

Williams, Ross

From: Smith, Laura
Sent: 22 February 2010 09:09
To: Williams, Ross
Subject: FW: Bassett Green PAN

Forwarded from school.admissions inbox...

From: Filer, Liz
Sent: 21 February 2010 15:12
To: School Admissions
Subject: Bassett Green PAN

I am writing on behalf of the governing body of Bassett Green Primary School. We would like to register our support for the proposed increase in PAN from 45 to 60 at Bassett Green Primary School for September 2011. We therefore agree with the proposed increase.

Thanks

Liz

Liz Filer
Headteacher

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22/02/2010

Primary School Places – Fact Finding Exercise

Feedback Form – January 2010



Name of your School.....Kanes Hill Primary.....

1. Could your school expand, and if so, by which of the following methods? (Please tick all that apply)

- Re-using redundant classrooms - 2 'redundant' classrooms will take us to 12 teaching bases.
- Modular buildings on site
- Permanent expansion
- Other (please specify)

If you have any further comments please write them in the space below:

2 teaching spaces were lost in creating a Community Room. This would be much harder to re-convert!! Also Community Room is used for some extended service provision.

One other 'teaching' space was converted years ago to become the pre-school.

Primary School Places – Fact Finding Exercise

Feedback Form – January 2010



Name of your School: ST DENYS PRIMARY

1. Could your school expand, and if so, by which of the following methods? (Please tick all that apply)

- Re-using redundant classrooms ---No

the 2 rooms measure 27.91 sqm and 38.61 sqm

respectively way below the necessary size for a classroom

- Modular buildings on site ---No --not without compromising safety and play areas for pupils and the daily through route for parents and children into and out of the school
- Permanent expansion—No the small school site could not expand to ever be a 2 form entry primary permanently
- Other (please specify)

If you have any further comments please write them in the space below:

The governing body were unanimous in their decision along with teaching staff and myself head teacher when considering the increase of the PAN to 60 for September 2011—[for one year only] that this would not be in the best interests of the pupils and school.

However they do recognise the challenge it presents for the Local Authority.

The following are the reasons we would like to put to you for your consideration at this stage of the consultation:

Budget implications

- If there are less than 30 additional children in 2011/12 impact on the school's budget would be **substantial and it would be based on PLASC January 2011**
Per capita funding would not cover the costs.
- Funding for equipping initially a YR classroom then for the following 6 years purchasing resources to suit the year group
- Staffing issues – employment of 1 additional teacher –legally any class for YR, Y1 and Y2 is not to be more than 30 children i.e. for potentially 3 years the effect on the budget would be considerable especially if less than 10 children are enrolled
- The effect of this would be a smaller support staff team across the school therefore reducing opportunities for pupils from identified groups and effecting standards –Ofsted September 2009 identified good provision and progress for all pupils and this would be greatly affected.
- Employment of a full time additional teacher – on permanent contract or short term contracts to ensure flexibility within the school but could be destabilizing for the school and staff

Provision

- Our current 'Good' provision as judged by Ofsted September 2009 would be seriously compromised
- There has always been issues in relation to lack of building space and additional 30 children would increase that - playground, number of toilets, lunch times, the hall, space for small groups to work with TAs and SALSA
- This if put into place would affect the school for 7 years meaning classes would need to be moved every year to accommodate the extra class through the school
- The outdoor play areas and very small field would be seriously compromised and reduce opportunities for pupils' social and play skills
- There would be fundamental social cohesion issues if a modular building was placed on site—there is no room for one within the safe and secure school site .

General concerns

- Huge concerns about the accuracy of the predictions –how accurate were the predictions about numbers over the past 6 academic years for the city and specifically for St. Denys Primary
- School rolls have never been to the full capacity of 210 linked to PAN of 30- historic PLASC data reveals that ; Jan 2004-- 192pupils ; Jan 2005 – 182 pupils ; Jan 2006 --184 pupils; Jan 2007-- 203 pupils ; Jan 2008-- 207 pupils [only 20 pupils in YR] ; Jan 2009-- 202 pupils ; Jan 2010-- 203 pupils
- Looking at the prediction for 2011 only 14 places are actually needed and 90 additional places in 3 schools being offered for Bitterne Park Cluster - this number of children could well go else where eg private, home schooled, out of area , a preferred school
- The introduction of increasing the PAN is for 1 year only at St Denys but what will happen in the following years; 2012 -39 places; 2013 -42 places ; 2014 -38 places when the need for extra places is predicted to rise
- How will the additional 30 places offered at St Denys be 'sold' to parents who live considerable distances away—there have been times recently when places offered by the admissions team have been refused due to distance

The other issue that is major in relation to organisation is the fact that the current experienced headteacher will be retiring April 2011 and this would be a demanding management task for a new head teacher or acting head teacher.

There is a strong opinion by governors that within the Bitterne Park Cluster of schools that there may be other schools who would welcome this expansion and be able to offer the capacity easily.

This is on behalf of the governing body and head teacher plus teaching staff

Thank you for your comments. Please return to: James Howells, Infrastructure and Capital Projects, Southampton City Council, 4th Floor Frobisher House, Nelson Gate, Southampton, SO15 1BZ

Mansbridge Primary School



Headteacher:
Mr. M. Sheehan, B.A.(Hons), P.G.C.E.

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3rd February 2010

Mr K Verdan
Schools Organisation Manager
SCC
4th Floor Frobisher House
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SOUTHAMPTON

Dear Kevin,

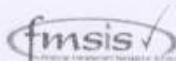
We are writing in response to your consultation on the LA's proposals on amendments to the PANs for reception intake of several schools across the city.

Individual heads may choose to write to you to give their personal response to the proposed increases in PANs since they will have their own unique individual needs. However we have also decided as a cluster to provide you with a collective response addressing universal concerns and possible suggestions for alternative solutions to the projected increase in pupil numbers.

We have been working very closely as a cluster and we feel it would have been preferable to have consulted the cluster in an open forum before individual emails were sent to certain schools on the last day of the Autumn term. This could have been divisive and could have been avoided. There is a willingness as a cluster to be creative and to put forward ideas as a cluster for the increased capacity that could be offered if need is clearly proven.

The cluster also wishes to ascertain why all of Springhill School numbers were included in the Cantell cluster review. We believe that the case has not been proven for an urgent need to increase capacity in our cluster until at the earliest 2012 especially if the numbers of places at Springhill are not all allocated to this cluster.

We would also like to express our disappointment on how the Primary Review consultation on which many Heads worked very hard seems now like a missed opportunity.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

We realise that you have a statutory duty to provide a school place for every child in the city and we wish to do all we can as a cluster to support you in this matter. We realise that your last year predictions for total number of pupils for the city who would require a reception place in 2009-210 are accurate on a city wide level. However this may not be the case for individual schools and clusters.

We would be grateful if you would provide the cluster with accurate data by post-code of live births and profile of 1 - 4 years old in the postcodes of our cluster? Please see example below of what that information might look like - clearly there will be more post codes to include and we do understand that some schools take from out of cluster catchment areas. However if we have the information just for the postcodes of our cluster catchment areas it will provide us with a clearer picture of need than we currently have.

Under 5 Population on 1st April 2009 by Post Codes of Cantell Cluster

Age	S017	S016	S018	Grand Total
0				
1				
2				
3				
4				
Grand Total				

Live Births by Post Codes of Cantell Cluster

Age	S017	S016	S018	Grand Total
2003/04				
2004/05				
2005/06				
2006/07				
2007/08				
2008/09				

Clearly if we see that this information indicates an urgent need to increase capacity in our cluster we will have a greater commitment to support and help you in making the best decisions. If your predicted numbers for our cluster turn out to be accurate then the suggested increases in PANs may indeed be the most appropriate and efficient measures to provide extra capacity. However the current surplus places in the two new reception classes in the city centre (which were only agreed upon recently) suggest that there may not have been a need for this extra capacity. We are concerned that the new proposed PAN increases may add an extra strain on school budgets if the projected

increase in numbers that you predict do not materialise. We therefore want to ensure that decisions are not made in haste and to learn from the mistakes made in both the recent Secondary and Primary reviews.

The above points represent our cluster's collective response to the consultation on increased PANs.

We would like to invite you back to our cluster to provide answers to the above questions raised and also to enable us to provide positive solutions to the need for extra capacity. We are keen to support you in this matter, as we do understand that some actions need to be taken.

Yours sincerely,



M Sheehan , Chair of Cluster

Jane Waddup (Acting Head); Graham Wilson; Ruth Evans; Llyn Codling; Rob Griffiths (Acting Head); Mark Sheehan; Harrie Atkinson; Liz Filer; John Draper; Allan King; Lyn Hawkins (Acting Head)

Cc Paul Nugent, Head of School Standards
Ross Williams, Admissions

Mansbridge Primary School



Headteacher:
Mr. M. Sheehan, B.A.(Hons). P.G.C.E.

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13th January 2010

Mr K Verdon
Schools Organisation Manager
SCC
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Nelson Gate
SOUTHAMPTON



Dear Kevin,

I am writing in response to your Admissions Consultation on the LA's proposals on amendments to the PANs for reception intake of several schools across the city.

You suggest you are consulting our cluster and yet you had already sent out letters proposing PAN increases to certain schools in December 2009. It would have made more sense and clearly have been more transparent to have brought these ideas to cluster before making the decision to send letters of proposal to certain schools. As a cluster we have been working, in line with a lead both locally and nationally, increasingly as a soft federation. This pre-emptive decision is both divisive, potentially fouling very good working relationships between schools, and also misses a real opportunity to tap into the creative and constructive thinking that has become the hallmark of the Cantell Cluster.

I would be grateful if you would respond to the following questions ?

1. How was the decision made to propose to increase the PAN of both Highfield C of E Primary and Bassett Green Primary? Who made it and what criteria was used to make the decision?
2. Why have you decided to include Springhill (which is not part of the Cantell Cluster) in your projected forecasts for this cluster. It seems erroneous to include all the predicted need for places at Springhill as part of a perceived need for spaces in the Cantell cluster?



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

3. Why was it decided to propose this increase from Sept 2011 since your own figures do not suggest an urgent need to increase capacity in the Cantell cluster until at least Sept 2012. Indeed if you left out Springhill from your calculations there wouldn't be a predicted need for extra spaces for this cluster until 2012 - the very opposite in fact - it could be suggested that you could reduce some PANs for a temporary period .
4. Has consideration been given to the impact these proposals may have on other schools in the area ? On a city level the numbers of increase for this area may seem small but its impact on certain communities may be devastating. We regularly take on a significant % of our Year R intake from out of catchments as do several other schools in the cluster - many from the Basset Green and some from Highfield catchment areas. If we lost these children it may ultimately lead to the closure of Mansbridge Primary School.

The Mansbridge neighbourhood has its own distinct needs since it is geographically an enclave. It serves a tight-knit community with the railway line forming a boundary to the city and the rest of the area borders Eastleigh and Hampshire . We are the focal point of the community and our closure would blight a whole neighbourhood of Southampton. Many children from this area would not attend other schools out of their neighbourhood and the life chances of many children and families would be severely compromised. The school provides excellent education and outstanding care and guidance and is a haven of safety and security for many children in the community . An unnecessary knee jerk decision to increase PANs for certain schools by Southampton City Council could cause Mansbridge Primary to "wither on the vine" whilst it is currently flourishing. Indeed Southampton City Council should be ensuring that schools, such as Mansbridge Primary which is a good school serving a distinct, deprived community, are helped to flourish .

Southampton's Vision for Primary Children, Schools and Learning states that :
"As part of the annual statutory consultation on admissions the local authority will continue to work with schools and the Dioceses to promote fair admissions policies, which provide equality of opportunity and take into account geography, communities and the premise that all the cities schools have equal status and are all thought of as good schools."

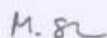
I am not convinced that the city council's proposal to increase the PANs in the schools mentioned takes into account the Mansbridge Community or its geography . Furthermore the decision to increase the PAN of schools with low levels of attainment and attendance may lead to the closure of higher achieving schools, namely Mansbridge Primary . How can this make any sense?

If your predicted numbers turn out to be accurate then Mansbridge Primary may not be adversely affected. However it will take a huge leap of faith on my behalf to accept this to be the case. One of these schools has only recently had its PAN reduced and now it is being increased again. It concerns me that such "yo-yoing" decisions are being made which are clearly not founded on any strategic long term perspective or indeed accurate data. I expect that the recent decision to reduce the aforementioned schools PAN was based on data that suggested there would be a surplus of places in this cluster. Am I now expected to have faith in the data you have now produced (to make predictions for 2013-2014) to justify the urgent need to increase PANs in this cluster ?

The above points represent our school's response to the consultation on increased PANs.

I look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours sincerely,



M Sheehan
Headteacher

Cc Paul Nugent, Head of School Standards
Iain MacGregor, Chair of Governors
Cllr Jane Odgers, Governor

Swaythling Primary School

Headteacher
Mr J. Draper B.Ed, NPQH



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9th February 2010

Mr K Verdon
Schools Organisation Manager
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SOUTHAMPTON

Dear Mr Verdon,

We are writing in response to your consultation on the LA's proposals on amendments to the PANs for reception intake of several schools across the city.

We are concerned that the rationale for this change in local admission arrangements for our locality has not been clearly established, the impact has been poorly thought through, and in fact may well be completely contrary to those stated in the recent and comprehensive vision cited in the Primary Review.

The schools within the Cantell Cluster have developed a positive, mutually supportive working relationship, and we feel it would have been preferable to have consulted the cluster in an open forum before individual emails were sent to some of our schools on the last day of the Autumn term. This could have been divisive and could have been avoided. There is a willingness as a cluster to be creative and to put forward ideas as a cluster for the increased capacity that could be offered if need is proven clearly.

We are also completely mystified by the apparently arbitrary inclusion of Springhill Catholic School in the Cantell cluster review. This school never has been part of our cluster, we have never taken on any children or sent any to this school. Furthermore, as a faith school, the children who attend Springhill are more likely to come from all over the city, rather than from any easily defined geographical area. If the impact of this apparent anomaly is removed from your calculations, the need for the moves you have made appear far less compelling. We do not believe that the case has been proven for an urgent need to increase capacity in our cluster until at the earliest 2012 if the PAN at Springhill is not considered within this cluster.

We at Swaythling strive very hard to be a genuine community school, offering equal and excellent opportunities to all who attend. However, we are also a small school, and any unintended knock-on effects from the moves you propose will affect us particularly adversely. The moves you propose suggest that a whole extra class full of children will be in our area in 18 months time, and we do not believe that these pressures exist.



Healthy Schools



We would also like to express our disappointment on how the Primary Review consultation on which many people worked very hard seems now like a missed opportunity.

We realise that you have a statutory duty to provide a school place for every child in the city and we wish to do all we can as a governing body to support you in this matter.

We appreciate that your last year predictions for total number of pupils for the city who would require a reception place in 2009-210 are accurate on a city wide level. However this may not be the case for individual schools and clusters. If your predicted numbers for our cluster turn out to be accurate then the suggested increases in PANs may indeed be the most appropriate and efficient measures to provide extra capacity. However the current surplus places in the two new reception classes in the city centre (which were only agreed upon recently) suggest that there may not have been a need for this extra capacity. We are concerned that the new proposed PAN increases may add an extra strain on school budgets

If the projected increase in numbers that you predict do not materialise, we fear a very negative impact on our school, which remains a very popular and well-regarded local school. We therefore want to ensure that decisions are not made in haste and lessons are learned from the mistakes made in both the recent Secondary and Primary reviews.

Yours sincerely,



J Draper Headteacher (on behalf of the governing body of Swaythling Primary School)