

THE GOVERNING BODY OF BIRKBY INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Governing Body held at 6.30 pm at the School on Monday, 3 July 2017.

PRESENT

Mrs A E Stopher (Chair), Mrs J Hinchliffe, Mrs S Khan, Mr J Morley, Mr S Saeed, Mrs E Walsh, Ms K E Westeman, Mrs E M Whalley, Dr A Williams, Mrs D Z Wilson (Head Teacher).

In Attendance

Mrs C E Woodcock (Meeting Clerk)

The Chair opened the meeting at 6.30 pm.

Procedural

1640. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, CONSENT AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Dr M Ali and Mrs S V Goler, both with consent.

There were no declarations of interest.

1641. NOTIFICATION OF MATTERS TO BE RAISED UNDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No items were notified to be brought up under Any Other Business.

1642. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 MAY 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2017 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

1643. MATTERS ARISING.

There were no matters arising.

School Improvement

1644. STAFF PRESENTATION BY MRS JILL HINCHLIFFE "WORKING TOGETHER WITH PARENTS – LEADING PARENT PARTNERSHIP" INCLUDING COMMUNITY HUBS UPDATE

Mrs Hinchliffe provided a presentation to governors on Working Together with Parents - Leading Parent Partnership, including Community Hubs update.

Mrs Hinchliffe outlined that the School gained the Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA) in July 2016 and that the School's approach continued to be:

- To seek to gather parents' views, opinions and expectations and evaluate and action the next steps. In doing so, confidence levels would continue to rise and parents would be empowered as democratic decision contributors, on the School's journey towards a Parent Council.

- To support the whole family, through 'Little Learners', intergenerational activities, a family and community support programme, weekly Stay and Play and One Stop Shop sessions. The School also endeavoured to develop as a Community Hub and was committed to promoting the social and emotional wellbeing, mental health and wellness of pupils and families, staff, governors and volunteers.

Q. What is the biggest hurdle to achieving this?

- A. Engaging with parents who are difficult to reach. Some parents come forward naturally, but it requires persistence and patience to engage with parents who are hard to reach.

Mrs Hinchliffe highlighted that, for many years, educational practitioners had recognised that 'involved' parents and families had a significant impact on their children's progress in school and reviewed lists of the impact of these benefits from a pupil, parent, school and community perspective. Methods of gaining parental involvement were also discussed, including:

- Effective communication and a nurturing welcome
- Volunteering and training support placements
- Encouraging collaboration and growth within the community
- Parenting support and advice
- Providing parent/child shared learning opportunities
- Enabling parents to support their child's learning at home (attitudes, Growth Mindset, were parents saying the right things?)
- Providing a varied programme of accessible adult learning/training in School and the local community (Community Hub)
- Parent voice – being involved in decision making
- Opportunities to contribute to their child's development and achievement records (Tapestry; Stay and Play)

Q. Why doesn't the School send out homework, using a homework book, as it did 18 months ago? Without this, parents may not take responsibility for their children's homework?

- A. The only homework the School sends home is reading and, possibly, spellings in Year 2. We use fun activities to reinforce the learning that has taken place in School. The benefit of this approach is that it assists parents in understanding and supporting their children's learning. Children's broader development is communicated to parents through 'What We Are Learning This Week' sessions.

Mrs Hinchliffe concluded that the next step for the School was the formation of a Parent Council, which:

- welcomed parents into School, listened to their views and encouraged their contribution;
- enabled parents to meet, share ideas and feedback to other parents and the community;
- gave parents a voice and enabled them to contribute democratically to school decision making;
- continued to develop partnership working between parents and School;
- consulted parents and advised School leadership and/or Governing Body of parents' views; and
- created a trusting, respectful and thriving partnership.

Governors thanked Mrs Hinchliffe for the presentation.

1645. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEESStandards and Effectiveness Committee, held on 3 July 2017

Mrs Westeman reported on the areas discussed prior to this meeting:

- Attendance: there had been a slight improvement in attendance levels.
- Year 2 performance measures: the target of 80% of pupils reaching the expected standard had not been reached. This was due, primarily, to the number of transient pupils in the year; including 10 children who had left and 13 who had entered School since September 2016. It was noted that performance in Mathematics had improved; however, there would have been an even higher level of improvement with the original cohort of children.
- Teaching staff assessments: Local Authority (LA) moderators had reviewed teaching staffs' assessments of pupils' work and had agreed with the School's judgement in 43 out of 45 cases.
- Extended School Activities: Mrs Hinchliffe had provided an extensive report on Extended School Activities and was congratulated by governors for the work being undertaken.
- Learning Behaviours: discussion had taken place regarding enabling pupils to develop and maintain a 'Can Do' attitude in School.
- Community Activities: Mrs Hinchliffe had updated governors on community activities as part of the Working Together with Parents - Leading Parent Partnership and Community Hubs Presentation.
- Charging and Remissions Policy: the Policy had been reviewed and governors had expressed concerns about the need to charge parents for nursery lunch cover, as eligible parents were entitled to up to 30 hours of free child care per week. However, it was noted that there was no financial alternative for the School and that the decision needed to be taken to ensure the safety of children over the lunchtime period. Therefore, it was agreed that the proposed charges for nursery lunch cover would be included in the Policy.

RESOLVED: That the Charging and Remissions Policy be updated to include details of the charges for nursery lunch cover.

1646. HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

The Head Teacher's report had been provided to governors prior to the meeting and copies were also tabled.

The following items were highlighted and discussed:

(a) Number of children on roll – July 2017

Discussion took place regarding the total number of Pupil Premium children in School.

Q. The total number of Pupil Premium children seems low, is this correct?

A. Yes. The number of children who are eligible for Pupil Premium is reducing dramatically, due to changes in the eligibility criteria.

(b) Head Teacher

Governors congratulated Mrs Wilson on her success in being appointed a Local Leader of Learning (LLE) on behalf of the West Yorkshire Teaching Alliance.

(c) National Funding Formula

It was noted that implementation of the National Funding Formula (NFF) may be delayed, or placed on hold, due to the outcome of the recent General Election.

(d) North Huddersfield Learning Community Meeting – 16 May 2017

Discussion had taken place regarding the proposed new Primary Academy at Clare Hill. Mr Wilson, HT of North Huddersfield Trust School was continuing to explore the possibility of a trust or other formal organisation for the North Huddersfield Learning Community.

(e) Teaching Staff Training/CPD/ Networks

The Chair highlighted that an impressive amount of training and development had been undertaken by the Senior Management Team.

(f) Year 2 – KS1 Outcomes

Year 2 outcomes 2017, indicated that after LA moderation, attainment in Mathematics was slightly higher than 2016 and those in Reading and Writing were slightly lower than last year but still in line with national 2016.

Governors noted that the School had set ambitious targets with the September cohort which were achievable, however substantial changes to the cohort resulted in attainment targets not being met. However the current results place the School above the national norms for 2016. As such, governors agreed that the results should be presented as a positive achievement in an area of considerable deprivation.

(g) Kite Day

The Kite Day had been very successful, with a large turnout. Photographs would be uploaded to the School website.

The Head Teacher was thanked for her report.

1647. KIRKLEES LEARNING SUMMIT AND PARTNERSHIP REFERENCE GROUP

Dr Williams had attended Kirklees Learning Summit and Partnership Reference Group and advised governors that the focus of the event was the establishment of Community Hubs. Dr Williams noted that, whilst the session had been well-intentioned, the discussion had lacked substance. The event had been led by LA officers, rather than by practitioners with direct experience of setting up partnership models of working.

The following options for partnership working were discussed by governors:

- 1) Do nothing – the LA provided ‘slimmed down’ support and financially viable services to schools and settings within the reduced funding available. Opportunities may not be fully exploited as resource became scarcer.
- 2) The LA formed a partnership with schools to create and manage a self-contained Kirklees Education Service within the LA. Builds on what exists now. It would be accountable to a Board of Directors with representation from school/academy heads and governors and the LA.
- 3) Establish a formal ‘schools led’ company, a not for profit organisation with the potential for the LA to be a partner (with a no more than 20% stake).

Q. Where does this leave us?

A. Option 2 appears to be a sensible way forward. It would fulfil the Statutory Duties of the LA and retain, sustain and develop services to schools and learning settings.

RESOLVED: That the Governing Body supported the proposals put forward in Option 2.

Dr Williams concluded by highlighting that the work already being undertaken (Working Together with Parents, Leading Parent Partnership and Community Hubs) was putting the School ahead of the game in respect of the establishment of a LA partnership with schools model. Additionally, North Huddersfield Learning Community (NHLC) was mentioned as a model of good practice during the conference.

1648. BUDGET UPDATE

The School did not currently have an up to date budget spending list, as the period end was only carried out on 30 June 2017 and reports were not due back until 10 July 2017.

To date, no buy backs had been submitted through the School’s accounts. The cut off point for this would usually be September.

All income contributions from the Pyramid Schools for Lisa Jagger’s salary had been received.

An extensive programme of work was scheduled to take place over the summer holidays; including: external painting, a new tannoy system and tarmacking around the play equipment area.

A large spend on resources, totalling £10,000, would take place in September. This would include replenishing the Oxford Reading Tree Books and other resources for the start of the academic year.

1649. ATTENDANCE

This item was addressed as part of the Head Teacher’s report (Minute 1646 refers).

1650. SCHOOL WEBSITE

The School website had been reviewed by governors.

Governors discussed the website warning to parents concerning protecting their children's privacy on the Snapchat forum. The Head Teacher confirmed that the message would be reinforced to parents via an E-Learning session in School.

1651. GOVERNING BODY SELF-EVALUATION, GOVERNOR VISITS AND DEVELOPMENTGovernor Visits

- Dr Williams had attended Kirklees Learning Summit and Partnership Reference Group.
- Mrs Stopher had visited School.

Governing Body Matters and Statutory Responsibilities.1652. SAFEGUARDING

The Single Central Record was accurate and up to date.

1653. CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence.

1654. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of any other business.

1655. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED: That the next meetings of the Governing Body, Standards and Effectiveness Committee and Resources Committee be held at the School on:

- (i) Monday, 9 October 2017 at 6.30 pm – Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- (ii) Monday, 20 November 2017 at 5:30 pm – Standards and Effectiveness Committee
- (iii) Monday, 27 November 2017 at 6.30 pm – Governing Body, preceded by the Resources Committee at 5.30 pm
- (iv) Monday, 5 February 2018 at 5.30 pm – Standards and Effectiveness Committee
- (v) Monday 12 February 2018 at 6:30 pm – Governing Body, preceded by the Resources Committee at 5.30pm
- (vi) Monday, 19 March 2018 at 6.30 pm – Governing Body, preceded by Standards and Effectiveness Committee at 5.30 pm
- (vii) Monday, 14 May 2018 at 5:30 pm – Standards and Effectiveness Committee
- (viii) Monday, 21 May 2018 at 6:30 pm – Governing Body, preceded by the Resources Committee at 5:30 pm
- (ix) Monday, 2 July 2018 at 6:30 pm – Governing Body, preceded by the Standards and Effectiveness Committee at 5:30 pm.

1656. AGENDA, MINUTES AND RELATED PAPERS – SCHOOL COPY

RESOLVED: That no part of these minutes, agenda or related papers shall be omitted from the copy to be made available at the School under the Freedom of Information Act.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:25 pm.

