



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

MINUTES OF TUESDAY 7th JUNE 2022

1. Apologies for Absence

Action

No apologies were received.

Present:

Mr G Lamb (GL-Chair), Mrs M Alston (MA), Mr G Shaw (GS), Mrs F Stobbart, Mrs L Irving (LI), Mrs L Rooney (LR), Mrs F Ritson (FR), Mr J Scouler, Mr P Cronin (PC), Mrs V Patrick-Jones (VPJ) and Mrs T Mitchinson (Clerk).

Also present was Lynsey Slater, LA General Adviser, via Zoom video link.

2. Declaration of Interest in an Agenda Item

Mrs Stobbart and Mrs Rooney both declared an interest in Item 3 – Going Forward – Co-Headship Arrangement Review.

3. Going Forward – Co-Headship Arrangement Review

Mr Lamb started by explaining why the meeting had been called and that Governors needed to formulate a plan for the future leadership arrangements of the school including capturing data from all stakeholders concerned.

Mrs Slater went on to inform the meeting of the options they had going forward.

Mr Shaw asked 'Why should we be concerned about a review?' *Because of the structure and uniqueness of the leadership arrangement and how it was put in place following the advice received from the LA and to aid transparency for all parties concerned.*

The recent Headteachers half-yearly reviews had taken place and reported back to all governors at the last FGB meeting and these reflected on the performance of both Headteachers with no concerns raised and all targets on track.

Mrs Alston asked 'How Mrs Stobbart felt the arrangements were going as the schools permanent 0.6fte Headteacher?' *Mrs Stobbart answered that Governors should be asking both Mrs Rooney and herself as they are both Headteachers of the school and in response they both felt this was going very well and detailed improvements made since they took joint leadership; improved NOR, new staff who have settled in well to the team, they felt they have dealt with the covid-19 issues and managed staff absences and also created a massive opportunity for learning for all children within school, 2 year-old provision has been introduced and strong links with the community have been sealed – all in all the school is a happy place to be.*

Ms Patrick-Jones reiterated the community links through comments she has heard made outside of school.

Mrs Alston then asked 'How would they like to see the co-headship arrangement going forward?' *Mrs Stobbart replied, for the Leadership arrangement to continue as is.*

Mrs Slater reminded the governors again that they must legally have a full-time named Headteacher.

Mrs Rooney raised the point that she was slightly concerned that expression had only been shown now by Governors as to the continuation of the arrangement, and not before, even given the successful performance management reviews.

Mrs Slater asked 'If the agreed review of the Co-headship had taken place?' *No, there had been crossed wires between Clerk and Headteachers Appraisal Committee and that is why the issue as to the continuation of the arrangement is coming up now.*

Mrs Slater went on to recommended that a full review of the arrangements take place at the end of the Autumn Term 2022 once all information required has been gathered and stakeholder questionnaires were available.

Mrs Alston noted to the meeting that the legality is that school have to have a permanent appointment in place for the position, either 1 full time or 2 part time, after 2 years of a temporary decision.

- Mrs Stobbart and Mrs Rooney were asked to leave the meeting for a short time, see confidential minutes.

Once Mrs Stobbart and Mrs Rooney returned to the meeting they were informed that following discussions and given the timescales until the end of the Summer Term and, if, any changes were to be made there would be insufficient time to put these in place before the new school year it had been voted on how to continue going forward in the short term and it was unanimously agreed for the leadership structure staying as is with a mid-term review being conducted by the end of Autumn Term 2022 with the view to a decision being made on the continuation and permanent appointment, or not, of the 0.4fte Acting Headteacher.

Governors requested once again that Mrs Stobbart and Mrs Rooney produced the draft of their intended memorandum of understanding as this would be needed as a legal document for any future of the co-headship.

Mrs Stobbart said that it is not that they haven't wanted to draft the document but they have both found it difficult to find any advice on how and what to include in the said document and were not sure where to turn for help with this.

Mrs Slater offered that she will speak to the LA and try and get some drafts or examples of others that may help with this; it was agreed that this document would be drawn up in draft ready to present to Governors at the next FGB by 5th July 2022 who would then send to the LA legal team for confirmation.

Discussions then turned to how Governors would gather the questionnaire / data from all stakeholders and suggestions of how best to conduct this.

It was agreed to send questionnaires to parents, children, staff and governors with generic questions to all but some questions tweaked appropriately; Mrs Rooney will send examples from 'The Key' to all Governors who are requested to feedback as to what tweaks need made to make them specific to our school by Friday 17th June 2022.

These will then be created on Survey Monkey by Mr Lamb with a view to going out before the end of Summer Term 2022 in order to capture the data from those children and parents who will be leaving the school and have attended throughout the leadership arrangements as it is recognised these will be a large proportion due to the number leaving.

4. Date of Next Meeting(s)

Full Governing Body –
Tuesday 12th July 2022, 5.30pm at Walton & Lees Hill CE Primary School

Pupil Progress & Tracking Monitoring Visit –
Thursday 9th June 2022, 1.00pm at Walton & Lees Hill CE Primary School

Post Meeting Note -

Following the meeting, a meeting was arranged for Wednesday 8th June at 2pm with Mr Shaw, Mrs Stobbart and Mrs Rooney to focus on the Memorandum of Understanding.



WALTON & LEES HILL CE PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNORS MEETING

MINUTES OF WEDNESDAY 18th MAY 2022

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Present:

Mr G Lamb (GL-Chair), Mrs M Alston (MA), Mr G Shaw (GS), Mrs L Irving (LI), Mrs F Ritson (FR), Mr J Scouler, Mr P Cronin (PC), Mrs V Patrick-Jones (VPJ) and Mrs T Mitchinson (Clerk).

Action

Also present was Lynsey Slater, LA General Adviser, via Zoom video link.

3. Going Forward – Co-Headship Arrangement Review