

Rosebery School Meeting 7 February 2006

Speakers: Sharon Scott, Jackie Hibbert, Meredith Teasdale

Audience: Parents, Chair of Governors, Teachers, Borough Councillor

Clerk: Lorraine Tolley (Local Authority)
Sarah Hammond (parent/governor at Rosebery School)

Sharon Scott opened the meeting at 6.35 pm.

The meeting began with a presentation from officers of the Local Authority. The floor was then open for questions.

To add greater clarity to the questions and comments made they have been grouped together. Answers to the questions have been provided in the attached document.

The Ofsted Inspection Process

I am the father of 2 children, they both scored good results at this school – their teachers were way beyond what was said by Ofsted. I don't believe how good and very good, could slump to inadequate.

You are acting *just* on Ofsted report, we (the parents) think the report is unstable shaky evidence. There is insufficient evidence in the report – how do Tribal know for sure?

The Headteacher Appointment

Why should you *not* advertise for a Headteacher?

The Governing Body did advertise and got 1 candidate but were advised by County Hall that the person did not have management skills. However that person has now been appointed as a Headteacher in the West Midlands.

The Building

Reports should give the facts, instead there are contradictions – saying the building is dilapidated – is it true? Ofsted mentioned lighting, it is a misrepresentation – therefore looking at other comments in the Ofsted report how many other issues are misrepresented?

Cobden Primary is a similar school – are you considering demolishing that school?

What is a 21st century school? If it means brand new high technology then that can easily be achieved. This is an excellent school and everyone deserves a second chance.

This school delivers 21st century education to our children, it has installed interactive whiteboards, laptops, Powerpoint – we are delivering 21st century education.

Condition of building – Loughborough Borough Council should have done a risk assessment and it should be available for parents to look at, (Freedom of Information Act) – parents should have this information.

This is a listed building and well worth preserving.

Admissions

If a school closes will Robert Bakewell take the children?

Why were the pink forms sent out if they are a mistake?

Are people going to receive an apology for the distress and confusion?

I have two children, does it mean that families will be split up?

I am a parent and will have to take extra time off work to take the children to 2 schools, I cannot afford that.

What is happening about the children coming up to Rosebery?

Travel to School

If the property is to close and children moved to Robert Bakewell – parents will have to cross two busy main roads.

Many parents are not well off, how will parents get their children to school?

Support for School

Option C should be to keep Rosebery open and recoup the situation. The Executive Head has been given guidelines/Action Plan/Programme in school for the next 6 months.

From someone who was a Special Measures Governor at a school which had a poor inspection, rotten report, staff/Headteacher demoralised. Tremendous support/money was given by the Local Authority until it came out of special measures within 2 years. In this instance the decision to make it work seems to have been taken away, can you comment please?

Children with Special Educational Needs

Responding to the statement that children will settle in quickly to another school: those children with special needs have formed strong bonds with teachers/LSAs and will not find it so easy to move to other schools and settle in.

Parent with child with cerebral palsy commented on the dedication of teachers. It would be difficult for her child to move to another school. This school has very good access and the classrooms are big enough to allow a walker access.

Housing Developments

Report to Cabinet anticipates only 14 pupils will come from housing developments. This is a gross under estimate. Several new housing developments will impact on this school.

Number on Roll

There are no surplus places in Mountfield Lodge or St Mary's.

I want to express concern that the Ofsted report is used as a reason to close the school. Maybe there's too much primary education in Loughborough and it's not just the Ofsted report. There is no other evidence – this situation is just resting on the Ofsted report.

Falling rolls are a result of the Local Authority's own policy.

The Consultation Process

Why was this not discussed at the Loughborough Development Group?

As a concerned observer, this situation reminds me of the Vale of Belvoir, the issues of which have now been addressed and those village schools are assured of survival. Rosebery is at the centre of a vibrant community and does not deserve any less than NE Leicestershire. There seems to be anomalies and contradictions.

Have you decided to close the school?

Are we wasting our time?

If not closing, then do you want to help us for as long as necessary,

Then if it still does not work, then make the decision to close?

If amalgamation is not a viable option – then why has it been included?

If it's difficult to find a Head Teacher or super Head Teacher – have you already decided?

Temporary Accommodation

Are Robert Bakewell getting 2 mobile classrooms?

Staff

Teachers will lose jobs – are you also saying that the 2 members of the Local Authority should lose their jobs as well as staff?

Sharon Scott closed the meeting at 8.00pm