

EDUCATION (APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNORS) PANEL

11TH JUNE 2012

FEDERATION OF THORNHILL SCHOOL AND WASHINGTON SCHOOL

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1. Introduction

The Governing Bodies of Thornhill School and Washington School have taken the initial decision that they wish to federate under a single Governing Body with effect from 1st August 2012. Under a federation the existing Governing Bodies of the schools are dissolved on the date of incorporation and a new Governing Body is established.

This is a process that is prescribed by regulations and notices have been issued as required by the regulations to parents, staff and the Local Authority. The statutory notices invite comments on the proposal to federate, which will be considered by the existing Governing Bodies before the final decision is taken to proceed with the proposal.

Under a federation, the two schools will retain their separate identities and will continue to receive their own budget share. The main difference is the governance of the two schools but there are also opportunities for sharing of resources across the two schools to achieve efficiencies and promote good practice.

2. Procedure/constitution

Assuming that the Governing Bodies decide to federate in August 2012 as planned, it is expected that the constitution of the new federated Governing Body will be as follows: -: -

PARENT GOVERNORS -	7
STAFF GOVERNORS -	4
COMMUNITY GOVERNORS -	6
AUTHORITY GOVERNORS -	4
<u>TOTAL GOVERNORS -</u>	<u>21</u>

It should be noted that this federation will be implemented in accordance with existing regulations rather than the new regulations which come into effect from 1st September 2012. With effect from that date, all new federations will be constituted under a different governance model.

3. Appointment of Governors

(i) Parent Governors

Elections will be held for parent governors at the time that the federation takes place. Provided that they remain eligible there is nothing to prevent existing parent governors of the discontinuing Governing Bodies seeking election to the new federated Governing Body. It is a requirement that there will be at least one parent governor from each school in the federation.

(ii) Staff Governors

Elections will be held for staff governors at the time that the federation takes place. There is nothing to prevent existing staff governors of the discontinuing Governing Bodies seeking election to the new federated Governing Body. Staff from across the federated schools will be eligible to apply to serve as staff governors.

(iii) Community Governors

These will be chosen by the Governing Body of the Federation at their first meeting. Existing Governing Bodies may wish to make recommendations to the new Governing Body about candidates who they may wish to consider.

(iv) Authority Governors

As this is a new Governing Body (not a continuation of the existing Governing Bodies) new appointments need to be made. It is known, however, that the Executive Headteacher of the two schools and the existing Governing Bodies would like to see as much continuity as possible between the existing governance arrangements and the new federated Governing Body. They have therefore asked that the Council agrees that Authority Governors of the existing schools be given preference when making appointments to the Governing Body of the Federation. Details of the existing Authority Governors are given below: -

4. Action Required

Although there is no requirement within regulations to do so, in appointing Authority Governors to the Federated Governing Body, the Appointments Panel may wish to have regard to the desirability of that person being suitably experienced as a governor of the schools which will be federating.

The following are Authority appointed governors of Thornhill School: -

Mrs D Nicholson - Majority

Mrs J Robson – Majority

Mr W Tarvit – Majority

Mrs W Lundgren – Minority

The following are Authority appointed governors of Washington School: -

Mr J R Robson - Minority

Councillor J Kelly **

Councillor G Miller **

**Note that these were additional governors appointed for a temporary period using the Local Authority's powers of intervention as the school was placed in special measures. The school is no longer in this category.

Members are asked to decide how the appointments will be made to the available Authority Governor positions on the federated Governing Body. This, of course, anticipates the final decision of the existing Governing Bodies to proceed with the federation on 1st August 2012.

Background papers

School Governance (Federations) (England) Regulations 2007

