Phase 2 Education in the West - CONSULTATION MEETING

Notes of Staff Meeting - Haydon Bridge High School

26th February 2018 – 3:30 pm

Present: Andy Johnson - Project Director
Sue Aviston – Head of School Organisation and Resources
Bridget Halpin – NCC HR Adviser
Jacqui Pearson – Note taker

Also Present: Richard List - NASUWT
Emma Jenkinson - UNISON
IEB Member - Ruth Dolan

31 Staff members of Haydon Bridge High School

Andy asked members of the LA to introduce themselves.

Andy went through the presentation, he explained that for Phase 1 there were 3 meetings which took place at Hexham Mart, 1 for Hexham, 1 for Haydon Bridge and a combined meeting for all Heads and Chairs of Governors. Following the meetings the feedback from Headteachers and Chairs of Governors was used to develop the proposed models. He explained that this is not a referendum and that there may be a Model D, which may consist of bits of Model A, B and C or something completely different.

Andy explained that Hadrian Learning Trust (HLT) consultation is running alongside the LA consultation but is separate and will end before the County Council consultation.

Andy explained the consultation process and explained what would happen next and the timeline.

Following the presentation there was a question/answer session:

Q: How can you use capacity figure of 904 against the school when this includes a building that is not used?
A: These are the figures that DfE use and you do have the building that you could use in terms of space if you wish.

Q: Has the recent massive restructure been taken into account with the finances quoted?
A: Yes
Q: Why have we been given catchment to QEHS?

There was then a lot of discussion about lack of support from the LA and the perceived effects (in terms of the media) this has had on pupils remaining and coming to the school

Q: Why are other models not included - Haltwhistle 3 tier, HBHS model?
A: The proposed models have tried to accommodate all of the proposed models. If there is not sufficient of the model in them, propose again.

Q: How can you build a new site for the Academy?
A: We have a responsibility as a LA to provide places for pupils

Q: How is it possible to increase educational standards when in mobile classrooms until 2020?
A: The current educational standards here are admired in the light of what you are going through as a school.
There were discussions about the LA not being able to communicate or support the school while Bright Tribe was involved with them - we were told to stay away.

There were a lot of points put forward about the schools would not be merging, HBHS would be closing as merger means you take the staff too not just the pupils.

There were comments about the lack of investment in HBHS, no stability.
Where do the students come in?

There were examples given where LA Officers have seen other consultation proposals pulled at each stage of the process. It could still happen here!

There were a lot of discussions about how the press have perceived the school and had a negative air about it.

There seems to be a lot of people to blame.

Q: Can we publically fight for our school?
A: Yes

Q: When pupils are doing a 2 year course (Y9 and Y11) what happens to them?
A: There is never a good time to do this, if it is not these pupils this year, it would be next years pupils so there will always be some pupils involved.

The meeting concluded that the school is on the edge and if staff / parents jump then the decision is made for the school to close because it really does become unviable.