

*PRIESTMEAD - ONWARDS AND UPWARDS***PRIESTMEAD SCHOOLS**

First School Headteacher:	Janet K Evans
Middle School Headteacher:	Brian A Robertson
First School Tel:	020 8907 5434
Middle School Tel:	020 8907 2768
Fax:	020 8909 1603

Hartford Avenue
Kenton, Harrow
Middlesex
HA3 8SZ

07 April 2009

Heather Clements
Director of Schools and Children's Development,
Harrow Council,
Civic Centre,
PO Box 22,
Station Road,
Harrow,
HA1 2UW

Dear Heather

Priestmead Schools - Federation of Governing Bodies and Amalgamation of Schools

As requested by Chris Melly I am writing to you following our very successful inaugural Federated Full Governing Body meeting last Wednesday evening (1st). At this meeting members from each Governing Body formally voted unanimously to sanction the Soft Federation of both Governing Bodies. An election was held to elect a Chair of the newly Federated Governing Body and I was honoured to be elected unanimously. A copy of the proposed Instrument of Governance for the Federated Governing Body has been passed onto Neetha Atukorale to enable it to be formally drawn up by the Local Authority.

The meeting then moved onto the business of formally considering the outcomes from our amalgamation consultation and subsequently to agree to proceed with submitting our proposals to the Local Authority for formal approval by Cabinet. We briefly run through the process that we had undertaken with the consultation. This work started in the Autumn Term and was carried out totally in line with the guidance provided as part of Harrow's amalgamation policy and included setting up a Steering Group, taking soft soundings from staff, pupils and parents to inform our discussions and documentation. During the early part of the Spring Term Governors took further soft soundings by meeting parents at the numerous open evenings for both schools. Formal amalgamation proposals were agreed by Governors at their meetings on the 20th and 29th January and sent out to parents on 23rd February at the start of a four week consultation period. Two formal Parents Consultation evenings were held on 11th and 12th March - from the potential of 750 plus pupil's families we only had 45 parents attend over the two evenings. A formal consultation meeting was also held with the staff of both schools on Monday 23rd March which was a huge success.

A number of documents, which indicate a summary of the feedback that we have received on the amalgamation proposals from both schools, have been sent to Chris electronically for inclusion in his formal report. Janet and Brian have retained the original return slips, notes, etc which were used to inform these summaries should they be needed at a later date.

WE ALL WANT TO BE...*SUCCESSFUL LEARNERS,**CONFIDENT INDIVIDUALS AND**RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS*

PRIESTMEAD - ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

Having considered all of the above information Governors again discussed the proposed amalgamation before formally voting, unanimously, to proceed with submitting it to Cabinet with the unreserved recommendation of the Federated Governing Body of Priestmead Schools to amalgamate the two schools. I understand that the Local Authority will now compile a report detailing all of this for submission to Cabinet for consideration at their meeting on 14th May.

During our Governing Body meeting formal thanks were given to both Patrick O'Dwyer and Chris Melly for their invaluable help in explaining and smoothing this process for us and for their assistance generally throughout the process. These thanks will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting which I will send to you as soon as I have them.

Can I please ask that it be mentioned in the report to Cabinet, if possible, about the tremendous amount of hard work that Janet and Brian have done over the last six months in respect of these amalgamation proposals. I do not believe that Governors would have been able to do anywhere near as much work within the time constraints given without their enormous, invaluable, input. I feel that it is very important that Councillors realise just how hard our Headteachers work to maintain the high level of education that we fortunate enough to have in Harrow. I would also ask that a mention is given in the report to my Governor colleague, Peter Feldman, who has chaired the Strategic Forum and more latterly the Amalgamation Steering Group in a superb manner.

Should you require any further information regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact me. If you need to contact me while the schools are closed for Easter please feel free to call me on my mobile 07802-452491. Very many thanks in advance for your continued assistance with moving these proposals forward.

Yours sincerely



Keith Savage
Chair of Governors
Priestmead Schools Federated Governing Body

Cc Janet Evans - Headteacher, Priestmead First School and Nursery
Brian Robertson - Headteacher, Priestmead Middle School
Chris Melly - Senior Professional, Harrow Transforming Learning Team
Patrick O'Dwyer - Senior School Improvement Professional, Achievement and Inclusion Service

WE ALL WANT TO BE...



SUCCESSFUL LEARNERS,



CONFIDENT INDIVIDUALS AND



RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS