Nigel Brent Fitzpatrick

Nomination for election for the Yorkshire and Humber region

Personal statement

Education Governance, Leadership and Experience

I have served as a school governor for over 25 years, working across maintained schools, academies and multi-academy trusts in a variety of leadership and governance roles. Throughout this time, my commitment has been to supporting school leaders, staff and, most importantly, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to achieve their full potential. I have held a range of governance positions, including Chair of Governors, Chair of Finance, and chair of both a pupil referral unit and a special school. I am currently a trustee of three multi-academy trusts covering all age groups across Yorkshire and Humberside. My experience includes supporting schools facing significant challenges and requiring improvement, mentoring new governors and helping newly appointed headteachers develop the confidence and skills to succeed. I understand the importance of effective leadership, constructive challenge, financial oversight and strong governance in securing positive outcomes for pupils and staff. My contribution to education was recognised in 2012 when I was awarded an MBE for services to education. My experience as a director and chairman of several companies has also strengthened my strategic leadership, financial understanding and ability to support organisations through complex and changing circumstances. Experience with the National Governance Association I served as an NGA trustee representing Yorkshire and Humberside for nine years. During this time, I was committed to promoting the Association's values and strengthening engagement with governors both regionally and nationally. I encouraged wider participation, brought governors' experiences and views into national discussions, and contributed to the NGA's representations to government during periods of significant educational change. I worked collaboratively with stakeholders, championed equality, diversity and inclusion, and contributed constructively to the Association's strategic development, challenging established thinking where appropriate. I greatly valued the opportunity to represent governing boards across the region and help ensure their voices informed the future direction of governance.

Skills, Experience and Professional Development

- Over 25 years' experience of educational governance, including chairing governing bodies and committees.
- Extensive knowledge of governance responsibilities across maintained schools and multi-academy trusts.
- Strategic leadership, financial oversight and organisational development. • Strong communication, relationship-building and collaborative working skills.
- Experience of mentoring governors, supporting school leaders and developing effective teams.
- Ability to respond constructively to change and challenging circumstances.
- Diploma in School Governance, University of Bradford.

My Commitment

I remain enthusiastic about the NGA and the important contribution it makes to strengthening governance and improving educational outcomes. I believe effective governance depends on informed challenge, constructive support, collaboration and an unwavering focus on children and young people. The NGA team has developed excellent ideas and initiatives, and I would welcome the opportunity to contribute my experience, knowledge and continued commitment to its work. After more than 25 years in governance, I remain passionate about supporting governors and trustees, strengthening governing practice and ensuring that the voices and needs of schools and their communities help shape the future of education.