

Education Walsall

Schools Forum

13 June 2006

Election of Governor Representatives to the Schools Forum

1. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the Report is to inform members of the Forum of progress in seeking Governor Representatives.

2. Background

There are currently three vacancies for Governors on the Schools Forum.

All Governing Bodies have been advised at their termly meeting of the vacancies. Interested Governors were requested to advise Education Walsall of their interest in joining the Forum. XX expressions of interest have been received, accompanied by supporting information from each Governor.

It is now proposed to hold an election, where all Governors will be asked to vote for a representative of their education phase. The votes will be returned to the Constitutional Service section of Walsall MBC.

The Forum will be informed of those duly elected and the results will be published in the Governors' Newsletter.

3. Candidates

For information candidate details are attached as an appendix to this report.

4. Recommendation

Members are recommended to receive the report for information.

Schools Forum Statements

Mr Mike Sweeney
Chair, Joseph Leckie CTC

Statement

Joseph Leckie is a specialist technology college located in the Palfrey Ward in the south of the Borough.

It is a large college with 1318 students on roll, of which 230 are in the sixth form. Many of the pupils are drawn from areas of significant economic and social deprivation. Around two thirds of the students are from ethnic minority groups and over one third of the students are eligible for free school meals. Key Stage 4 results A* - C in 2005 – 32%

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Mr Gerry Deakin
Chair of Governors
Park Hall Infant School

Statement

The governors and staff of both Park Hall Infant and Park Hall Junior Schools have encouraged me to apply for membership of the Schools Forum. They believe that I have both the judgement and experience to make an active contribution to this important and influential forum.

I have a business and engineering background in which I have managed and lead teams and projects, sometimes in quite difficult technical, financial and people driven situations.

In education, I have had a long association with a number of establishments including –

- Park Hall Infant School
- Park Hall Junior School
- Queen Mary's High School
- Queen Mary's Grammar School
- NSPCC
- Walsall Admissions Forum
- Park Hall Community Association

My motivation for being involved is my desire to contribute to making a difference for children. They should be at the heart of any decision making process and delivery service associated with education.

It is with this focus in mind that I have been able to contribute to Park Hall Schools as a governor for over 15 years. My association with the schools prior to this was through a highly successful and proactive parents' association. I have been Chair of Governors at the schools for 12 years supporting two very different but equally talented head teachers, leading in a distributive way two very different governing bodies.

As Chair, I have experienced the highs and lows of two schools that have continually undergone change in terms of –

- Status (LEA-Grant Maintained-Foundation)
- Curriculum (National Curriculum-National Strategies-National Initiatives)
- Catchment (Diversity)
- Staffing (Changes in staff profiles and structures including the appointment of three successful head teachers)

That I have continued for so long as Chair is indicative of the way I have been able to build and help lead teams and have been able to make diverse groups of people feel included and valuable as they make quite difficult and complex

corporate decisions. I reiterate that right or wrong at the very heart of any decision should be motivated by the judgement of how it directly impacts on children.

Children come first not politics, powerbases and personalities and as such I feel that I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to the education of all the children in Walsall – they deserve the best we can offer.

Mr F Hodgkinson
Chair of Governors
Brownhills Technology College

Statement

The Governors of Brownhills Community Technology College have elected to nominate myself, Mr F Hodgkinson as a candidate for Governor representative on the Schools Forum panel.

The Governors acknowledge my many years as Chair together with the substantial training and experience I have gained over the last 28 years, and feel that I am well qualified to act as Governor representative.

I would be grateful if you could put my name forward to be a member of this panel.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Mr Mark English
Governor
Park Hall Junior School

Statement

Following encouragement from my fellow governors at Park Hall Junior School, I would like to be considered for any position that may become available for governor representation on the Schools Forum.

I am a parent governor and have been actively involved in the 'critical friend' and strategic decision making approaches that have worked so successfully at this school. My partner works in a school in a neighbouring authority and we often 'live and breath' school at home either through my year 4 daughter, partner or through my role as governor.

As a solicitor and partner of a large city centre practice with 250 employees, I have experience of working with, leading and managing people at all levels within an organisation. In my role as a solicitor, I have developed the ability to communicate effectively with people from all walks of life in a number of different contexts and situations. I consistently have to deal with complex problem resolution in a considered and logical way.

The experiences gained in practice have enabled me to contribute voluntarily to the development of the YMCA in Birmingham and enabling legal aid to operate. I serve as vice chairperson of the YMCA and am on the Birmingham Legal Aid Funding Committee.

Having benefited from the education I received I feel that I would like to make a contribution towards ensuring that all of our children are given an education that maximises their potential and allows them to take advantage of any windows of opportunity that may be presented to them.

The work of the forum should, I feel, focus upon maximising benefit to all children in a balanced and logical manner without political and personal bias. I believe that my background will enable me to offer such input.

I hope, therefore, that if and when an opportunity arises you will give my application consideration.

Mr Paul Dixon
Parent Governor
New Invention Infant School

Statement

I am a Parent Governor at New Invention Infant School having been elected in 2004. I am currently the Deputy Chair of Governors, as well as being on a number of committees including the finance committee.

I am a father of 3 children, the youngest is attending the infant school, and the elder 2 children attend New Invention Junior School.

I have been attending the Kindred Spirits (Walsall) course run by Education Walsall, having originally being invited to speak as a parent with my wife. My wife Tina is the deputy chair of a parent led, parents support group – Link Up, and I assist as the secretary.

In my work capacity, I am a Bakery Shift Manager at Warburton's Bakery.

I have recently started to take a degree in psychology, through the Open University.

Mr Simon Corden
e-Government Business Analyst
Strategic Transformation
Walsall Council

Statement

I wish to put myself forward, with the support from my governing body, as a member of the Schools' Forum. I bring a balance of support and challenge, enthusiasm and interest to the governing body of Whitehall Junior where I am also chair of the curriculum committee. I would be very keen to participate in the forum and would hope to make a significant contribution to the LMS formula and schools block spending.

Mrs Jacki Page
Governor
Millfields Nursery School Community Services

Statement

I am a Governor of Millfields Nursery School Community Services, and wish to be considered as a representative on the Schools' Forum. Obviously this would be to represent the Nursery phase.

In support of my nomination I offer the following information:

- Head Teacher of Lane Head Nursery Sept. 1977 to march 2005, when I was forced by ill health to take early retirement
- During that time I spent almost 2 years on secondment as Walsall's Early Years Advisory Teacher, working with in excess of 40 Primary schools to improve practice, and running many INSET courses
- Beyond that time, I continued to run courses, in Walsall and nationally, principally as a result of the investment made in me by Walsall when they paid for my training as a High Scope Endorsed Trainer
- Governor of Lane Head Nursery and Short Heath Junior Schools for the duration of my employment
- Membership of numerous working parties, notably Appraisal and Workforce Reform
- District and parish Councillor on Cannock Chase District and Heath Hayes Parish Councils

I would point out that I am now disabled, and use a wheelchair part of the time, so would need accessible meeting places. I can walk short distances, but stairs are difficult.

If you need further information please do not hesitate to contact me.