

LIONEL WALDEN SCHOOL

Minutes of a meeting of the Lionel Walden School Governing Body held on Wednesday, 18th June, 2014 at 7.30 p.m. at the school.

Present: K. Robinson (Chairman), D. Barron, S. A. Barnard-Taylor, C. Buckle, V. Cronin, J. Dale, M. Dunham, S. Gowler, M. Hart, A. Naughton, K. Naughton.

Apologies for absence were received from D. Williams.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

All Governors present declared that they had no pecuniary interests in the matters being discussed.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th May, 2014 were approved and signed as a true record.

HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

This had been circulated prior to the meeting and matters arising from it were discussed:-

School Improvement Priorities – These have been identified for the next academic year and are as follows:-

- Implementation of New National Curriculum;
- Next Steps Marking;
- Progress of vulnerable groups;
- Improving Performance Management procedures for teaching staff;
- ICT;
- Teaching School activities.

Changes in Performance Management will be introduced in the Autumn term. Documentation will be looked at, including work scrutiny evidence, as well as lesson observations. Paired observations will be introduced in order to verify judgements. Appraisals will look at career aspirations and plans, e.g. 'where do you see yourself in 10 years' time?' Andy Naughton questioned how paired observations affected the children in the classroom. It was reported that this is not uncommon and as there are several adults in each class, the children would not think it unusual.

Standards – A new set of data for all Key Stages will soon be available. Indications are that the Foundation Stage Profile, the Phonics Check and Key Stage One assessments will be positive. In the Foundation Stage Profile, a good level of development is the key indicator; boys Writing might not be as good as last year. The pass mark for the Year 1 phonics check has not been issued yet, but indications are so far looking good. Key Stage One moderation took place yesterday. Representatives from the Local Authority visited the school in order

to verify our judgements. Two moderators came along and were very impressed with the teaching and judgements. They felt that pupil books were well documented and were very positive in their feedback. As far as the assessments themselves are concerned, the percentage of children achieving Level 2+ and Level 2B+ is good. The number of children achieving Level 3 is not as good as last year. However, Reading levels are strong. Key Stage Two will not be as good across the board as previous years largely due to the complex needs within the cohort. The provision of an extra teacher in Year 6 has been highly successful. The huge amount of work by all staff in Year 6 this year has to be acknowledged and this was duly noted by all those present. Writing will be very positive and we have achieved one Level 6 writer. Evidence of the Level 6 had to be provided and verified.

Progress – Spreadsheets were circulated detailing pupil progress. This information needs to be seen in conjunction with tracking sheets, which show levels. More analysis will be carried out when all the Key Stage results are available.

Maths Challenge – Nominated Year 6 children from Cromwell Community College's partner schools recently took part in a Maths Challenge. One of our pupils achieved the highest mark, and we had three children in the top eight.

Isle of Wight Trip – This takes place w/c 23rd June. 48 children and 5 members of staff are taking part. An extra member of staff is going along, enabling us to include a child with particular needs.

Catering Assistant Advert – This has been circulated and is proving to be popular. The job is for 1.5 hours per day in the school kitchen. It was agreed that Bev Miller, the school caterer, should be involved in the selection process.

Guyhirn – We are gradually withdrawing our support at this school. During our last week, an Ofsted Inspection took place. Although the overall grade remained the same as during the previous inspection, the Inspector recognized our work in support of Guyhirn and in particular the contribution of Sally-Anne Barnard-Taylor. The grade for Leadership and Management improved from 'Requires Improvement' to 'Good'.

Music – Cambridgeshire Music is no longer providing brass tuition. However, they will instead introduce mini orchestral work in Years 4 and 5.

Admissions – The school has been asked to take a child with a statement living in Cambridge. Mr. Barron will respond appropriately to this request. We have also been asked to consider breaking our Published Admission Number (PAN) to take an incatchment child in September 2014 Reception. It was agreed that we should not go over PAN and recommend that this parent goes to Appeal. (*Since the meeting, another child has withdrawn their application for a place in Reception, so a place has become available and an appeal will not be necessary.*)

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a recent meeting of the School Improvement Committee were circulated. Topics covered were as follows:-

New National Curriculum – Much work has been taking place on putting together the new National Curriculum. Our aim is to make this exciting for the children in how it is taught. In conjunction with our partner schools, with the aid of funding we have gained, two core activities have been organized. Firstly, Maths and English co-ordinators have been working on mapping. They are also looking at assessment without levels. The second activity was a one day training session at the Oliver Cromwell Hotel. All our teaching staff and two HLTA's attended along with two or three representatives from partner schools. Nigel Batty, an advisor, ran the morning session which made everyone think about our vision and the values we wanted for our pupils and what sort of curriculum we wanted for our children. The afternoon was spent on starting to organize the curriculum. Our weekly curriculum meetings are now spent considering topic titles, themed weeks, and how we organize writing across a range of subjects.

ICT Suite – The future of the ICT suite is under debate. At the moment, each class has a weekly timetabled session in the ICT suite. However, with the advent of WiFi, much of the IT work can be done within the classroom, within the day-to-day curriculum. Therefore, consideration is being given to redesigning the ICT suite into part storage and part group room space. This will coincide with resourcing the new National Curriculum and hopefully provide a greater storage area. The library area is also being looked at in conjunction with this project. Another thing to give consideration to with ICT is whether to stay with laptops or to move to iPads. It was suggested that perhaps we should contact a school that is already using iPads to get a view on their use.

Next Steps Marking – A lot of work is being carried out to make marking more effective so it has a greater impact on children's learning and progress. Children need to be involved to a greater degree to make sure they learn from the comments given. There needs to be clear pointers to children; they need time to read the comments and be shown how they can improve further.

Special Educational Needs – New legislation is being introduced whereby schools have to include information on their website in respect of SEN facilities.

TEACHING SCHOOL UPDATE

An Action Plan for the Fenland Teaching School Alliance had been circulated prior to the meeting. The six activity areas are:-

1. Initial Teacher Training/School Direct – A lot of Universities do not like School Direct, but the Government are very keen on this and that by 2016 all teacher training will be school led. The University of Peterborough will not offer us any places for September, 2015, but the University of Cambridge will offer us two places. The Wisbech cluster of schools are interested in School Direct as they have recruitment issues and have invited DB to talk to them.

2. CPD/Leadership Development – Cavalry are setting up a training programme for NQTs and Continuous Professional Development.
3. Succession Planning/Talent Management
4. School to School Support
5. Specialist Leaders of Education – Lionel Walden is licensed to run the Improving Teacher Programme (ITP) and the Outstanding Teacher Programme (OTP) as well as developing Specialist Leaders of Education (SLE).
6. Research and Development – this could be done in conjunction with the University of Cambridge Faculty of Education.

The Alliance will need to develop its own website. DB is meeting with someone later this week who may be able to help with this.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 17th September, 2014 at 7.30 p.m. at the school.

CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS

This meeting was the last one for Kevin Robinson as Chair of the Governing Body. He was thanked for all his hard work over many years as Chair, and a small presentation was made in recognition of this work. Mr. Robinson will be carrying on as a Local Authority Governor.

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Chairman

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Date