

3rd February 2019

Dear Parents/Carers and Staff

We write to you with regards to the stakeholder engagement meeting on Friday 1st February that the Department for Education cancelled at very late notice.

We have requested precisely what the three DfE representatives from Thursday's meeting have communicated to the Regional School Commissioner for him to decide to cancel Friday's meeting.

The view of Trustees and the SLT is that the public meeting was well attended and controlled to allow all parents to voice their concerns. The meeting had to be extended due to sheer volume of questions from the floor with regards to concerns with the DfE choice for the sponsored preferred trust.

Furthermore, the Trustees are confused as to why the decision to cancel the meeting was taken especially as one of the DfE representatives communicated the following on Friday 1st February 2019 at 9.17am:

"I wanted to say thank you for hosting last night's meeting. We will see you again tonight at 7pm. Could I request for this evening that the presentation facilities are available to the Nishkam Team? Grateful if you could facilitate this request."

We have asked what has occurred on Friday 1st February 2019 between a commitment of attending at 9.17am to cancelling the event at 15.20pm.

We have also questioned that to ensure the DfE follow their own process, when will this date be rescheduled. Parents have a right for their voices to be heard in person as it had been agreed. Many of you had rearranged work and family plans to be able to attend on Friday night.

We would like to add that of the approx 150+ parents that attended on Thursday, parents voiced their opinion by voting 3 times. Unanimously, each of those votes with a show of hands resulted in a firm parent opinion that they were against Nishkam taking over.

During one of the votes 95% of parents voted that they want Khalsa Academies Trust to take over and not Nishkam. Those parents and others that agreed need to make this clear by the 5th February in their email response to:

SEVA.CONSULTATION@education.gov.uk

It was very clear to all present that parents do not want Nishkam to take over. We will be asking whether the three DfE representatives communicated this message back to the RSC.

Trustees request that a fair and genuine process is followed. It is our view that the RSC should await the outcome of the Ofsted inspection and reschedule the cancelled engagement meeting before rushing through a decision at Headteacher Board on the 7th February 2019.

Yours faithfully

Board of Trustees - Sevak Education Trust

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