

LIONEL WALDEN SCHOOL

Minutes of a meeting of the Lionel Walden School Governing Body held on Wednesday, 5th February, 2014 at 7.30 p.m. at the school.

Present: K. Robinson (Chairman), S. A. Barnard-Taylor, D. Barron, C. Buckle, J. Dale, M. Dunham, A. Naughton, K. Naughton, I. Roberts, D. Williams.

Apologies for absence were received from V. Cronin.

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 13th November, 2013 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:-

- The school had undergone a Keeping in Touch (KIT) visit by an External Advisor and the report had been circulated. Data was presented in a different form to that already circulated in the RaiseOnline report and the Data Dashboard. The report was very complimentary and positive. Targeting the current Year 6, high levels of teaching and support are being provided and hopefully progress will be good. Mr. Barron emphasized that he couldn't speak highly enough about the effort and skill going into the current Year 6 cohort.
- *Ofsted Framework Changes* - There have been a number of changes to the Ofsted school inspection framework and this had been circulated. The section of Behaviour and Safety has been expanded and given greater prominence and children will be observed in informal situations. Volunteering is now included as an example of evidence of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Inspectors will also look at the 'wider system', beyond the school, i.e. school to school support. Inspectors are also not to favour a particular teaching style.
- *Universal Free School Meals for Infants* – As from September, 2014, every infant child (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2), will be entitled to receive a free school lunch under a new Government initiative. All schools will be issued with a package of help and all meals will be funded at £2.30 each. The funding will be measured on the number of meals served on the day of the October school census. Capital funding will be available for new kitchen equipment. It is thought that a third member of catering staff will be needed to cope with the extra work. Also we will need to have to look at the Catering Manager's wages to reward the extra work.
- *Staffing* – Clare Harness has started as a cleaner of the annexe.

- *Guyhirn* – The substantive Head of Guyhirn has resigned as from 30th April. An advert will be placed for a new Head as from September. Mrs. Barnard-Taylor will end her stint as Acting Headteacher as from 23rd May.
- *Published Admission Number* – The latest Admissions Consultation document states that we shall be reducing our Published Admission Number as from September, 2015. This has now gone out to other schools.
- *Budget* – There will be a significant reduction in SEN funding in next year's budget due to the large number of statements in Year 6. There are 4 educational statements and 2 medical ones, which will result in the school receiving £16,000 less funding. However, we are aware that we will have two Teaching Assistants leaving at the end of this current academic year, so analysis needs to be carried out to see whether they need to be replaced. On a more positive note, pupil premium funding will increase.
- *New National Curriculum* – The school has been successful in a bid for £10,000 to implement the new national curriculum. As a result of this, a training event is being organized for Friday, 23rd May when other schools will be invited.
- *Display Energy Certificate* – this certificate has been renewed. The energy used levels are positive and going in the right direction.

TERMLY OPERATIONAL PLAN

This document for the Spring term 2014 had been circulated to Governors prior to the meeting. This sets out the school's key priorities for improvement and reviews progress. Separate sections detail each priority school target, the success criteria and how all actions are evidenced and reviewed.

EARLY YEARS SINGLE FUNDING FORMULA

During the 2013-14 financial year, there has been pressure on the Cambridgeshire budget for 3 and 4 year old nursery places, with more hours taken up per child, and an increase in the average hourly rate paid to providers. This has led to an overspend, which has been funded largely through an underspend on two-year old places. The Local Authority now needs to identify how to make reductions through changes to the Early Years Formula. Cambridgeshire is the worst funded authority. There is no deprivation funding in this area. The proposal is that our Early Years funding is reduced by 5p per hour and our flexibility would have to be looked at. The school has to reply to the consultation by the end of February.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Following discussions at the previous meeting, when concerns had been expressed about the lack of service from our current Property Management Company, Atkins, it was agreed that we should give notice to end our contract and deal with property matters ourselves.

GOVERNING BODY MEMBERSHIP

Ivan Roberts' term of office as a Parent Governor has now come to an end and this is his last meeting. Ivan was thanked for all his had work and support for the school.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 7th May, 2014 at 7.30 p.m. at the school. This will be the meeting where the new budget for 2014/2015 will be discussed.

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

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Chairman

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Date