

Dear Joy

Just a quick note, [REDACTED] to let you know how the letter sent out to parents on Wednesday was received.

My personal view, and one that I have also heard from other parents I have spoken to, is that the letter was helpful in explaining the process, so thank you for making the process clearer. It also means parents now know what specific question governors will be voting on this coming Tuesday - specifically whether to formally 'register an interest' in academisation or not - which is also helpful in clarifying parents thoughts.

I also appreciate the confirmation in the letter that confirms there will be a period of dialogue before governors take a second vote on moving to the formal consultation and due diligence phase. This does however beg the question, why do governors need to formally register an interest before they can begin speaking to the school community? Why not defer the formal vote on registering an interest until the dialogue has happened? Or at the very least has begun?

Whilst it is good to know specifically what question governors will be voting on, it remains concerning that parents found out that the vote was planned almost by accident. If a handful of parents had not attended Parents Forum and asked for more information would we have only heard about the vote after it had already happened?

I also wanted to make you aware that I have heard about a parent who does not have English as a first language approaching another parent asking them to explain what the letter means. This is quite a complex subject area and it is important that everyone in the school community is able to access and understand all of the relevant information, including those with English as a second language, difficulties reading or other access needs. From a personal point of view I will readily admit I have no idea what 'reforming the multi-academy trust', as referred to in the letter, actually means.

My point of view therefore, having received the letter, is that the offer of more dialogue is positive and very welcome. However there seems no reason why governors have to go as far as formally registering an interest with the DfE for that dialogue to happen. I would therefore ask that you take a different approach and enter into dialogue before considering whether to register an interest. Having read the DfE guidance on converting to an academy, this suggestion seems entirely compatible with their process.

I would appreciate it if these comments could be shared with the governors. Thank you again for your correspondence on this matter.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]