



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNING BOARD OF
NETHER ALDERLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL HELD AT THE SCHOOL ON
7TH MARCH 2019**

Members Present: Andy Brady
John Brooks Chair
Rachel Carney
Sue Cleary
Richard Craven Headteacher
Christian Gilham
Jon Hale
Rachel McAlonan
Claire Moores
Nina Mowforth

Also in attendance: Peter Rubery CEO Fallibroome Trust
Ian Gatie Clerk to the Governors

PART ONE – NON-CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

1. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following item was submitted for consideration:

Friends of Nether Alderley

2. ABSENCE

- 2.1. Apologies for absence were received from Sophie Harrison-Moody
- 2.2. Governors approved the apologies from Sophie Harrison-Moody

3. PECUNIARY/CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- 3.1. No declaration was made by a governor of a conflict or pecuniary interest between an individual and the governing board as a whole, in connection with the business to be discussed at the meeting.

4. MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1. There have been no changes in the membership of the governing board since the last meeting.
- 4.2. The governing board has the following vacancies:
Two co-opted governors

The Chair reiterated previous concerns about having a high proportion of parents as members of the board. He suggested that he could approach the company managing the development of the Alderley Park site, to see if any employees of companies moving onto the site, would



be interested in using their skills and experience in a school governance setting. Another option could be to approach the Parish Council, but after the upcoming elections. Governors agreed with the approaches suggested to enlist independent co-opted governors.

ACTION: Chair to pursue governor recruitment through Alderley Park.

ACTION: Governors to try to identify potential candidates for the vacancies.

5. PART ONE MINUTES

5.1. The part one minutes of the meeting held on 15th November 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5.2. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Rachel Carney joined the meeting.

6. CHAIR'S ACTION

The Chair reported that he had not taken any decisions on behalf of the governing board since the last full governing board meeting.

He did report that a number of meetings have been held with Cheshire East and the developer at Alderley Park on the subject of creating a larger school. Whilst no progress can be reported, there is some cause for optimism. A set of architectural plans have been created for a new school. However the local elections are likely to create some delay in further decision-making.

A governor asked how the proposed plans would affect the size of the school. The headteacher responded that the school roll would increase gradually and in time potentially become a one-form entry school offering 210 places.

The Chair commented that there could be a number of appeals for places to be considered in the summer term.

7. LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

7.1. The CEO's report to the Trust contained the following.

- School visits
- Student collaborations
- Staff and governor collaborations
- Ofsted matters
- School Improvement Fund and grant success
- Policy harmonisation
- Growth strategy
- Achievement data and student success

7.2. Peter Rubery highlighted items in the report.



- The growth strategy continues to develop, with a local primary school very likely to be approved to join in September. Discussions with a Cheshire secondary school are also progressing, with issues over some financial aspects having been resolved. The CEO commented that both schools will be good enhancements to the Trust.
- Winsford Academy has been nominated and approved as part of a £65m investment on the sports site. This is a joint venture between the FA, Cheshire FA, Everton Football Club, a hotel and an insurance company. It will create a 3000 seat football stadium and training pitches and will be the base for Everton Ladies Football Team. It will also be used to develop Sixth Form courses. The CEO indicated that all the Trust's schools would have access to the facilities.

7.3. The termly leadership report from the headteacher contained the following

- **Introduction and summary**
 - Admissions
 - Attendance
 - Finance
- **Current self-assessment**
- **Key statistics**
- **School contextual information**
 - Numbers on role and capacity
 - FSM pupils
 - SEN
 - EAL
 - Pupil premium summary
 - Pupil numbers by various categories
- **Leadership, Management and Finance**
 - Update on management issues
 - Policies due for review
 - Finance summary
 - Financial benchmarking 2018-19
 - School development plan update
- **Teaching performance and staffing data**
 - Staff absence
 - Staffing benchmarking data
 - CPD
- **Personal development, behaviour and welfare**
 - Attendance rates
 - Attendance benchmarking
 - Trend analysis
 - Behaviour update
- **Outcomes for children - EYFS**
 - GLD in 2018
 - Results by gender
 - 2019 targets



- **Outcomes for children – KS1**
 - Phonics screening test
 - 2018 results by subject
 - 2019 targets
- **Outcomes for pupils – KS2**
 - 2018 results – combined
 - By subject
 - Average scores and progress
 - 2019 targets
- **Additional information**

7.4. The following issues arising from the headteacher's report were discussed:

- It is likely that there will be a number of pre-school pupils who will not obtain a place at the school in September. As in the past, this is likely to lead to some disruption at the pre-school. The Chair commented that it would be beneficial if the full board could meet to consider whether to offer a higher number of Reception places than the PAN. A governor commented that the pupils in a previous 'bulge' year did not seem to have reached the expected level of progress. It was agreed that the Chair would call an extraordinary meeting before the full summer term meeting to discuss the issue if required.

ACTION: Chair to arrange extraordinary meeting as necessary.

- Attendance is on track. Whilst persistent absence is showing higher than acceptable, this is mainly due to illness and should settle down as the year progresses.
- The school's finances have improved thanks to additional funding from the government.
- The GDPR breach included in the report was for a minor incident and all parties have been informed.
- The policies for review will be circulated to governors for consideration.
- An appointment for the school office has been made.
- Two INSET sessions have provided staff with training for signing to support a pupil joining the school.
- One bullying incident has been logged.

Question: What prompts an incident to be logged?

Answer: When it is clear that an incident, particularly as part of a sequence over a period of time, is no longer explained as 'bad behaviour'.

7.5. The minutes of the staffing committee held on 28th February 2019 were received and approved. The Chair commented on the long list of staff training. The headteacher reported that the moderation for writing had been very useful.

The headteacher reported that the post for a learning assistant, approved by the committee, has subsequently been filled.

7.6. The Chair had updated governors on the developments for increasing the size of the school under item 6 above. Governors were asked to



consider their willingness to join a working party to develop the future capacity of the school. This could be formed at the summer term full board meeting, or at an earlier extraordinary meeting.

ACTION: Governors to consider membership of the working party.

ACTION: Clerk to include on summer term agenda.

- 7.7. A background document concerning the school uniform had been circulated to governors by the headteacher. Three options were presented.

The headteacher summarised the results of the various questionnaires, indicating that there was not a clear-cut option. However, there was consensus from parents that the uniform should change. There was one particularly interesting suggestion that house points could be awarded for 'smart appearance'. This was considered to be worthwhile, as the prompt to change the uniform had resulted from concerns about appearance.

After some discussion on the three options, it was agreed to retain the red polo and introduce a grey jumper. A cardigan alternative was rejected. Tighter control over socks, tights and shoes will be exerted in future.

Governors felt that this option minimised additional expenditure for parents, but had a unifying impact on appearance. The option of a shirt and tie will be reviewed after the jumper introduction. Governors acknowledged that there could be an opportunity to change the uniform if the new school becomes a reality.

- 7.8. The Chair commented that there have been Trust-wide training opportunities for governors. He noted that at the next meeting of Chairs one of the topics for discussion is governor training.

A governor reported that she had started an initiative called 'Governor Sense'. This is an in-depth activity that works through an assessment and then provides training modules. She suggested that the board could utilise the software to work through it collaboratively.

8. **QUALITY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**

- 8.1. The minutes of the curriculum committee held on 28th February 2019 were received and approved.

The overall view of the committee was that progress is 'on-track'. It was noted that the improvements in early years is encouraging.

The headteacher commented that the Wilmslow Music Festival is due but that pupils tend not to be enthusiastic about taking part. A governor commented that the festival concentrated on singing and was not a broad music festival. A suggestion was made that a Trust-wide broad musical event might be better received by parents and pupils. The CEO will investigate the suggestion.



ACTION: Headteacher to gauge parent's views on the Wilmslow festival after this year's event as input to an alternative.

- 8.2. The report from the SIP (School Improvement Partner) for the autumn term was circulated.

The headteacher commented that the SIP visits are half termly and that last term's visit was on KS1 English, as it is a priority for the school. The CEO commented that the SIP is in a good position to share good practice throughout the Trust and can have strategic input, being a director of the Trust. A number of development steps were identified from the last visit.

Question: How are these development steps followed up?

Answer: The English leader follows up any actions from visits but in addition, many of these have been included in their objectives for performance management.

The headteacher reported that the next SIP visit will focus on curriculum, in particular how the school is 'Ofsted-ready' under the new inspection framework.

9. **PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, BEHAVIOUR AND WELFARE**



- 9.1. The headteacher provided an update on the Social Emotional and Mental Health action plan. The basis is the government-funded initiative 'Emotionally Healthy Schools'. All staff training has been completed. He indicated that both the KS1 'Resilient Classroom' and KS2 'Cool Connections' had changed the perceptions of the staff towards their pupils.
- 9.2. The headteacher reported that there have been no safeguarding incidents.

The annual report for 2018-19 was circulated to governors with the request that any questions should be brought to the next meeting.

ACTION: Governors to read report.

- 9.3. The headteacher reported that there were no incidents or exclusions.

10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 10.1. The report by the Director of Children's Services for the autumn term contained the following items.

- Governance and Liaison update
- Special Educational Needs and Disability update
- Education contributions to Child Protection conferences
- Corporate Parenting - Pledges
- Attendance and Children-out-of-School update
- Admission arrangements for 2020-21
- School organisation and capital – review of planning areas
- School-to-school support programmes
- The new Ofsted inspection framework 2019
- Mental health and wellbeing in school – latest DfE guidance
- Schools' funding formula 2019-20
- Local children's safeguarding board

- 10.2. The clerk had previously circulated a summary of the relevant items contained in the report. He highlighted the items concerning introducing job opportunity ideas to primary pupils and the ethical leadership in education.

The CEO highlighted the item on school-to-school support, indicating that one of the Trust's schools had qualified for funding support and that the lessons learned from that programme would be rolled out to the rest of the Trust.

11. SCHOOL POLICIES

There were no policies for approval. The policies for review were considered with the leadership report (7.4 above).



12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The headteacher raised the issue of the Friends of Nether Alderley. He reported that the leaflet has now been printed and circulated a draft letter for parents.

A governor suggested that the letter needs an 'action' mechanism, such as a return slip for completion. It was also suggested that the letter should be followed up on the newsletter, sent electronically with a link to a standing order form.

The Chair reported that the Deputy Headteacher will be leaving the school at the end of the summer term to take up a Headteacher post. Governors joined in thanking Andy for his efforts and achievements at the school and offering their congratulations and best wishes for his future career.

13. MEETINGS

Governors agreed that the next full governing board meeting will be held on Thursday 27th June 2019 at 6:30pm at the School.

----- Chair

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