

Dunnington CE Primary School

ACADEMY CONSULTATION MEETING WITH PARENTS

9th November 2016 6.00pm

Present: Caroline Hancy (Headteacher)
Simon Parkinson (Chair of Governors)
Sue Brandon (School Office Manager/Clerk to Governing Body)
Jenny Scholes (School Business Manager)
Andrew Pennington (Chair of Governors-Fulford School)

The meeting was also attended by one parent, Mrs Sweeting.

Several other governors had attended but left when the low turnout became obvious and they were not needed:

Ros Williams
Rachel Savege
Grahame Hodson

Caroline Hancy explained that the meeting had been arranged to give parents more information about the Academy Consultation proposal and to give parents the opportunity to offer their views and to raise any questions or concerns they may have.

Caroline began by explaining how the cluster schools had been working together in the past and how the South York Schools Partnership had become established, formalising in 2012 with the formation of a joint committee. She explained the collaboration already taking place and how the schools work together in many areas, sharing good practice and increasing efficiency.

Simon Parkinson then introduced a Powerpoint presentation which gave information and facts regarding the proposed change to academy status and forming a Multi-Academy Trust with other schools in the cluster. He explained the challenges for church schools working together with community schools and how getting to this point had inevitably been a long process.

Simon then commented on how academies were working within the national and local context. He said that it was the genuine belief of the governors and heads of the cluster that a change to academy status and the formation of a MAT is the right thing for the school and for the cluster.

Simon talked about the demise of local authority services, those that have already gone and those that are expected to go in the future.

Caroline and Simon then talked about the reasons why the governors feel that a MAT is the best way forward. These are detailed in the presentation, which is on the school website.

Caroline and Simon explained what the governing structure of a MAT would be and that the school would remain responsible to OFSTED in the same way.

Mrs Sweeting felt that the presentation had been very clear and informative. She had come along to learn more about what a change to academy status would mean and felt that this had been achieved.

She asked governors how the application process works.

Caroline told her that the consultation period ends on 25th November and an extraordinary meeting of the school governing body has been arranged for 8th December. That meeting will consider all responses to the consultation and decide whether to proceed in applying for academy status, with the intention of converting for September 2017. Should a decision be made to proceed, Dunnington would wish to be among the first schools in the cluster to apply for conversion.

Caroline explained that the application is made to the Regional Schools Commissioner for the DfE. Solicitors need to be engaged, the local authority legal team needs to be involved and paperwork needs to be completed. However, the legal process can take some time and the local authority can only deal with a small number of applications at once, so there is a possibility that the conversion could take place later than September 2017.

Caroline and Simon thanked Mrs Sweeting for coming along to find out more and urged those present to try and encourage parents to submit written comments, views and opinions on the consultation form.