

LIONEL WALDEN SCHOOL

Minutes of a meeting of the Governing Body of Lionel Walden School held on Wednesday, 12th November, 2014 at 7.30 p.m. at the school.

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

Apologies for absence were received from M. Dunham, M. Hart, K. Robinson and D. Williams.

Sally Pawley, Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, was in attendance at the meeting. She gave a presentation to Governors on the new SEND Reforms and Code of Practice. The reforms are designed to join up help across education, health and social care for children from birth to 25. There should now be greater co-operation between professionals. Children and their parents/carers are to be at the heart of the process as involved, informed decision makers. Schools will be expected to have clear systems for the identification, assessment, monitoring and securing of appropriate support for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN). The focus is on outcomes - what the support is intended to achieve rather than counting hours or resources. Every school's SEN provision should be published to parents on their websites. Any newly appointed Special Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) has to have an appropriate SENCO award. The SEN policy is in the process of being updated. It will be shared with staff, the Senior Leadership Team and then circulated to Governors for adoption. All transition arrangements should be in place by 2017.

Mrs. Pawley was thanked for her detailed and informative presentation. 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 meetings held on 17th September and 2nd October were approved and signed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

Link Governor - Mrs. Buckle reported that she had held a meeting with Mrs. Barnard-Taylor in her role as the Governor linked to outstanding teaching. A report outlining the points covered was circulated to all Governors.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter has been received from Nick Gibb, MP, Minister of State for School Reform, congratulating the school on the high standard of achievement following last year's phonics check. It was agreed that this letter should be uploaded to the school's website.

HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

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

- *Staffing* - Helen Jones has made a good start as a newly appointed Teaching Assistant, with a positive attitude to her work.
- *Keeping in Touch (KIT) Visit* - the KIT visit has taken place. Jo Dale attended together with an external adviser. The report from this visit has been circulated to Governors. The weakest area in each Key Stage has an improvement target listed - improve the Good Level of Development at the end of EYFS, improve Level 3 Maths at the end of KS1 and improve the progress of Reading at the end of KS2. The RaiseOnline report is now available and will be discussed at a later meeting.
- *IT* - members of staff will be visiting schools later this month to explore and assess the pros and cons of the use of iPads in the classroom.
- *Performance Management* - Our procedures for teachers' performance management are being refined. The process involves lesson observations, work scrutiny and data analysis, brought together in one document. Each teacher's targets will be shared with the rest of the teaching staff so that everyone can support each other.
- *Looked After Child (LAC)* - We have two children that fall into this category. A document had been circulated detailing procedures that have to be followed. The designated teacher for LAC is Sally Pawley as this fits in nicely with SEN.

- *Safer Recruitment* - We have completed an audit of our procedures to be submitted. This document was circulated to Governors prior to the meeting.
- *Teaching School* - A report was given on the work carried out so far. We have been allocated 13 School Direct places for September, 2015 which now have to be marketed in order to fill them. Interviews will be held on 17th November for Specialist Leaders of Education. The Teaching School Alliance website will go live soon. We have submitted bids to support two local schools. The NQT training package is progressing well and is receiving positive feedback as is the Outstanding Teacher Programme. We have submitted a bid for funding to support Early Years settings across the alliance.

GOVERNOR TRAINING REPORT

The latest course schedule will soon be circulated. C. Buckle and S. Gowler have attended an induction course. Jo Dale has attended several courses over the past few weeks - Headteacher Performance Management, Preparation for Ofsted, New Framework (which focused on leadership, management and challenging the management of the school), RaiseOnline and a workshop to improve Governance.

HEADTEACHER VACANCY

A Governors' meeting took place on 2nd October to go through the process of appointing a new Headteacher. The Minutes of this meeting have been circulated. Interviews will take place on 21st November.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 4th February, 2015 at 7.30 p.m. at the school.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date