

MELTON MOWBRAY AND VALE OF BELVOIR SCHOOLS' REVIEW

MEETINGS AT BOTTESFORD BELVOIR HIGH SCHOOL

4TH OCTOBER 2006

OFFICERS PRESENT – AT ALL THREE MEETINGS

Gareth I Williams – Director of Children and Young People's Service
Bob Dutton – Head of the Learning Environment Team
David Atterbury – Project Officer for the Melton and Vale of Belvoir Review
Ann Morgan – Curriculum Adviser, Children and Young People's Service

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Ivan Ould C.C. - Lead Member for Children and Young People's Service

TEACHERS' MEETING 4.00P.M.

NUMBERS PRESENT - 22 PLUS HEADTEACHER

Q	A public "Thank You" for securing the money. Is that all there is to be £5.9 million?
A	Yes there is enough there.
Q	Is this school to be refurbished or new build like Castle Rock High School?
A	Refurbish some but not a lot and extend with new build.
Q	Will there be a consultation with Administrative staff?
A	Yes of course – you can go out to Castle Rock to talk there. Discussions with Admin staff is the key
Q	At Castle Rock everything was brand new – will you get rid of everything here now. Will money buy all new?
A	Will have to be sensible here – teaching will drive needs. We will do it with you not to you and look at the facilities which should be kept. We will work in partnership.
Q	Will you allow us to move into the new build whilst refurbishing here?
A	2008 – you would not have year 6 but will acquire year 10. You don't need any more accommodation but you will have to provide a wider curriculum.
Q	Is the target 2008 or 2009?
A	All contingent on the Melton Plans. Aided or Trust school is part of the deal. We will be asking you when you can cope with the change as you are the folk who know. Schools are to tell us when they can do it.
Q	When will we know when?
A	When we have the final preferred option. We have to get every bit right so discussion is important.
Q	What about pupils who choose to go to other schools? This could become a popular school when change comes – will a bigger school be built?
A	No – people can apply for surplus places like any other school.
Q	There have been a couple of references to links with Brooksby College for the lower achievers. There isn't anything concrete in the proposals. These

	links need to be spelt out to parents.
A	Brooksby and Melton have made these points. Getting the kids the right place is the important thing.
Q	There are two mobiles – will new classrooms be built before mobiles are removed?
A	Yes – children come first, their education has to be sustained. No we are not going to educate children “under a tree”. There will be joint management.
Q	Is there an interim period when access funds have to be put into place?
A	After February when statutory notices are out. There will be talks with staff in the LA and school as to how it comes together.
Q	How are you going to link mains services e.g. water/sewage as there are problems with these now?
A	That is the local knowledge which will inform the Architect’s work. Bob Dutton, Learning Environment Team will take this information away. We need local knowledge.
Q	At what stage will Architects talk to school?
A	They can’t come now as we are in the middle of a consultation. They can’t come until a formal decision has been made by the Cabinet. After February 2007 these can start but we can’t jump the gun and assume. Bob Dutton said the Architects will get a brief to say what we want – unless we have that you won’t get what you want. Local knowledge needs to be fed back directly to surveyors to check things out. Nearer February you could go and have a look at the new Castle Rock High School. You need to be thinking about Curriculum needs as well.
Q	There needs to be links with other schools – how does it work practically?
A	This concerns many Headteachers. You need to engage in joint planning which will offer flexibility.
Q	Will Governors and Managers of this school have a say in 16-19 provision in Melton especially in relation to management and accountability?
A	This is where good partnerships work best. Will make it a condition of the build where everyone has an equal voice. There will be proper formal partnership arrangements.
Q	Specialism and targets post 16 provision. Could Belvoir could go down the route of virtual learning as part of the 6 th Form?
A	There is all to play for. Part of the consultation.
Q	How are students properly represented post 16?
A	That is something for you to think about.
Q	Concerns with staffing to deliver the curriculum – one transition year will be expensive.
A	Write and present a business plan. Absolute priority and pool funding.
Q	Older staff will be seen as not so value added as the younger staff. Will early retirement be offered?
A	You will have to work through Pay and Conditions and rules must not fly out of the window.
Q	How do you pick the Architect?
A	This is complicated – if an aided school the Diocese might want to use their own Architect. Bob Dutton said they might use the same Architect as Castle Rock. Part of the criteria will be to choose a firm that has done a

	rebuild before. Brockington would be used as an example of where it works well. There will be equity in partnership and to get to a level of free discussion and trust.
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Gareth Williams thanked everyone for their input.

The meeting closed at 5.25p.m.

GOVERNORS' MEETING AT 6.00P.M.

NUMBERS PRESENT 10 + HEADTEACHER

Q	What is the timescale for this in the Vale – Is it 2008/9?
A	Got to meet the February deadline for completion of the consultation. Like to see some movement during 2008.
Q	When will it happen?
A	2009 – any quicker would be difficult.
Q	Any funding link between Bottesford and Melton?
A	Bottesford comes first – separate funding for Bottesford.
Q	Governors are concerned regarding Church Voluntary Aided status.
A	There are two issues. The LA has spoken to the DfES about national priorities and better diversity to parents. With national priorities parents voices must be heard. Will also listen to what the Diocese has to say and take up issues on Governors' behalf. Trust status gives ownership and more flexibility. Director will listen and take forward views.
Q	Could we invite someone to the next Governors meeting – need better understanding – need to know about Diocese and Trust status.
A	Will make representations again to the Diocese.
Q	£5.9 million – over the moon about this amount from the DfES. Is there any other money designated for the build i.e. no mention of business partnership.
A	If you go down the route of Trust status you would have to have that link with the business sector. £5.9 million should get what you need with parts of the existing building being refurbished and also the new build. This has got to be a state of the art school. We will be sitting down with the Headteacher and the Management Team to see what is wanted. This is the only sensible way of getting value for money. Reassurance was given that this will be all in the debate and discussion we are going to have.
Q	Will there be other discussions relating to staff costs and training?
A	You will need to work with the LA on a transitional plan. The expertise on all these issues lies in the school. By March a project plan should be put together. In plans to the DfES it will state that this will have to be state of the art. We will not toss out good things but we will also not make do and mend.
Q	What can we be doing now ?
A	You should be meeting as a Governing Body and planning now for the next 12 months or so. There is no preferred option.

Q	Post 16 – Option B – How would Belvoir fit into Option B ?
A	This option is unlike anything before in this area. You want the best value for your children and how best to make that real for Bottesford children.
Q	What about Post 16 ?
A	Must link into Post 16.
Q	What happens cross-boundary ?
A	Work is being done in the LA to talk to other LAs re. cross-boundary working.
Q	When the final stage takes place will Belvoir close and new one officially open ?
A	It will depend on the process the LA engages in. Will have agreements beforehand.
Q	How important is getting the 6 th Form right ?
A	If we don't get Melton right it will impact here.
Q	Will there be collaboration over 3 counties regarding term times – will the LA be looking at this ?
A	Timetable control is most important.
Q	There was a Community Centre here once – will that be part of the development for this site ?
A	This is not out of bounds.

PARENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING 7.30P.M.

PARENTS PRESENT – 51

BYRON RHODES C.C. PRESENT

Q	When is this change going to happen. September 2008 or September 2009 ?
A	The transition should be by 2009 – school staff have talked about doing something in 2008. If we can do something in 2008 we will. Reassurance given than it will be better than in the Status Quo. Have to be convinced there is something positive for Post 16 children from this school and that we are not putting children through a hiccup at Post 16. We need the Governors to start getting a vision as to how things should work.
Q	Why is the provision of Post 16 in this school not an option ?
A	Too small for 6 th Form – there are options as to how this school could influence Post 16. There are opportunities for Community Learning. The options for Post 16 show flexibility in this new world.
Q	It would be wonderful to have 6th Form here. The Director says it's too small but there are schools in Grantham that have 6 th Forms. Schools are now being forced to collaborate to provide a broader provision.
A	LSC would not fund 6 th Form provision at Bottesford. How are you going to fund this ?
Q	The changes here will be in place by 2009 so moving on to Melton will the changes happen in 2009 ?
A	Changes have to happen together – maybe some changes in 2008. If no better deal won't do it. Will be mapping this.
Q	16+ is difficult to get people to work together. There are frustrations – need

	Brooksby/Melton and current 6 th Form to make best use of working together.
A	There has been a history of difficulty in getting people to work together. Headteachers are now being told to work together. It is a requirement of the new build for people to work together. Have been out to talk to the Principal of Brooksby. Meetings will take place as to how we tie plans together.
Q	There is a commitment of £26 millions. How much might options cost ? Money is needed to realise projects.
A	All options deliverable. No costings done yet. Might have to look at assets to top this up. Money is there to deliver. Need to look at the revenue costs to keep things going. Yes we can do it but it will work more efficiently with partnership working. If no partnership working this will not be value for money.
Q	Option A for the Learning Centre – will it be managed independently ?
A	It will be funded independently. Will lose expertise at Key Stage 4. There will be independent Governing Body and Independent Principal. This is an issue to think about.
Q	There is no mention in the curriculum in relation to arts.
A	We have taken this on board.
Q	Option B – how will it work for Vale children ?
A	In Vale at 11 you can still go to Melton as open enrolment still exists. 1 of 3 areas to look for Post 16 is Melton others are Grantham and Bingham. If option B is run the Governors at this school have some say in Melton.
Q	What about the risks if Melton schools are squabbling and delay this. Need solution for Post 16 children here.
A	There are 2 issues – no vocational choice. Got to deliver vocational choice for 2008. People might look outside Leicestershire if options aren't delivered. Pathfinder money must be spent by 2008. There is an issue as to what's happening to Vale of Belvoir children Post 16
Q	If it is delayed will there be a separate bid for this build?
A	Yes
Q	Will it be built by 2008 or phased built ?
A	Whatever is feasible to deliver. Headteacher to say what is feasible.
Q	Would be ideal to start in the Summer holidays.
A	The ideal is what we aim for.
Q	Are the primary schools going to be funded out of the £28 millions?
A	Started doing work on provision for primary schools. Will provide what the children would have had here. Guarantee provision for year 6.
Q	Will it impact on performance for Key Stage 2
A	Basic provision will be provided.
Q	Is it going to be a new build ?
A	On this site, some refurbishment and some rebuild will go for the best cost option. Surveyors and school staff will inform decisions. Will take professional advice.
Q	Would church school status up the money ?
A	Still discussing status – will come back on this and talk again.
Q	Are you meeting Governors of the Primary Schools and would curriculum time be lost in travelling to sites ?
A	Yes we need to go out to primary schools in next round of consultations.

When we get to the proposal state will then go ahead and talk to the primary schools. There are issues to be considered in relation to the curriculum in each of the options.

The Director concluded by saying that what Secondary Schools used to deliver was changing and that people's views are important.

Parents were thanked for their input.

The meeting closed at 9.12p.m.