



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Our Ref: PVET01001/01140939

07 November 2014

Dear All

Open letter on next stages to include parents

Many thanks indeed for today's meeting and your sustained work putting PVET back on the road to excellence. I agreed to write to clarify next steps, for including parents in PVET governance.

1. Local governing bodies. You are completing the process for recruiting parents to governing bodies.
 - a. Each governing body will have 7 members, the principal, a staff member, two parents and three further members drawn from a cross PVET group of nine.
 - b. Parents have been recruited for Nansen and Golden Hillock, but one vacancy remains for Park View School.
 - c. There remains two vacancies for the cross PVET group of nine Trust appointees. Parents are able to be selected as governors, via this route, by applying via ESCOS, which is independent.
 - d. I will join you in encouraging parents to apply for both the ESCOS route (please send me details if you can) and the Park View School vacancy.
 - e. We disagree on how parents should be recruited to local governing bodies. I believe elections are always the best way forward, and so I will raise this with the Minister.
2. The Trust Board of Directors. Two parents are needed from the local governing bodies to sit on the Trust Board of Directors. If more than two parents governors put themselves forward, there will be an election, in which all parents can vote. You believe it may be possible to complete this step in January.
3. Trust Members. This is the 'top layer' of academy governance. Legally you do not need to include parents at this level – but you suggested this may be wise from next summer. I would urge you to include parents at this level, and and at the earliest opportunity – certainly earlier than the summer.

Many thanks again for your efforts and I look forward to a response I might publish, with confirmation and consideration of these points.

Yours sincerely

RT HON LIAM BYRNE MP