



**WALTON & LEES HILL CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
EXTRA-ORDINARY 'ZOOM' GOVERNORS MEETING**

MINUTES OF MONDAY 11th JANUARY 2021

1. Apologies for Absence

Action

No apologies were received but Mrs F Ritson, Mrs F Stobbart and Mrs L Rooney were not in attendance as they had declared an interest in the agenda item.

Present:

Mrs M Alston (MA-Chair), Mrs K Lamb, Mr G Lamb (GL), Mr G Shaw (GS), Mr P Cronin (PC), Mrs L Irving (LI) and Mrs T Mitchinson (Clerk).

Also present was Lynsey Slater, LA General Adviser.

2. Declaration of Interest in an Agenda Item

Mrs Stobbart, Mrs Rooney and Mrs Ritson declared an interest in Item 3 - A Way Forward for September 2020 – A Plan of Action! prior to this meeting.

3. A Way Forward for September 2021 – A Plan of Action!

Mrs Alston started by explaining the purpose of the meeting and the outcomes from the previous meeting in January 2020 in which it was agreed that Mrs Stobbart would continue as Acting Headteacher 0.6fte with support from Mrs Harrison at Irthington School and Mrs Rooney as Teacher 0.6fte and Lead Teacher 0.4fte until September 2021 when a permanent appointment was to be put in place based on 1 of the following 3 options:

- Appoint a full-time Headteacher
- Co-Headship
- Form partnership/collaboration with another school

Mrs Alston and Mr Lamb had met over Zoom with Mrs Stobbart and discussed her preferences for moving forward but before relaying these it was first asked for the Governors present to give their opinions on how they have seen the last year evolve and their thoughts for the future.

All were in agreement that they felt the current partnership of Mrs Stobbart and Mrs Rooney was a strong working relationship that was of a great benefit to the school and had worked well over the past year especially given the testing times that the school have seen due to Covid 19 and that Governors would be foolish to change this if it can be helped.

Mrs Alston then went on to say that Mrs Stobbart expressed that she would like to be able to continue as part-time Headteacher 0.6fte from September 2021 but that she was aware that a permanent appointment for the remaining 0.4fte was needed in order to fulfil legal requirements.

Although it is possible to appoint Mrs Stobbart into the role permanently, as she has been covering the role of Acting Headteacher, the other 0.4fte post would need to be advertised and interviews conducted but unfortunately the DfE and Diocese have placed all

appointments on hold during the current lockdown period, therefore it may not be possible to have this in place to start from September 2021 given the timescales for the recruitment process. Mrs Slater is to check and confirm the legalities on this.

LS

It is hoped, however that schools will be able to operate normally again as from Easter 2021 but in the interim Mrs Stobbart has agreed to continue as is in the role with the continued support from Mrs Harrison and Mrs Rooney and to start the permanent appointments from September 2022; this would be permitted by the Local Authority given the current Covid 19 regulations.

Mr Lamb asked if it would be possible to appoint Mrs Stobbart's 0.6fte permanently as from September 2021 in order to offer her stability going forward? *Mrs Slater was unsure if we would be able to do this without appointing the 0.4fte surplus but again will clarify this.*

LS

Mrs Irving asked if Mrs Stobbart would still be the first point of contact at all times with the new arrangement? *Mrs Alston said that job descriptions would need to be drawn up and days etc. agreed so that all parents/carers were kept fully informed of who should be contacted at any given time.*

All Governors agreed to keeping the current arrangements in place for another year with a view to starting the permanent arrangements from September 2022 as permitted.

Mrs Alston is to feedback the outcome from this meeting to Mrs Stobbart and a letter is to be drafted to all parents/carers informing them of the arrangements going forward.

4. Date of Next Meeting(s)

School Improvement Plan -
Monday 18th January 2021, 6.00pm via Zoom Video Call

Full Governing Body –
Monday 22nd February 2021, 6.00pm via Zoom Vide Call