

LIONEL WALDEN SCHOOL

Minutes of a meeting of the Lionel Walden School Governing Body held on Wednesday, 7th May, 2014 at 7.30 p.m. at the school.

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

Apologies for absence were received from M. Dunham and D. Williams.

The Chairman welcomed two new Parent Governors to their first meeting. Mrs. Sarah Gowler and Mrs. Mel Hart introduced themselves to everyone, giving information on their background and interests.

IMPACT OF TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Mrs. Nina Redhead was welcomed to the meeting. Mrs. Redhead is the Assistant Headteacher at Beaupré Community Primary School in Wisbech and is working for her National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) and Mr. Barron and Lionel Walden have been supporting her in this. A placement has to be carried out in another school and a project studied as part of this placement. Mrs. Redhead has been reviewing and evaluating the contribution and impact of Teaching Assistants at Lionel Walden and Guyhirn Primary Schools. She has visited both schools and conducted interviews with teachers and teaching assistants and carried out classroom observations. Her findings were very different in the two schools and it was difficult to make a comparison. She concluded that the role of teaching assistants differs according to the stability of the school. The findings from Lionel Walden were very positive, with the teachers and teaching assistants working in partnership and the teaching assistants having greater academic confidence. The teaching assistants at Guyhirn were very keen to gain training and develop their subject knowledge. What was very clear was the absolute commitment from teaching assistants at both schools for the children and the range of talents beyond literacy and numeracy, which they would like to utilize. It was suggested that findings of this study should be communicated to the teaching assistants of both schools.

Mrs. Redhead thanked everyone for their support during this placement. She then left the meeting.

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 5th February, 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:-

Teaching School – We were successful if our bid to become a National Teaching School. Teaching school alliances are led by a teaching school and include schools that are benefiting from support, as well as strategic partners who lead some aspects of training and development. A lot of work is now ahead of us and as a start, a meeting of our Strategic Partners is taking place this week to plan a way forward. Our Strategic Partners are Cavalry Primary School, Cromwell Community College, Cambridgeshire Local Educational Authority and the Faculty of Education at the University of Cambridge. We could add strategic partners, but cannot reduce the number. Teaching school alliances can be set up in three different ways and we are a single alliance (one teaching school leading one teaching school alliance). There are 500 National Teaching Schools across the country and we are currently the only one in this area. There are six core areas of responsibility covering – School-led initial teacher training (School Direct – Cromwell will lead with this); continuing professional development; supporting other schools; developing leadership; specialist leaders of education; and research and development. A website needs to be set up and a business support plan developed. Teaching schools receive an annual grant known as core funding. This is paid directly to the school. £60,000 is paid in the first year and we have already received this. This funding will be separated out from the main school budget. Governors will be given a copy of the action plan and one or two governors will be asked to become involved, along with governors from our other strategic partners.

Universal Free School Meals – From September, 2014, all pupils in Reception, Years 1 and 2 will be eligible for free school meals. Specific capital funding is available to support the expansion of school kitchens and we have put in a bid for an extra £3,000 for a new oven and have been successful in this bid.

Published Admission Number – We have received a letter stating that our request to reduce our PAN to 30 has been successful. This will come into effect from September, 2015. Therefore, this September will be the last time, Reception children will be split into two classes.

Staffing – Sara Parish, one of our teaching assistants, has been successful in obtaining a School Direct place at Cromwell as from September to undertake teacher training. She was congratulated for this.

2014/2015 BUDGET

Mr. Naughton, Chair of the Governors' Finance Committee, led the discussion on this subject. He explained that the Governing Body has to set and adopt a budget for the next financial year. He started by reviewing 2013/2014. The carry forward at the end of the year is £108,000. This is an improvement on the forecast at the beginning of the year, especially as it had been anticipated that we would use some of our reserves to fund additional teaching time for the current Year 6 cohort. The supporting of Guyhirn has, in fact, been very lucrative in a financial respect. Provision for accruals has ensured that we have remained below the threshold and consequently, avoided possible clawback.

The 2014/2015 draft budget had been circulated. The school has an income of just over £1 million. We are starting the year with a carry forward of £108,815 and budgeting to end the year with a carry forward of £65,773, so almost half of

the carry forward will be spent in 2014-2015. Formula funding, which comprises the bulk of our revenue, is reduced from £792,632 to £773,685. 79% of our costs are staff salaries. Special Educational Needs funding will reduce from £53,000 to £15,000 as four statemented children currently in Year 6 will be leaving in July. With a new teacher starting in September, as previously agreed, this will increase teaching costs and this has been reflected in the budget. We also possibly have two Teaching Assistants leaving. Possible capital expenditure projects were highlighted as kitchen improvements, replacement of curtains in the main hall, future development of the ICT suite, redesigning the library area and fencing outside the Pre-School. At the end of the discussion, the 2014/2015 budget was adopted by the Governing Body.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 18th June, 2014 at 7.30 p.m. at the school.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting.

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Chairman

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Date