

BELLEVILLE GOVERNORS

23 October 2009

letter from the chair

sue harries

WELCOME to our new Governors' newsletter.

Last summer's Parents' Survey – and recent developments at Belleville – suggest that parents are interested in knowing more about who the Governors are and what they do. So first, some facts.

All schools are required by law to have a governing body to oversee the effective running of the school. Day-to-day management is delegated to the Headteacher and staff, but the Governors are responsible for ensuring best practice is followed. They are, for example, responsible for the strategic direction of the school, the school's budget, for the appointment of teachers, and for making sure that the school's curriculum provides the best possible education for all of the children.

At Belleville we have 18 governors who are passionate and committed to providing the best education for all children at the school. The largest number - six - are parent governors that you elect, giving parents a powerful voice.

The other 12 represent different 'interest groups'. Four are members of the Belleville staff – including the Headteacher.

There are also four governors representing the local community, and four appointed by the Local Authority some of whom also have children at the school.

Last Easter, the Governors were asked by the Local Authority if Belleville could accommodate an extra Reception class due to increased demand for school places in the local area. After much discussion, we agreed.

The Council carried out a borough wide study into where additional primary places were needed and could reasonably be provided. This included a feasibility study at Belleville by architects from the council during the summer term to see whether the school could – in theory - be permanently expanded from a three form entry school to a four form entry school. They found that it could, and if the proposal went ahead, Belleville could benefit from an investment of £6.5 million.

This would eventually increase the number of children in the school from 680 to 860 over a period of 6 years.

With this proposal, there are many possible benefits as well as negatives. Nothing has been decided. And the local authority has made it clear that if the Governors reject the proposal, it will not go ahead.

The Governors are currently weighing up the pros and cons and will not make any decision until after the meeting on 2 November when parents, staff and governors will be able to discuss the issue with representatives of the local authority.

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
Emma Waterfall

contact

The Chair of Governors
c/o Belleville School Office
Belleville Road,
London SW11 6PR

Monday 2 November, Belleville School 6.30pm

Meeting for parents/carers, staff and governors to discuss proposals to expand Belleville school with Councillors and Officers from Wandsworth Council

Monday 9 November

Closing date for submissions to Wandsworth Council on the proposed expansion

http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/info/33/building_schools_for_the_future_bsf/489/consultations

diary