

**Notes of the Parent Consultation Meeting held at Cyril Jackson Primary School  
on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 7.00 p.m.**

**GOVERNORS PANEL**

Ross Tranter (RT) Governor  
Gill Kemp (GK) Headteacher  
Rani Begum (RB) Parent Governor

**1. INTRODUCTIONS**

GK introduced the meeting which she noted was the same as the meetings that were held at 2.45 p.m. and 7.00 p.m.

GK stated that all parents had received the consultation document and provided a summary of the historical context of both local and national education which had led to the current consultation. GK invited RT to explain the Governors' process.

RT advised that the Governing Board considered future strategy and collaboration as part of its role on a regular basis. RT noted that it had been considering collaboration and academisation or alternative routes. RT advised that two years ago it had convened a working party to consider developing a list of potential academies. The group started this process by constructing a series of criteria that were important for potential academies to encompass, using this checklist they shortlisted five. RT described a number of essential criteria including but not limited to:

- Remain a community based school
- Admission process aligned to Cyril Jackson
- Geography & location of the Trust
- Scheme of Delegation aligned to Cyril Jackson policies
- Autonomy to hire staff
- Maintain school name, uniform and ethos and autonomy
- Maintain a strong governing board and senior leadership team
- Trusts that use the 'purple book'

RT stated further research and meetings were conducted with the remaining Trusts to ensure Cyril Jackson would be able to retain its autonomy and day to day responsibilities and therefore, it had selected the University Schools Trust as the best fit.

GK noted that the process had spanned across a period of two years with extensive research and consideration and expressed that no decision had been made as of yet. If the Governing Board were to decide to go ahead with Academisation, the Cyril Jackson and University School's Trust would enter a process called due diligence where a comprehensive appraisal of Cyril Jackson would be conducted, specifically to identify assets and financial liabilities and evaluate its commercial potential.

GK noted that as Executive Headteacher of Cyril Jackson and Director of Education and Interim CEO of the Trust she has a vested interest in ensuring the continued success of Cyril Jackson and protect the financial viability of the school.

GK opened the meeting up for questions.

## 2. PARENTS' QUESTIONS

Parent Question/Comment – PQ  
 Governors Panel Response/Comment – GPR  
 Cyril Jackson Primary School – CJ  
 University School's Trust - UST

PQ	<p>A Parent noted they were very happy with the quality of teaching at CJ, all of her children have attended the school and she cares about the future of the school.</p> <p>Parent noted they are pleased with the choice of Trust as St. Paul's Way works closely with St. Mary's University. Her children all went to Cyril Jackson, transitioned into St. Paul's Way Trust School and her oldest child is currently studying at St. Mary's University. Parent liked the high standards of education from Nursery to University.</p>
GPR	<p>GK confirmed CJ is an outstanding school and provided a summary of the different schools in the Trust. GK confirmed that families that chose to could apply and stay within the Trust from 3 to 21 years old.</p>
PQ	<p>A Parent asked if there would be a fee they would have to financially contribute towards.</p>
GPR	<p>RT clarified that UST is not a fee-paying Trust and that there would be no financial impact on families.</p> <p>GK explained funding is currently delegated to the Local Authority, the Local Authority keeps some of that funding and delegated the rest to the schools. If CJ joins the Trust, funding will be delegated directly to the Trust and the Trust would provide our funding directly. The Trust would have more autonomy and achieve better value.</p>
PQ	<p>A Parent asked for clarification regarding whether staffing and resources would be pulled from CJ if it becomes an academy.</p>
GPR	<p>GK noted that CPD opportunities would be available for staff but would not be forced on them. Staff would have the opportunity to apply for a job within UST if they saw one advertised. GK clarified staff would never be forced to move to another school within the Trust. GK gave examples of her Deputy Headteachers career progression and CPD opportunities as a result of working with other schools in the borough. CJ would also benefit from Specialists and Consultants employed by the Trust.</p>
PQ	<p>A Parent noted their child was able to perform in St. Paul's Way theatre because of the close relationship between St. Paul's Way and CJ.</p>
GPR	<p>GK agreed that opportunities like the Greatest Showman would only increase by working with UST. CJ have had to cut funding on subjects like Music, MFL and PE, these subjects especially would benefit from joining the Academy, senior teachers from the Trust would be able share their expertise and support the improvement of the curriculum in these areas.</p>

PQ	Parents asked what other schools were in the Trust.
GPR	GK provided a summary of the schools within the Trust and explained how their values and ethos were similar to CJ. RGTS is a vocational Sixth Form that took on 200 students that were rejected by schools in Greenwich and worked with these children to pass their GCSE's. GK continued that the Headteacher of St Paul's Way, the first school in the Trust and was highly successful.
PQ	A Parent noted that they were concerned about the impact on staff salaries, which they believe would greatly contribute to their child's success.
GPR	GK noted that all support and teaching staff were protected by the TUPE regulations. GK explained what TUPE meant and how staff's terms and conditions were protected. One of the criteria for the working party was ethical leadership, the Trust partners introduced Queen Mary who carried out the research into the London living wage.
PQ	A parent asked why did the Governing Board make the decision now?
GPR	GK explained that nationally, 50% of schools are academies, we know the landscape is changing, we want to get ahead of that. LA are recommending working with other schools. GK stated that the decision was informed by research and careful consideration and that, despite some criticism, 75% of secondary schools were now academies and 26% of primaries.  GK stated that parents might want to consider why schools were moving away from Local Authorities. GK provided examples of the lack of support by the Local Authority, due to cuts in funding. That within her role she has been supporting schools that had faced significant difficulties as well as examples of a number of schools which were failing financially and setting deficit budgets.
PQ	A Parent asked will children from CJ have priority at St. Paul's Way.
GPR	GK said both CJ and St. Paul's Way abide by the LA admissions guidelines but priority enrolment into SPWT is something UST may consider if CJ becomes a part of the Trust.
PQ	A Parent asked if the admission criteria change for CJ would change.
GPR	GK said UST would not move away from the LA admissions guidelines and has confirmed that St. Paul's Way Trust admissions are also controlled by the LA.
PQ	A Parent asked how being a part of an academy would counter government cuts.
GPR	Trusts are able to use economies of scale across smaller resource areas through collaborative ordering but that there would be savings through central services for the provisions of high cost areas such as HR, Cleaning, Catering and School Business Services. Trusts are also able to benefit from purchasing power which saves money on services that the LA are no longer providing. Contract Services is one of the departments that have been reduced dramatically. Schools in TH have been asked to work together to achieve economies of scale.  GK concluded that some LBTH SLA's and contracts are good value for money and CJ will continue to benefit from these services.
PQ	A Parent wanted clarification of the Leadership of the school under UST.

GPR	GK summarised the role of the Directors and explained they were a small but expert team that wouldn't be replacing existing CJ staff but supporting them. The governance structure would remain the same, as would the senior leadership team. The Trust would support the Senior Leadership Team with SEND reviews, safeguarding audits and policies.
PQ	A Parent asked if CJ were considering partnerships with any other schools.
GPR	GK spoke about the schools we currently work closely with, two schools who will be federating in September.
PQ	A Parent asked if CJ would follow the National Curriculum.
GPR	HD, Head of School, confirmed the curriculum would not be changing, CJ is consistently reviewing and improving the curriculum but the schemes of work would not change and CJ will retain it's outstanding standards.
PQ	A Parent asked if the length of holidays or length of the school day would be affected.
GPR	RT confirmed UST would not change the holiday dates or the hours of the school.
PQ	A Parent asked if ASC would continue as a service provided to parents.
GPR	GK has confirmed there would be no changes made to the ASC provision.
PQ	A Parent asked if CJ would change the holiday dates or abide by the LA standard.
PQ	GK confirmed CJ will continue to follow LA guidelines on holiday dates.
PQ	A Parent asked if CJ would change the school name.
GPR	GK has confirmed the school will not change it's name.
PQ	A Parent asked how long the process to convert to academy status would take.
GPR	GK provided a summary of the process and the next steps and confirmed the process usually takes four to six months. GK explained consultation process of which this was stage 1. The governors would then decide to progress or stay the same, this would then lead to stage 2 which is around due diligence.
PQ	A Parent asked if the school would close during the conversion.
GPR	GK confirmed the school would not close during the transition and parents and staff would not feel a change to the day to the day running of the school
PQ	A Parent noted an academy was opening a new school in Tower Hamlets and asked if Cyril Jackson would work with this school.
GPR	GK confirmed a new school would be opening in 2020 within the Mulberry Academy Trust.
GPR	GK confirmed Cyril Jackson and University School's Trust is committed to continuing to work with the Local Authority.
PQ	A Parent was concerned that the Trust would commit to supporting failing schools that would put a strain on their Outstanding School.
GPR	GK confirmed that when the Trust enters into consultation and due diligence with any school we only offer support if we have the capacity. The Trust will not risk the financial viability or impact on pupil outcomes of the organisation to support a failing school.
PQ	A Parent asked who the Trust would be accountable to.

GPR	GK confirmed all academies are accountable to the Department of Education.  GK asked whether there were any other questions and concluded that there would be another meeting before the end of the consultation. GK encouraged parents to do their own research.
-----	---

**3. CLOSING REMARKS**

GK thanked Parents for attending and noted that although a small number of parents had attended this evening meeting, it was a positive meeting with lots of views expressed with no significant challenge from any parents present.

GK concluded to commit to providing facilities and translators for another meeting the following week for parents, to which she suggested the Governors Panel was invited.

**CHAIR'S SIGNATURE:.....**

**DATE SIGNED:...../...../.....**