

**MEADOW VIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL
MEETING OF THE FULL GOVERNING BODY
19TH JANUARY 2017 AT 6PM**



MINUTES OF MEETING

Present – B Vickerage, K Smith, J West, J Newbolt, K Bromley, T White, F Carter

In attendance – A Blench (Clerk), K Taylor (School Business Manager), T Keenan (Assistant Head), J Logan (Assistant Head)

FGB12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 12.1 To accept apologies for absence. Apologies accepted from K Leyland.
- 12.2 To receive, but not accept, apologies for absence.

FGB13.DECLARATION OF PERSONAL AND BUSINESS INTEREST

- 13.1 Individual governors to declare any personal or business interests on any item on the agenda. B Vickerage mentioned that he is Vice Chair of Governors at Winterhill Academy, J Newbolt mentioned that she now works at Abbey School which is part of Nexus Multi Academy Trust. K Smith mentioned that she is a governor at Yewlands Academy part of the Wakefield City Academy Trust.

FGB14.ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

- 14.1 Chair to determine any items of urgent business for consideration under FGB9 below. There were no items of urgent business put forward.

FGB15.PROPOSAL TO CONVERT TO ACADEMY STATUS

- 15.1 Chair's opening comments were that the governing body now needed a clarity around its direction and next steps in relation to academy status. He acknowledged that this was a subject which can evoke strong emotions. The chair stated that the governing body has been very thorough in its work to date. He also stated that school remaining as it was now was not an option. This is because Local Authority resources available to support its schools was diminishing. The last thing we want to see is a forced academisation with a partner not of our choosing, caused by an unusual set of events. We are a very strong school with an outstanding nursery provision. We need to make choices about the future governance arrangements for

the school whilst in this strong position. This is a decision for current and future generations of young people in the community we serve.

Mrs Smith stated that one of her performance objectives this year had been to understand academisation better. Following on from this school has set up the LAMP group to explore the options. Mrs Smith put a power point presentation onto the screen which illustrated the journey school had been on since 18th February 2016 when the LAMP group had been created. Mrs Smith then proceeded to talk through a number of potential academy partners which school had explored over the last 12 months – see power point. School had also considered the option of creating a Federation of Schools, but hadn't seen any benefit in doing this. School had notified the DfE on 5th April 2016 of its interest in becoming an academy. In October and November A Blench had run workshops around academisation for governors and SLT, highlighting the changes that academisation brings and the pros and cons. Throughout this process the consideration has been which partner would be the best option? Which would leave the best legacy for our young people? Which would ensure that our journey to becoming an outstanding school thrives with our ethos intact. Mrs Smith's judgement was that of all the options school had looked into New Dawn Trust most closely matched the needs.

Governor Question: What do we know about progress towards forming the new Rotherham MAT? This will be a collaboration between Thomas Rotherham College, 4 secondaries and 7 primaries. This is in very early discussions and if it does happen will be a couple of years away.

Governor Question: Is there an option for local schools to form their own MAT? What happened with the Learners Trust?

K Smith and B Vickerage had a meeting with the CEO of the trust and reached the conclusion that although the trust shared our approach to immersive learning and our values they were probably 2 years behind us in terms of development. Therefore if we joined them we would be supporting them. Also the chair thought that they were very keen on using the top slice of income to buy shared resources, but he didn't come away with any 'wow factor' as had been the case with New Dawn Trust. New Dawn Trust were aware of the distance factor, but are keen to create a South Yorkshire Hub of schools. One other school in South Yorkshire has already applied to join them and another is in the pipeline so the hub is forming. In that case we wouldn't always have to travel to Lincoln for CPD and meetings.

Governor question: Do New Dawn Trust approach schools to encourage them to apply to join them? Their policy is to wait for schools to approach them.

Governor question: Why is New Dawn Trust's ethos like ours? They are fully bought into the EOS.

Governor question: Don't New Dawn Trust only have primary schools? Is this what we want?

Yes, but there is a proposal for a secondary school on Lincoln to join them.

Governor question: does Meadow View Primary want to be in a MAT which has secondary's in its mix?

B Vickerage expressed the view that ideally that is what we would want to work towards as it gives young people and parents a 0-19 years' experience and offer. It's not just about SATS, but also offering a rounded education which includes life skills. Secondary's have seen what we do in terms of immersive learning but don't adopt it. We want a smooth transition into secondary education for our children.

Governor question: Is it a case of chose New Dawn Trust or no-one else? Has the decision already been made?

K Smith said that wasn't the case at all. Her view was that New Dawn Trust was the strongest option but if governors think that it's not right then they need to say so. But

her view was that none of the other options would be right for Meadow View primary. We could if we wished sit and wait for other new trusts and options to form. K Smith emphasised that if governors thought that New Dawn Trust wasn't the right option then they should say so. Then also ask ourselves 'what are we looking for?' and 'do we want to set up our own trust?' K Smith stated that she didn't have the capacity or appetite to do this but if others had then they could do so. The creation of a new local federation/trust had been discussed in the Learning Community but no one had the capacity to take on this work. B Vickerage stated that we could be used as a development school. As New Dawn Trust grows we will be a big player, others may well follow our lead. This has the potential to attract good staff with drive and passion.

A governor stated that they had looked at the New Dawn Trust website and thought that the published results looked worse than Meadow View Primary. They had also googled Harts Holme School which has brought up a negative story about the school. Concerns expressed that if this was the case it would be difficult to convince our parents of this choice. Governors brought the website up on the screen in the meeting and found the most up to date results which were better than Meadow View Primary results. Absence rates were also better. A governor stated that academising with someone other than New Dawn Trust would not stop us pursuing immersive learning of working with EOS.

Governor Question: 4th in the country for results? Where did that come from?

The answer was the 2014/15 results.

Governor question: when would school have its next Ofsted Inspection?

This is a results based risk assessment conducted by Ofsted.

A governor stated that ideally they would like to see us part of a local trust and inviting outstanding schools to join.

Governor question: if we joined New Dawn Trust would we be spending most of our time showing around external visitors and won't this be a distraction for learning?

K Smith said that this wouldn't become a distraction. We do a lot of this now anyway and visits are managed by SLT.

Governor Question: have we seen their results from before 2014 15 and what were they like?

They were really high. K Smith took an action to clarify performance tables for Harts Holme and St Giles Schools.

Governor Question: how quickly can we convert to academy status?

B Vickerage said that he hoped this could be achieved for 1st September 2017.

Governor question: which other schools are coming on board?

Yes, Rotherham, Doncaster and Sheffield schools are possibly in the pipeline.

J Logan and T Keenan were asked their views on the proposal to join New Dawn Trust. Both agreed that this matches their vision for education, school had improved because we have looked outwards and this is a good match.

A governor expressed the view that he didn't have concerns regarding the distance between the schools as technology can overcome this. Being global rather than local is what is important. Helping our young people to expand their horizons when they come from a deprived area. K Taylor was asked how she felt about the proposal. Can see how motivated staff and pupils are from the input and new opportunities. Trusts K Smiths judgement. The 3-5% top slice seems value for money. New Dawn Trust appear to have the resources to support with the conversion process.

Governor question: Kerry are you happy with the admin side of things?

Yes, I am.

Governor's question: do you think that staff would generally be supportive of the decision?

All who have visited will be. Others will be nervous but that's understandable as it's a big change.

Governor question: will local governing body stay in place after conversion?

K Smith said that the CEO stance is to make very little change.

Governors were unanimous in their decision to convert to academy status as part of the New Dawn Trust.

K Smith and B Vickerage will meet later to form an action plan.

FGB16. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

16.1 To consider any other urgent items. None presented.

FGB17. CONFIDENTIALITY

17.1 To determine any confidential items. Entire agenda was deemed to be confidential. Governors were instructed to not talk about the decision outside of the meeting.

FGB18 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

18.1 To review the dates of meetings for the academic year – attached. No changes were made.