

NUT General Secretary Election 2004 elect MARTIN POWELL-DAVIES

SATS Ballot a missed opportunity



The 86% majority in the NUT's ballot showed the overwhelming level of opposition to the damage SATs are inflicting on the primary curriculum. In most trade unions this vote would have been taken as a clear mandate for action. It was easily more than what was required under the law to proceed. It should have been used to launch a SATs boycott.

But to the disappointment and frustration of the 30,000 who voted "YES", our action against unrealistic targets was blocked by the Union setting its own unnecessary target. NUT members had little alternative but to carry on teaching according to what was needed to meet the targets, not what was best for children's learning, enjoyment or self-esteem.

A lack of serious leadership

The insistence on the high turnout was just the final example of how the present leadership failed to mount a serious campaign to win a SATs boycott. While Local NUT Associations and those, including Martin, active in the Anti-Sats Alliance, had gone out to parents and teachers to build for the boycott, the National Union's campaigning materials were too little, and largely, too late.

vote for change vote for martin

Teachers need a leadership that they can trust to organise serious campaigns to defend teachers and education. Martin's election as NUT General Secretary would be an important step in making that change.

The Elect Martin Campaign believes that Martin's record in the Union – whether as an NUT Secretary successfully winning a 50% turnout in his Division in the strike ballot over London Allowances, or as the National Chair of School Teachers Opposed to Performance Pay – shows that he has the experience of the painstaking work needed to build a campaign.

The election of a teacher with a clear programme for change, in touch with the problems facing his colleagues, will appeal to a new layer of teachers to get involved in our campaigns and activities and help revitalise the Union. Together, we can make sure that the NUT becomes a fighting, campaigning union that will stand up for teachers and education at last.

End SATS and league Tables

"Despite our 86% YES vote, the Union has left members in primary schools having to put children through SATs once again. I would work for a new ballot so that we can successfully boycott SATs"

Martin Powell-Davies

Martin Powell-Davies believes the Union has setback the campaign against SATs by insisting that the "50% rule" be applied. But action will be needed to defeat the regime of tests and tables in England.

Martin has committed himself to continuing the campaign against tests and tables. If elected as NUT General Secretary, Martin would make sure school reps and Local Associations had the materials needed to convince both parents and teachers why we have to stop the SATs – and how much better teaching and education would be like without them.

Martin would support moves to ballot for a new boycott, whether concentrating on a particular Key Stage or co-ordinating action across those LEAs where members felt most confident to take action.

To find out more about Martin's campaign:

<http://elect-martin.tripod.com> email: martinpd_uk@yahoo.co.uk tel: 07946 445488



Vote for Change

Vote Martin Powell-Davies

An experienced organiser

Martin has the abilities to lead our Union. As a socialist and trade unionist, Martin has played a major role in building local and national campaigns on SATs, Performance Related Pay, school closures, PFI, anti-racism, pay, as well as on many other issues, inside and outside the Union.

Secretary of Lewisham NUT and Lewisham Joint Teacher Unions for over a decade

Martin has consistently defended teachers through negotiation, representation and campaigning, whilst encouraging joint action with other unions such as the one-day strike in 2002 with the NASUWT over London Allowances.

Secondary teacher since 1986

Martin is the only candidate who is still teaching in the classroom on top of his Union responsibilities. This year he is teaching science to Years 10 and 11 in a Lewisham school.

Speaking up for teachers

Martin has long experience of speaking out for teachers on national radio and TV, and to Union and public meetings.

Father of four primary school children

Martin is also only too aware of the harm being inflicted by SATs, cuts, selection, tuition fees and the Government's "Blue Skies" plans for "teaching-on-the-cheap".

MARTIN'S PROGRAMME FOR TEACHERS:

● FOR A GENERAL SECRETARY IN TOUCH WITH TEACHERS

I would remain on the pay of a classroom teacher, apart from claiming necessary expenses open to members' scrutiny, using the rest of the existing GS salary to support local, national and international campaigns by teachers and trade unions.

● DEFEND MEMBERS AGAINST MANAGEMENT BULLYING & OFSTED

I would make sure that the Union put the resources needed into a campaign to build strong local NUT Associations and to win the facility time NUT reps and local officers need to support members.

● OPPOSE EXCESSIVE WORKLOAD. ENFORCE A REAL "WORK-LIFE BALANCE"

I would strengthen our workload action so that NUT members can refuse to carry out excessive planning, assessment and other demands on their time outside the school day, and campaign for real reductions in workload, especially to win at least 20% non-contact time for primary teachers.

● FOR ACTION TO OPPOSE PERFORMANCE PAY & THE PAY FREEZE

The latest pay "deal" threatens a future where our salaries are determined by questionable judgements of performance, instead of according to experience and responsibilities. I would organise a national demonstration as a first step in a campaign of action to defend our pay and conditions.

● FOR AN END TO SATS AND LEAGUE TABLES

Despite our 86% YES vote, the Union has left members in primary schools having to put children through SATs once again. I would work for a new ballot so that we can successfully boycott SATs.

● FOR TEACHER UNITY IN ACTION - PERSUADE ALL UNIONS TO WITHDRAW FROM THE "WORKFORCE AGREEMENT"

I would support strike action to oppose unqualified staff taking teaching posts and campaign for all TUC Unions - teaching and non-teaching - to withdraw from the Agreement and win a new deal that gives decent pay and conditions to all staff.

● FOR THE FUNDS NEEDED TO MEET THE REAL NEEDS OF SCHOOLS

I would organise with other TUC Unions to link local struggles into a national campaign to oppose cuts and privatisation and to defend public services.

● DEFEND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES. STRENGTHEN ANTI-RACISM

I would encourage NUT members to take up local campaigns against racist and fascist organisations and develop Union educational materials for use in schools. I would campaign to win the right for a phased return to work on full pay after maternity leave and for free nursery education for all.

● FOR ACTION TO DEFEND THE RIGHT TO RETIRE ON A FULL PENSION AT 60. IMPROVE ACCESS TO EARLY RETIREMENT

As a first step in defending our pensions, I would demand the TUC implement the national day of action agreed by the Trade Union Congress and, if they won't, go ahead with unions who will.

● OPPOSE LABOUR'S ATTACKS ON COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION. NO TO SELECTION. NO TOP-UP FEES: WRITE OFF TEACHERS' STUDENT LOANS

I would step up the Union's campaigns in defence of education including support for trade union-backed candidates standing against New Labour.

● TAKING A STAND IN THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT

I would make sure that the NUT took a full part in the wider campaigns of the union movement. For example, whilst I, like many teachers, have demonstrated against the war and occupation of Iraq, the current NUT leaders refused even to allow the National Union banner on demonstrations. At the same time, I would seek trade union, public and parental support for our own education campaigns.