

BELLEVILLE GOVERNORS

20 November 2009

Dear parents, carers and staff,

My name is Kate Amis and I am the new Chair of Governors at Belleville. Sue Harries has stepped down from the role but will be continuing as a governor. Sue has led the governors for an amazing 11 years. It has been a vital and successful time for the school.

A huge THANK YOU to Sue, on behalf of us all.

As you will all be aware, the governors were required to respond to the council's proposal for expansion by the end of this week. Please see below for the text of the letter which was sent to the council this morning.

Dear Mr Glockling,

In September 2009 Wandsworth Borough Council approached this governing body with a proposal to permanently expand Belleville School to four form entry. We see this as recognition of the success of Belleville as a community and as a provider of high quality education for its children. Since then, the governors have spent a great deal of time and effort considering this proposal including discussions with current parents, prospective parents, staff and other members of the local community.

Our response is:

We believe that the staff, governors and leadership team of Belleville Primary School are capable of successfully leading and managing an expansion while continuing to provide an excellent education for the current and future pupils.

We welcome the council's recognition (Paper No. 09-960A) that before any recommendations can be made about whether to move ahead with the proposed expansion, the council must carry out further – more detailed - feasibility studies on both the building scheme and the future operational arrangements; and that Wandsworth Borough Council will also give further consideration to possible alternatives to provide additional places in the area.

If after carrying out further feasibility studies, researching possible alternatives and consulting fully with the Belleville School community, the council believes that Belleville provides the best option, the following key issues would need to be addressed:

- i) The pupils experience during the building work.
- ii) Guarantees that the entire scheme will be fully funded.
- iii) Safety and traffic issues.
- iv) The availability of sufficient external space.

Not until these key issues have been addressed to our satisfaction would we be able to consider whether we want to give our approval to move on to the next stage of consultation.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Amis, Chair of Governors

20 November 2009

Set out below is some background information to the process governors have followed to arrive at their response to the council. I hope that you find it useful. We will be in touch with further information in the near future.

In late September, the Council's proposal (for expansion to four forms) was sent to the governors. Governors discussed and debated the issue formally. In early October, the Council started the consultation process with parents, staff and governors by sending a letter asking for their views.

The governors then asked to meet Councillors to discuss a number of issues. The Councillors indicated that any expansion would need to have the support of the governors to go ahead. They explained that if the proposal were to go further, a formal statutory consultation of the full community (i.e. parents, carers, residents, staff and governors) would have to be undertaken alongside a detailed feasibility study. We wanted to understand all the available facts and to develop and analyse the key pros and cons to the proposal.

The full governors meeting in October focused only on this issue. On 2 November governors attended the meeting with the Council held at the school. On 16 November governors welcomed parents and staff to an open workshop where questionnaires and opinions were collated. The governors met again on 18 November and agreed the letter attached. (overleaf)

We now await a response from the council. We thank you all for your engagement with us during the process to date and are grateful to have had such strong commitment from parents and staff to the continued development of our outstanding school. The participation from all interested parties has been invaluable to the governors in arriving at this position.

We look forward to continuing to work with parents, carers and staff at Belleville. We will keep you updated through our new means of communication such as the governors' newsletter, school website and face-to-face meetings

Yours faithfully,



Kate Amis

governing body

parent governors

Barbara Downie
Konstanze Just
Brian Ledbetter
Martin Marquez
Alison Royce
Fiona Wilkins

staff governors

Sarah Atherton
Geraldine Burke
John Grove
Clare Lim

community governors

Martin Beaver
Sue Harries
Rebecca Hossain
vacancy

local education authority governors

Kate Amis
Jennifer Browne
Paul McGill
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