed in the proposal document issued.

Next Steps

The new governance arrangements will start on 26.5.16 but the new leadership arrangements (Executive Head Teacher and Head of School in each school) will not start until 1.9.16.

The time between now and the 1st September will be used to ensure that the new leadership structure is in place and that everything is as prepared as it can be so that children, parents and staff can make a smooth start to the new school year. Here is a brief overview of the next steps - we will keep you informed along the way. We will be in touch again next week to give you further news about the progress we are making and will publish these updates on the school websites.

- Current school leaders continue in their existing positions until the end of the school year
- Parent and staff governor elections to be held for positions on the new governing body
- Candidates to be invited to apply for co-opted governor positions - applications to be assessed on a skills basis
- 26.5.16 - first meeting and start date of the new governance Federation
- Appoint new Executive Head Teacher to start from 1.9.16
- Appoint Head of School in each school to start from 1.9.16

It has been hugely encouraging to see over the course of this process the passion and commitment shown by many people, all of whom have one thing in common - they want what is best for the children of both schools - we would encourage anyone who would like to learn about being a co-opted member of the new federated body to contact either of the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

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