

## HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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### REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE 12 JANUARY 2000

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**NOTE:** A copy of the report mentioned below has been sent to all members of the Education Committee and other members who had requested it. Further copies are available from Julia Harries, Room 222, County Secretary's Department, County Hall, Hertford. (Telephone: 01992 555563)

### PARENT GOVERNOR REPRESENTATIVES ON THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The School Standards and Framework Act requires local authorities to appoint parent governors, representing all parents with children in local maintained schools, to their education committee by 1 June 2000. At least two and no more than five parent governor representatives should be appointed with the right to speak on any matter debated by the committee, regardless of whether or not it relates to education.

Parent governor representatives will have the right to vote on any committee decision relating to: -

- schools maintained by the authority; and
- pupils who are educated in schools maintained by the authority, or who are educated by the authority in some other way.

Parent governor representatives are allowed to vote on matters which affect how earmarked funds are to be spent. This includes:

- how much of the education budget is devoted to schools;
- what proportion of the schools' budget is retained centrally by the authority to provide services for schools and pupils, and what proportion is delegated to individual school budgets;
- what proportion of the schools' budget retained centrally is devoted to each of the four main funding areas (strategic management, school improvement, access and SEN); and
- the formula by which individual school budgets are calculated.

Parent governor representatives will **not** be allowed to vote on:

- any decision which relates to the determination of the authority's education budget;
- any matter which would require the authority to raise additional funds; and
- any matter in which they have a pecuniary or direct interest.

Candidates for parent governor representatives must satisfy two conditions:

- they must be a parent governor; and
- at the time of the election, they must be a parent of a child currently being educated by the authority.

The following are not eligible to stand for election as a parent governor representative even if they are eligible to be a parent governor:

- employees of the authority
- employees of schools maintained by the authority
- councillors of the same authority

The authority is responsible for ensuring that elections for parent governor representatives take place, which may be run by another organisation. The authority retains responsibility for ensuring that all the legal requirements are met, including:

- to ensure that action is taken to prevent a vacancy being open for longer than six months;
- to decide on the term of office. This is normally between two and four years. However, if a vacancy arises unexpectedly, the authority can set the term of office at less than two years. Some authorities may choose to do this in order to fill all vacancies at the same time;
- to give notice of the ballot to all parent governors in schools the authority maintains. The announcement must include details of the number of places on committees, the terms of office, and how, where and when the ballot will take place;
- to make a reasonable effort to check that candidates are eligible to stand and that those who vote are entitled to do so;
- to announce the result of the election within three months of inviting nominations and within one week of holding the election;
- to appoint elected parent governor representatives to their committees dealing with education within one month of the announcement of the result.

Local authorities are expected to support and help parent governor representatives to fulfil their role which includes keeping parents informed of their work.

The Education Committee have resolved:

That four parent governor representatives should be appointed to the Education Committee drawn from parent governors of all schools in the following four areas of the County:

- North comprising North Herts and Stevenage
- South comprising Watford, Hertsmere and Three Rivers
- East comprising East Herts, Broxbourne and Welwyn-Hatfield
- West comprising Dacorum and St Albans

That Ballot Services (a company of the Electoral Reform Society) should be appointed to organise and run the election, on the basis that the candidates who poll the highest number of votes be elected, such elections to be held to enable parent governor representatives to be appointed to the Education Committee by 1 June 2000.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1 That the composition of the Education Committee be as follows:

County Councillors	18
Church representatives	2
Parent Governor representatives	4
Non-voting representatives	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38</b>

2 That the appointment of parent governors to the Education Committee should be for a period of four years except when a vacancy arises when the duration will be to the end of the four year period.

3 That the parent governor representatives be appointed by the Education Committee as soon as possible after their election, but no later than 1 June 2000, and that the Committee fill casual vacancies as they arise.

Keith Emsall  
Chairman  
County Hall  
Hertford

12 January 2000