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Chief Executive: Mr D Judson, BEd, NPQH
Head of School: Mrs R Somerville, BA Hons, MA

Wednesday 15th November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Local Governing Body of Hurworth School - Parent Governor Election

I wrote to you recently to invite nominations for the parent governor vacancy at Hurworth School.

I am delighted to say that there has been a strong response, with five nominations received. This means we must now hold a ballot. The candidates are:

- Chris Aitkin
- Simon Walker
- Marcus Dempsey
- John Storey
- Louise McCann

As there is one parent governor vacancy you may vote for one of the candidates. **Each parent/carer in the school can vote only once regardless of the number of pupils you have attending Hurworth School.** Votes cast more than once will not be counted.

Please see overleaf the personal statements for each candidate. To submit your vote please use the following link and vote alongside the name of the candidate you support: [Ballot - Hurworth Parent Governor Election](#)

The deadline to submit your completed vote is **Wednesday 29th November 2023 at 3.00 pm** when voting closes.

The election will be decided by a simple majority of votes cast. In the event of a tie, the outcome will be determined by the toss of a coin.

When the election has been completed, I will inform you of the outcome. In the meantime, should you have any queries please email Mrs L Hawksby (Governance & Policy Officer) lhawksby@swiftacademies.org.uk

Yours sincerely



Rachel Somerville
Head of School

Ballot Paper – Hurworth Parent Governor Election

There is one parent governor vacancy at Hurworth School. **Please use this link to vote for ONE candidate only** by clicking next to their name: [Ballot - Hurworth Parent Governor Election](#)

Candidate Name and Personal Statement

Chris Aitkin

I have extensive experience both as a senior leader in secondary schools in working with governing bodies. I also have experience as a governor in both a primary school and special school setting. I have taught in secondary schools for 30 years and have had a number of years in both senior leadership and in work across a range of Trusts locally. I currently chair a governor committee in my daytime work as a senior school leader. I have not previously been on a governor group which directly influences the education of my own child and this is something that I would very much welcome.

In my view the role of a governor involves being both fully supportive of all that a school is trying to achieve, but at the same time offering appropriate challenge with a view to creating impactful school development and improvement.

Simon Walker

In my working career I have fulfilled the roles of a building contractor (business owner), maintenance and project surveyor (social housing), Deputy Property Services Manager (SJOG) and currently as the Estate Manager for the Arete Learning Trust.

The Estate Manager role makes me responsible to lead on the Trust's Services/Facilities, Asset Management and Energy Saving strategies. I have oversight over the Trust's Health & Fire Safety, Estate Management Plan, contractor management and compliance. Daily duties include the line management of Site Managers, maintenance, catering and cleaning teams across our school network.

The Arete Trust includes Stokesley Secondary School & Sixth Form, Richmond Secondary School & Sixth Form, Northallerton Secondary School & Sixth Form and Mill Hill Primary School (Northallerton).

I feel that my previous working experience together with my most recent role will provide a positive resource to Hurworth school, it's Governors and the Leadership Team.

Living in Hurworth, my family's connection to the school runs deep as myself, my wife, siblings and parents all attended the school. We've watched it grow and develop over time and now I value the opportunity to offer something back with this unique opportunity to support the school's continued growth and development.

Marcus Dempsey

I am a business owner and director of a cyber security company, local to the region. As part of my daily activities with running a business I am communicating with the public and other business leaders about the need for managing their risk and governance of their own businesses as well as ensuring that their data is protected accordingly.

By running a business, I have the knowledge and experience of applying strategic planning and budgeting of resources throughout the year. With the added experience of performing performance reviews and management of staff I think this will play well with the needs of the governors and school.

My business skills include understanding people, companies, budgeting, planning and responsibility, gap analysis, risk assessments, training and talking to people to name a few.

John Storey

As a parent and financial adviser I feel that I am strong candidate for this role. I work for a mutual company and give financial advice to teachers, doctors and their families. I ensure I uphold and promote the vision and ethos of the company and would echo this as a parent governor. I am happy to challenge senior leaders if I believe that either performance, ethics or behaviours exhibited are not in line with the ethos. I'm astute with finance having 23 year's experience in financial services. I believe I can help make financial decisions that benefit the most people within the school while keeping in line with budgets. My job is flexible so I will always be on hand to attend governance meetings.

Louise McCann

As a new parent at Hurworth School I would like to be more involved in the school community as I believe I can bring valuable insights and contribute positively to the strategic planning and decision-making processes of the Local Governing Body. I am dedicated to supporting the school's vision, promoting high standards of education, and ensuring the wellbeing and success of all students.

I have been involved in the financial and strategic elements of schools for over 17 years as part of my career as a Chartered Accountant. As an Audit Manager, I worked with over 100 academies across 48 trusts during my time in practice. Three years ago I was appointed Finance Manager at a local independent school where I work closely with the school's SLT and Board of Governors to provide financial advice on a range of issues. These experiences have allowed me to understand the unique challenges and opportunities Hurworth School faces and with this background I can provide valuable input in terms of financial planning, resource allocation as well as having the ability to effectively communicate and collaborate with parents, staff and stakeholders of the school and trust as a whole.