

Comments

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The county council have up to two months to evaluate responses and consider the proposal. In line with the DfE statutory process they will then make a decision which is published.

The process includes a four week period in which appeals can be made to the Schools Adjudicator (central government) by the Church of England and the Roman Catholic dioceses, and the governors and trustees of the school.

If the timescales are maintained, a decision is expected around the end of January 2016 for potential implementation in September 2016.

The county council want to ensure that the governors' consultation process is carried out properly and that parents, pupils, staff, governors and the wider community are well informed and have the opportunity to express their views. To support this, they will be attending the consultation meetings with parents and the open evenings to listen to views and to answer questions about admissions, transport and other concerns that parents in particular may have. Open evenings will also provide the opportunity for one to one discussion with governors in the form of a "drop in" between 6pm and 8pm.

Make sure you don't miss out on these public consultation open evenings;

- Wednesday 16th September – 6pm - 8pm
Mablethorpe site
- Thursday 17th September – 6pm - 8pm
Louth site

Monks' Dyke Tennyson College:

Monks' Dyke Road Louth LN11 9AW	Seaholme Road Mablethorpe LN12 2DF
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Monks' Dyke Tennyson College



Pre-publication consultation on the Governors' proposal to close the Mablethorpe site from September 2016

Background

On December 18, 2014, the Governing Body of Monks' Dyke Tennyson College (MDTC) reluctantly took the decision by a majority vote of 7 - 2, to propose closing the Mablethorpe site of the school, with reducing pupil numbers leading to reduced funding and affecting the ability to provide a good education to pupils.

MDTC was facing a predicted budget deficit of £1.4m that was set to rise to £3.4m if radical action wasn't taken. Reviewing the curriculum and the staffing structure has already had some effect on finances, but there is more action needed. Therefore, governors saw no option other than to propose to move to one campus by closing the Mablethorpe site. They recognised:

- The cost of running two sites exceeds the school budget
- The school is running at half full with 554 pupils at Louth and 231 pupils at Mablethorpe and there are only 64 out of 200 places on offer for September 2015 (29 at Mablethorpe)
- School funding is based on a fixed allocation of funding (block grant) set by DfE and more pupils means more funding, less pupils means less funding
- Only 40% of 11-16 pupils living in Mablethorpe choose to attend MDTC
- The Louth site has sufficient space to take all current pupils and the number expected for the next 10 years (county council forecast)
- Small year groups at the Mablethorpe site is affecting pupils' teaching and learning as there can only be mixed ability groups which makes it difficult to cater for all learning needs
- Teachers are not as accessible to pupils outside class time because they are not necessarily based at the same site, or are travelling between sites

Governors have the power to make proposals around the organisation of the school, including the closure of one of the sites. Any significant change means the school is legally bound to follow DfE statutory processes, arranging proper consultation as outlined by DfE with parents/carers, pupils, staff and the wider community.

Consultation process and timeline

There are two phases of consultation and opportunities for people to express views – pre-publication and formal. Governors have started the pre-publication phase with parents and staff. Consultation runs from 2/9/15 to 7/10/15. In addition, public consultation open evenings have been set for the wider community in September. Open evenings will take place in Mablethorpe on Wednesday 16 September and Louth on Thursday 17 September, between 6pm and 8pm in the school halls. They take the form of "drop in" sessions to enable one-to-one discussions with governors, members of school senior leadership and local authority representatives.

After 7th October, governors will meet again to carefully consider the views expressed and make a decision as to whether to continue with the formal process of proposing closure of the site. If this decision is taken, the next step is to publish a Statutory Notice and statement which will be placed on the school website, in key public places and in the local press. People then have four weeks to formally submit comments and views, which are collected by the governors and sent to Lincolnshire County Council whose role is to act as decision maker.

Governors are interested to hear all comments and views about their proposal - and any ideas that could assist the school in dealing with the difficult issues which have led to this situation.

Expressing your views

As well as the open evenings in Mablethorpe and Louth, if you would like to comment on the governors' proposal to close the Mablethorpe site of MDTC, you can use the form on the school website www.mdtc.co/consultation, write to the Clerk to the Governors at clerkto governors@mdtc.co or use this tear off slip and send it to/ hand it into reception at either site. Alternatively, you can post it to the school addresses mentioned in this leaflet.

Name (optional): _____

Address (optional): _____

I am a pupil
I am a parent/carer
I am a staff member
I am a governor at MDTC
I am a member of the public

I support the governors' decision to close the Mablethorpe site and consolidate the school onto the Louth site

I do not support the governors' decision to close the Mablethorpe site and consolidate the school onto the Louth site

I am undecided about whether to support the governors' decision to close Mablethorpe site and consolidate the school onto the Louth site

