

THE GOVERNING BODY OF ROBERTTOWN CE (VC) JUNIOR AND INFANT SCHOOL

Minutes of a special meeting of the Governing Body of Roberttown CE (VC) Junior and Infant School held at 6.30 pm at the School on Wednesday, 1st November 2017.

PRESENT

Mrs M Hoole (Chair), Mrs E Bolt, Reverend R Burge, Mrs S Goodall, Mr S Gore, Mrs S Laycock-Smith, Mr E J Messenger, Mr M Overend, Mrs J Smart-Gant, Mrs H Wells.

In Attendance

Mrs N Addison (Minute Clerk)

Reverend R Burge opened the meeting with a prayer.

Item	Minutes	Action
2453. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, CONSENT AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Toft, Mr B Weir and Mrs L Wood, all with consent. There were no declarations of interest.	
2454. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 4 th OCTOBER 2017	RESOLVED: That the minutes of the annual meeting held on 4 th October 2017 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.	

Item	Minutes	Action
2455. MATTERS ARISING	<p><u>Safeguarding Slips (Minute 2450 refers)</u></p> <p>Q Have all the safeguarding slips been completed? A Yes.</p>	
2456. ACADEMISATION	<p>a) <u>Feedback from the Governing Body Meeting 4.10.17</u></p> <p>Governors began with a discussion about the previous meeting with Fiona Beevers from the Diocese of Leeds; they were asked for feedback and if there were any concerns with regards to the answers that she gave. Some of the concerns that Governors had were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The School had worked hard to build strong links with other local Schools – would these have to be abandoned when joining a MAT? • Would being in a Church Led MAT put other Schools off joining? • We are a strong Governing Body and do not want to relinquish responsibility such as employing staff. • Could we end up losing our highly valued experienced staff to another School within the MAT that is a poorly performing School? Could our own performance be affected then as a result? • We don't want to be in a MAT with Schools that are far away as we have strong links to our community and would like this to continue. <p>Each of these concerns were discussed in more detail. As a result, Governors agreed that it was important that any MAT that the School would join with had to be interested in creating a local hub to maintain a sense of community and for a high priority to be put on the children and morale of staff.</p> <p>b) <u>Next Steps</u></p> <p>It was agreed by all that although the School did not want to rush the decision into which MAT to join, they needed to continue exploring which MATs may/may not be suitable for them.</p>	

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	<p>Governors felt that it was extremely important for staff be kept up to date and liaised with on a regular basis as the Governing Body were very conscious of their part in the decision and the impact it would have on them.</p> <p>Q Could we form a MAT from our existing local Trust of Schools? A Not all of the Schools may be happy about being a Church Led MAT – they may feel they would have to change their values/ethos in order to do this (although it has been explained that this is not the case).</p> <p>Q Are Headlands in a MAT? A No. They are the only other Church School in the Spenborough Co-operative Trust.</p> <p>Q Could we ask Headlands if they wanted to join together to listen to presentations from MATs? A Yes, it would be a good idea to keep a friend in the process and also get their feedback and concerns.</p> <p>Q Can we create a new MAT? A No. The Diocese announced that there are unlikely to be any new MATs, only extending existing ones to 10-15 Schools. This could be to our advantage as it would increase the links within the diocese and create a bigger vision that a smaller MAT may not do.</p> <p>Q Have any of the Schools within the Spen Trust become a MAT? A Not yet. Some are further along than others in the process.</p> <p>Q What MATs are out there in our local area? A There are around 5 – Learning Accord at Scissett, Abbey in Leeds, BEDAT, Enhance and Trinity at Halifax.</p>	

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	<p>Q Could we invite all of those local MATs to visit us and give a presentation?</p> <p>A Yes, that is something some Schools have done.</p> <p>Q Can we approach MATs outside of the Diocese?</p> <p>A We can ask Fiona Beevers about this.</p> <p>ACTION 1: The Head Teacher will email Fiona Beevers to ask which MATs she suggests Roberttown should approach.</p> <p>ACTION 2: Mrs Laycock-Smith to formulate an email with the Head Teacher at Headlands to invite MATs to give a presentation to the two Schools.</p> <p>ACTION 3: To keep Governors informed of any developments.</p> <p>ACTION 4: The Head Teacher would meet with staff to inform them of the discussions of the Governing Body and to ask for their thoughts and concerns about the process.</p> <p>ACTION 5: To put academisation as an agenda item for the next meeting.</p>	<p>Actions 1-4 SLS</p> <p>Action 5 – Governor Clerking Service</p>
<p>2457. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p>	<p><u>Doodle Poll</u></p> <p>The Head Teacher advised Governors that there had been no responses received from an email that was sent to them regarding a doodle poll. Some Governors expressed that they hadn't responded as they did not understand what it was. This was then explained and Governors were asked if they were able to attend the upcoming parents' evening where they would use the doodle poll for parent questionnaires. Further guidance would be given if needed.</p>	

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	ACTION: Governors to let the Head Teacher know as soon as possible if they are able to attend for all/part of either of the parents' evening sessions on the 6/11/17 or the 8/11/17.	
2458. AGENDA, MINUTES AND RELATED PAPERS – SCHOOL COPY	RESOLVED: That no part of the agenda, minutes or related papers be excluded from the copy to be made available at the School, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.	