

Ormesby Village Federated Schools

Governing Body

Minutes of Governor's Meeting

24th November 2016

Present:

Clive Sillitoe (Chair), Julia Hawkins (Vice Chair), Judith Ward, Richard Parsley, Lucy Bates (Headteacher), Annette McMylor (Deputy Head), Kate Poll, Karen Wacey, Carla Brightman.

Apologies for Absence:

Stefanie Davis, Anthony O'Connor. Carla Brightman had to leave the meeting 30 minutes before the end as her child was ill.

Resignation of Governors

Anne Craske and Samantha Vaughan were not present as they have both resigned from the Governing Body. CS confirmed that he has thanked them both on behalf of the Governors and Schools.

Samantha Vaughan's replacement was discussed and LB stated that a party is interested in the vacancy. CS suggested that the Governing Body has sufficient membership without immediately also seeking a replacement for Anne Craske. However, if someone suitable applies at a later stage consideration would be given.

Pecuniary Interest

All present confirmed that they have no pecuniary interest in the Agenda.

Notification of Urgent Business

CS stated that later in the meeting he would be raising issues relating to complaints received about parent's activity on Facebook and also the School Crossing Patrol Consultation.

Membership of Governing Body Committees

Although two members have resigned it was agreed that there are still sufficient members on relevant committees. CB asked if all members of committees have to be Governors and CS confirmed this to be the case.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Those present confirmed that they had received and agreed the minutes of the previous meeting.

The new **Instrument of Governance** has been received and this Governing Body's constitution complies with it.

Vnet

Some members went to Caister Infant School to find out about this Academy Trust. Information had also been circulated to the Governors prior to the meeting. Those present today reviewed the key points of the model which are:

- Schools retain their individual identity
- Schools keep their own Headteachers
- Schools would remain linked to Norfolk Better 2 Best

LB explained that there were mixed views within the Cluster about which schools may be interested. There was also the possibility that schools from outside the Cluster may be interested.

CS asked the Governors what their opinions of the scheme were.

RP stated that he could not identify the immediate benefits to the schools.

KW said she thought that if Ormesby joined Vnet our Governors would have more influence but she was not sure of this.

JH's concerns were if the schools didn't join now, would they *have* to convert in the future; possibly eventually being forced to convert. JH also said that she is unsure what Ormesby schools would gain by joining at this point.

LB questioned whether other schools would 'welcome' OVJS as the school is rated 'Improvement Required', or OVIS as it has a deficit budget. Would the Ormesby schools fit Vnet's model? LB said that maybe it would be more beneficial to Ormesby Village Schools to join at a later stage.

CS said that Ormesby may have to look at the issue of joining at some point but that it could be more beneficial to wait until after the Trust has been set up. CS's opinion is that the Governors need to focus on improving OVJS, and keeping OVIS 'Good'. CS said that he does not think Ormesby should dismiss becoming an Academy but should wait due to all that needs to be done and prioritised.

RP asked LB if the Ofsted grade could be better improved if the school were an Academy. He questioned would more support be available from the Trust. LB said that it is too early to say as this is a new model and there is no evidence yet.

CS asked the Governors if they wished to progress the Vnet model at this time and the vote was a unanimous 'No'. The Governors agreed however that this vote does not mean they will not look at the issue of conversion at a more suitable time. The Governors would rather

spend a year or two working on the immediate issues and then perhaps go to Academy Trusts to see which one could offer our schools the most. By waiting, Ormesby schools would be negotiating from a stronger position.

Reports from Committees

KP reported from the Curriculum Committee. The curriculum map was approved. At the meeting, SV and Craig Robertson talked about curriculum coverage. CR outlined changes to grouping for Maths. He was asked if there will be a similar set up for Years 3 and 4 but this had not been decided yet. LB has asked teachers to look again at Maths sets at the end of this term. KW asked why the Maths subject leader is not in charge of setting the Maths groups. Craig responded that he had wider experience. Craig explained how the Maths subject areas would be the same for each set, although worked at different levels of difficulty.

LB explained how the system is working and the ideas behind it. CS asked if pupils will be assessed and LB confirmed that this will happen before Christmas.

LB advised that Kate Poll will be coming in to OVJS for half a day a week to do intervention work in Maths.

CS asked what is being done to prepare the pupils for their forthcoming tests. LB said that Kate will be focussing on that straight away. Also the teacher have been researching and going to meeting etc to gain as much knowledge as possible of what needs to be done, and what is being done in other schools, in order to prepare for the tests.

CS asked if all the above is making a difference. LB said that she feels the staff are enthusiastic and keen to put their learning into practice. CS then asked if the pace of change is quick enough and LB replied that yes it is at this point in time.

KW asked if staff feel the task too great to get the required results in Maths in time. She also asked if Years 3 and 4 are being tested on times tables. LB replied that more sharing of information between staff is now starting to show and should make a difference.

LB said that staff now have a clearer understanding of where we are and what needs to be done.

CS asked if staff have aspirational targets for all pupils. LB replied that more thorough understanding of each child is starting to happen.

Other areas discussed by the Curriculum Committee. KW queried the Read, Write, Inc scheme. Some concerns were raised.

CS mentioned that it would be good to have the subject leaders attend future Governor's Meetings.

Community Committee

Signed

Chair of Governors

JH advised that members have been in to the schools to monitor Attitudes to Learning. The members reported observing differences in each class visited. The report to the Governors will follow, and more observations will be carried out in January.

Resources Committee

The meeting will take place on 30th November 2016.

CS reported that he has spoken to the Budget Officer recently. He told her that he has concerns about how to manage the high SEN needs of the Infant school with the deficit budget. He discussed concerns about how to keep the high needs pupils in school without sufficient funds to do so. CS told the Budget Officer that he required advice and guidance on how the Governors can fulfil their responsibilities in this area.

LB has spoken to the Head of Special Educational Needs and CS will do so.

The Governors agreed that CS will write to the Head of Children's Services, and the Head of Governor Services in this respect.

Headteacher's Report

The Governors confirmed that they have read the report. Much of the content in the report was covered earlier in the meeting during the discussions concerning what is currently being done to address the issues in the Ofsted report.

CS said that at future meetings Governors would be asking LB about what progress and rate of progress being made regarding the identified areas requiring improvement. CS said that Governors would be supportively challenging in this respect.

Co-operative Learning

Training sessions are ongoing. LB said that staff were embracing these new methods and finding the training useful.

LB confirmed that she has observed the training being put into practice to good effect.

CS asked if there have been any benefits following the training. LB responded that there has been evidence of some improvement and that training is still ongoing.

RP said that he has been asked by some parents for updates about what is being done following the Ofsted report. It was agreed that updates will be put on the school website and in newsletters.

CS thanked LB and staff for their hard work since the Ofsted report and for trying to move things forward at a good pace.

Governor's Code of Conduct

This was circulated before the meeting. All governors agreed to adopt.

Policies

Governors approved and adopted the school policies.

Signed

Chair of Governors

The Local Authority pay review policy is being used.

Behaviour policy- CS asked if the policy remains effective for both schools. LB advised that both school's policies are being reviewed and she will forward them to Governors.

Safeguarding reports were circulated before the meeting and contents noted.

The Governors approved Attendance targets set at 96%.

RP had sent a report of his recent lesson observations. He questioned if lessons being cancelled for Christmas play rehearsals straight after half term was necessary. LB advised that this was only the case for Years 3 and 4 and that Years 5 and 6 are not involved.

RP also questioned if all children are being sufficiently challenged.

LB said that pupils in the Infant school gained a lot from their rehearsals as they covered music, drama, literacy etc.

CS thanked the Governors for coming in to do observations.

Next Meetings

- 18th January 2017 – Curriculum Committee
- 26th January 2017 – Governing Body Meeting

Other Business

CS informed Governors about complaints received due to parent's behaviour on Facebook. LB has spent considerable time dealing with the issues involved. All parties involved have been advised of the school's complaints procedure should they be unhappy with the outcomes.

School Crossing Patrol – There is currently a consultation about possibly removing the funding for the two Ormesby school crossing patrols. Governors can respond to the consultation. Chair will send a letter from Governing Body. The Governors accept that the crossing patrol at the Infant school is not as vital because the children are accompanied to school by their parents. However, they feel that the crossing patrol is needed at the Junior school to enable pupils to walk to school independently.

Preschool would like to extend their use of the outside area by:

- a) Repairing one of their existing gates
- b) Installing another new gate in the fence
- c) They would like a permanent cover to the side of the mobile.

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LB confirmed that she agrees to the fence and gate requests. The issue of the permanent cover will be looked at further by the Governors at a later date.

Meeting finished 9.00pm

Next meeting 26th January 2017.

Signed

Chair of Governors

Governing Body Meeting
Ormesby Village Schools Federation
24th November 2016

Signed
Chair of Governors