



Monday 7th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Election for Two Parent Governors

As you will be aware from the letter of 25th November 2020, we have two vacancies for parent governors.

We have received **eight nominations** and are therefore holding an election in order to fill these two vacancies.

The personal statements of each of the candidates are provided at the end of this letter. Please read these carefully and bear in mind the role of parent governor and the needs of our Local Governing Board.

Each parent can vote for TWO candidates. You can only vote for TWO candidates even if you have more than one child at the school.

Due to the current situation and the safety measures in place, but also for efficiency and sustainability, the election will be undertaken electronically.

We have set up a 'form' on PMX so that parents can select two candidates of their choice.

Please log in to Parent Mail and go to the 'forms' section where you will be able to cast your vote.

In the vast majority of cases, where there are two parents, we have both parents' email addresses registered and linked to our PMX system. **If, however, one parent is not set up and they wish to exercise their right to vote, then please contact the school office in order for us to register you on PMX.**

Voting closes at 12 noon on Monday 14th December and the votes will be counted at 1.00pm on this day. The result will be announced as soon as possible after this.

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As detailed in the previous letter, the Local Governing Board's main tasks are:

- to ensure that the academy has a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction
- to hold the head and leaders to account for the educational performance of the academy and its pupils
- to oversee the financial performance of the academy and make sure its money is well spent.

The governors have identified the following skills, experience and attributes that they feel would help strengthen the local governing board:

- *General experience of financial planning, monitoring, decision making, compliance and control.*
- *Experience of complying with legal, regulatory and financial frameworks and statutory guidance.*
- *Awareness of the key aspects of national education policy e.g. school funding, curriculum, teaching, learning etc. and education locally e.g. the types of school, local education issues etc.*
- *Experience of engaging and working with stakeholders (e.g. parents, community groups, local business etc.) within or outside of the school sector.*

We encourage all parents to vote as the role of parent governor is an important one.

Yours sincerely



Louise Wood
Headteacher

Personal statements follow on page 3 and 4 of this letter.



BARROW HEDGES PRIMARY SCHOOL – PARENT GOVERNOR NOMINATION STATEMENTS

KIRSTY BLEWER

I have devised and managed policy and stakeholder programmes for FTSE 100 housebuilders and infrastructure companies, working with them and local communities to deliver key messages about development schemes and projects. This also involved managing project budgets and setting targets for outcomes. I am able to digest detailed and often technical information and 'translate' this into 'mum speak', something one's own mum can understand.

Prior to this, I worked at Westminster for several Members of Parliament, focussing on a variety of issues - from national policies and legislation at draft Bill and Committee stages, to constituency-based matters raised by people who needed the MP's assistance.

I am a mentor with Sutton MAPS and have mentored several children. I am a coach and team manager for my children's rugby club, which involves regular stakeholder management of parents and club members. I also volunteered as a youth worker at a youth club for young people with learning disabilities, which brought a great deal of joy to my life and gave me an insight into life for families with a learning-disabled child.

I believe that my commercial and political experience, coupled with my voluntary work make me an excellent candidate for School Governor.

EMANUELA DEDONI

I have been working in the property sector (residential and commercial) for eight years. During this time, I managed budget, Year End and finance from smaller sites to 2 million pounds budget. I am currently working for NHS property management in the Asset Management team. Our main goal is to make sure we are using our property assets to their max potential and so earn money for the NHS. As mother of triplets at Barrow Hedges, I would like to help Barrow Hedges to be run at their best potential.

RICHARD O'BRIEN

I have lived in Carshalton for nearly seven years, and I have a son in Year 1, with another son coming up to the school the year after next.

In my role as Chief Financial Officer at my place of work, I am well experienced in financial planning and monitoring of cash flows, working within a tight budget and maximising value for money. I am also experienced in dealing with compliance matters and working within legal and regulatory frameworks (as well as the obvious link to my current role, my previous job was as a senior audit manager at a Big 4 accountancy firm), including establishing robust processes and controls. I am a Chartered Accountant with 20 years' post-qualification experience.

It is not often my particular skills and experience allow me the opportunity to get involved with facilitating my children, and other young people in the area, being able to realise their full potential and set themselves up for later life, and I would love to be given the opportunity in this instance where I am sure I can really bring a great deal to the role.

CHAO PANG

I am a chartered management accountant with extensive financial management experiences at senior level in education sector. I worked in further education for nearly 10 years and left my last post as Group Deputy Director of Finance for Merton College, South Thames College, Carshalton College and Kingston College. I started my own accountancy firm in 2019, is currently working as principle of TaxAssist Accountants in Sutton. When I worked in the college, I use to prepare 3-year financial plan, annual budget, end of year accounts, quarterly management accounts and financial reports to College's committees and Senior Leadership Team. I was responsible for regulatory returns to funding body such as SFA, EFA and HEFCE, therefore have in-depth knowledge of funding frameworks. Running my own practice in Sutton, I work closely with local businesses. I believe that my background and experiences will enable me to be an ideal candidate for your consideration. Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

KIRSTINA POTTS

Based on the skill sets you were looking to bring on to enhance your existing governing body, I thought I would put myself forward. I am the Head of Regulation and Compliance for the London Metal Exchange, a financial exchange and the centre for global metal trading. My role includes managing all interactions with regulators, policy makers and government bodies as well as understanding and advising on how to go about meeting complex (and sometimes conflicting) regulatory guidance and legislation. I am on the organisations executive team which has responsibility for overseeing both the business and financial direction of the organisation. Prior to the LME, I was the Head of UK Government Affairs for an investment bank again very focused on managing a multiplicity of stakeholders from the regulatory, government, and political world. I would really welcome the opportunity to help support Barrow Hedges as both a parent and a governor.

ANDREA TODD

I am an Assistant Headteacher at a local Grammar school with over twenty years of experience in secondary education in the local area. As part of my school's leadership team I work closely with governors, valuing the challenge that they bring and benefiting from the support offered. I am well versed in national education policies, for example, the recent challenges of closing and reopening a school, prioritising school developments in consideration of financial constraints and the longer-term impact that changes to the new Ofsted framework will have. In my current role I oversee teaching, learning and assessment across the school although I have held other more pastoral roles and therefore understand the systems in place across Sutton to support young people of all ages. If I am successfully appointed as a parent governor, as well as providing a different angle to add to the teaching and learning expertise that Barrow Hedges already has, I feel that I could be an asset to the important transition of students from Y6 into Y7.

MELISSA WILLIAMS

I would like to be considered for the position of Parent Governor for Barrow Hedges. In my 5 years as a parent of two Barrow Hedges children, I have committed myself to helping the school in every way I can. This has been in the form of parent helping, joining the PTA, and being actively involved in fundraising. In addition, I am engaged in the community, managing a children's rugby team and chairing the Patient Participation Group at a local GP practice. As someone who presently works for an Early Years Nursery, I am aware of educational policies and the need to provide for all children (particularly taking into account any special educational needs, an area in which I have personal experience). I have a good knowledge and understanding of the school and its current pressures, and am passionate about supporting Barrow Hedges in its journey to becoming "Outstanding", whilst striving to provide the children with the best all-round school experience possible. I pride myself on my communication and organisational skills and have forged cherished relationships with many families at the school. I would consider it an honour and a privilege to act on their behalf to support the children and ensure that every child at Barrow Hedges is safe, confident, and is encouraged to be the very best that they can be.

NICHOLAS DAVID WOODWARD

Having grown up in and around Sutton and Carshalton, attending the Avenue and latterly Sutton Grammar School the opportunity to be a vocal part of the Carshalton and school community acting on behalf of parents would be a privilege.

As a consultant who runs my own Limited Company, I have spent my career working in the public sector advising on and managing large scale programmes for local authorities, schools and currently in central government. I have in this time been responsible for the design, stakeholder engagement and delivery of 14 schools across the country, understanding a range of school budgetary, curricular and stakeholder expectations.

I feel the skills garnered across a range of programmes and with the unique schools focus enabled by my engagement with the Department for Education, should place me in a positive position to represent parents and support the school.