

WALTON LEES HILL CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL GOVERNORS MEETING

MINUTES OF THURSDAY 26th SEPTEMBER 2019

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Mrs T. Mitchinson (Clerk) and Ms Lockhart would have to leave the meeting at 8 o'clock.

Present:

Mrs M Alston (MA - Chair), Mrs F Stobbart (FS), Mrs F Ritson (FR), Mrs K Lamb (KL), Mr G Lamb (GL), Mrs L Irving (LI), Mr P Cronin (PA), Ms D Lockhart (DL).

Also present were Michael Mill (Diocese) and David Salmon (L.A.)

2. Declaration of Interest in an Agenda Item

No declarations of interest were declared.

3. Minutes of Meeting Held on Thursday 6th June 2019

The minutes of Thursday 6th June 2019 were signed as a true and correct record.

4. a) Matters Arising from Thursday 6th June 2019

Item discussed;

It was agreed that the LA would support our proposal to have Mrs Stobbart as a part-time Headteacher on 0.6fte along with a senior teacher in school covering the 0.4fte and the support of either an Executive Head or a Consultant Head.

The role of the Consultant Head is to be available now and again, to have regular conversations with acting head and provide coaching and mentoring. The Consultant Head will also visit school now and again when acting head is not in and this is good support for children, staff and parents. It was pointed out that this arrangement is crucial for the Acting Head to have the balance between home and work life. The staff in school know that they are to contact Lynn Harrison at Irthington, if Fiona is not in school.

Fiona Stobbart pointed out that this is an arrangement that needs to take time.

Fiona Stobbart asked if this current Headship arrangement discussed at the meeting on Thursday September 26th and at present in place was legal.

David Salmon replied that it was.

Graham Lamb asked the question about the Executive Head bringing their own leadership and governance. The models of hard and soft federations were explained and the current arrangement mean that both schools keep their identity. The role of the Executive Head is to provide support and can be called Consultant Headteacher.

It was suggested that a written agreement should be made between our GB and Irthington GB. Fiona Stobbart will liaise with Rachel Smith from Long Marton, who already has an agreement between two schools.

Fiona Stobbart also raised the point that she feels the support from Lynn Harrison is beneficial and supportive and Lynn would like things to be firmed up.

5,6,7 Updates from the L.A. and the Diocese, Review of the current Leadership Arrangements and future structural/Leadership options

These three areas merged into one discussion

*** *The Governors were aware that the use of an Acting Head Teacher is a temporary measure and does not relieve the duty on the governing body to appoint a new head as soon as is practicably possible.***

After discussion Fiona confirmed that, at present, she was keen to continue as Acting Headteacher with a Lead Teacher 0.4 when she was not in school and the support until September 2020 of a Consultant/ Supportive Head Teacher. (At present Mrs. L. Harrison. Head of Irthington School.) The Governors present felt this was a positive way forward as the continuity of leadership within the school was important.

*** *It was understood that a formal contract of partnership including the aims and an exit strategy would need to be sought with the Governors of Irthington School.***

David Salmon agreed to carry this out on The School's behalf. He would contact Rachel Smith from Long Marton School who has experience of working Collaboratively with other schools and could possibly advise on the form of a contract between two Governing Bodies.

As well as frequently reviewing the situation with Fiona it would therefore be necessary to formally review it during the Easter term with the position in September in mind.

It was recognised that we are in a good position to be exploring options and as a governing body we are being thoughtful in short, medium, and long- term planning and sustainability.

*** *The Governors felt they needed to be conversant with all the possible options to fill the Headship.***

i.e

Continuing on a permanent basis the current model

A job share arrangement

A full- time Headteacher

Joining a Federation

Joining a multi Academy Trust

It was agreed that meeting with Governors or Staff in schools that have these arrangements would provide a better understanding of what each entails.

Suggested schools to talk to could be;

Gilsland, Whitfield, Wreay – **MAT**

Long Marton – **Collaborative arrangement**

Alston, Nenthead and Samuel Kings – **Hard Federation**

John Ruskin and Coniston -**Federation**

Date of Next Meeting

Leadership and management of the school to be an agenda item at the Full Governing Body meeting on Thursday November 28th. at 7.30pm .