



Introductory meeting between parents and NET Academies Trust (NETAT)

Wednesday 10th September 2014, Latton Green Primary School

Present: 35 parents, Maxine Evans (Chief Executive, NETAT), Takako Yeung (Director of Operations and Development), Ruth Bird (Chair, Interim Executive Board), Liz Laysell (Head of School), Stephen Rodwell (Academies Officer, NETAT), Tosca Boothman (IEB)

What follows is a summary of points raised during the initial meeting between parents of children at Latton Green Primary School and the academy sponsor for the school, NET Academies Trust. It was agreed that a follow up meeting with parents would be arranged for later on in the term.

- Introductions by NETAT representatives included an outline of the purposes of the meeting.
- Details of our two current academies were requested.
 - The Trust's first academy, Battle Primary Academy in Reading, converted on 1st January 2013. After a long history of being in Special Measures, Battle is now making steady progress. The first full Ofsted inspection since Battle converted is expected soon.
More information is available here:
<http://www.netacademies.net/page/?title=Battle+Primary+Academy&pid=18>
 - Our second academy, Henry Hinde Junior School in Rugby, converted on 1st January 2014. The Trust and the school have been working together since then to improve teaching and learning, and build upon the excellent practice already taking place.
More information is available here:
<http://www.netacademies.net/page/?title=Henry+Hinde+Junior+School&pid=19>
- Questions were asked as to whether NETAT had any ambitions to become the sponsor of other Harlow schools, particularly those in "Special Measures".
 - The priority for NETAT is about making improvements in the three Harlow schools currently due to convert on 1st January 2015: Latton Green Primary School, Longwood Primary School, and Abbotsweld Primary School. Becoming the sponsor of more schools, in Harlow and/or elsewhere, depends on whether NETAT can first demonstrate that clear progress has been made in our current academies and in the three Harlow schools mentioned above.

- Information was sought as to what changes might take place at Latton Green following the January conversion date.
 - A new Executive Head for the three Harlow schools will be formally appointed on the 1st January 2015, though he or she will work with the school prior to this conversion date. He or she will work with the SLT, teachers, parents, governors, pupils and NETAT staff, to make improvements in teaching and learning across the school.
 - Regular checks on educational progress will occur via the new governing body.

- Parents asked whether the overheating issues in Class 5 would be part of the changes sought pre- or post-conversion.
 - Ruth Bird responded that air conditioning for this classroom is being arranged and will be in place before summer 2015.

- NETAT were asked whether there would be interaction between the three Harlow schools.
 - NETAT envisages that staff at the three schools will interact throughout the school year, particularly through staff training days. Collaboration and partnership between the schools will be part of the Executive Head's agenda when he or she is formally appointed.

- Concerns were raised as to the lack of communication regarding the changes taking place and due to take place at Latton Green.
 - NETAT aims to be a transparent academy sponsor. Subsequent changes and important information will be communicated to parents as soon as it becomes available, via letters, emails and further meetings. A senior member of the School Leadership Team at Latton Green will also be available to talk with parents on a day-to-day basis.

- Concerns were also voiced about whether quick, disruptive changes would be made at Latton Green following the conversion date.
 - All changes will be made in communication with the school leadership and school community. The quality of teaching and learning will not be compromised and is foremost on all agendas.

- Parents asked whether the high academic standards sought by NETAT were realistically possible for all pupils.
 - High expectations are vital to raising aspirations and encouraging children to achieve the very best they can. All pupils possess different skillsets and talents as well, and these must also be nurtured. High aspirations can have positive effects in all areas of learning.

- Questions were raised regarding the process by which NET Academies Trust was chosen as the academy sponsor for Latton Green.
 - Essex County Council considered a number of sponsors who presented to the Council and IEB, detailing their plans and vision for the three Harlow schools. NET Academies Trust was asked to sponsor the schools based on this proposal.

- After the conversion in January 2015, parents asked how long it would take for Latton Green to move out of the "Special Measures" category.
 - NETAT expects Latton Green to be making reasonable progress in the year after conversion. It will not seek quick fixes nor expect rapid transformation. Steady improvements are vital if progress is to be sustainable.
- A final question was raised as to the make-up of the governing body, after 1st January 2015.
 - NETAT believes it is important that parents and significant members of the school community are represented within the governing body. Governors from the current IEB will also be present to ensure some continuity between the two bodies.
- Parents were thanked for their attendance and contributions and invited to send any further comments or questions to Takako Yeung:
takako@nationaleducationtrust.net

Our websites:

National Education Trust (NET) - www.nationaleducationtrust.net

NET Academies Trust (NETAT) - www.netacademies.net