



**Moorlands School LGB Meeting**  
**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016– 18:15pm**

Present: Clare Griffin-Felton, Binky Clark, Ruth Balch, Suzy Dinning, Robin Nash, Johnny Norris, Lou Abercrombie, Caroline Cronin, Michael Farrier, Rachel Godfrey, Jo Reeves, Sam Laite, Simon Weiss, Jon Bentley

Clerk: Rebecca Fuller

**1. Apologies**

David Tilling

**2. Business Interests to Declare**

Jo Reeves – Assistant Head Teacher at another school.

**3. Minutes of the last meeting**

Approved as a true recorded

**4. Matters arising from the last meeting**

There seems to be agreement about the lease. Suzy has yet to see the roof warrant. . The conversion to academy is now hopefully going to be on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 as long as everything that is needed is in place. SD confirmed that there will need to be another TUPE consultation and that a recalculation of the pension deficit will need to be done for the 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**5. Chair's Update**

The Partnership Trust will be holding a Trust wide inset day on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 which governors will be invited to. This will help governors understand what the Trust is doing for the schools.

Steering Group have been dealing with our response to the Baskervilles planning application, the deadline is 7<sup>th</sup> October. There are concerns that the build could exacerbate our existing problems with our drainage. BC and RB had a constructive meeting with Baskervilles to share our concerns and rationale for our objection to the planning application which requests that the drainage issues be addressed by the LA.

Deputy Head interviews are scheduled for Monday 10<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> – there were 6 applications, 4 of which will be interviewed.

**6. Appointment of New Governors**

BC, RB and CGF have met with the new governors prior to the meeting and recommend to the LGB that they accept Michael Farrier and Jo Reeves on the Moorlands LGB.

Both MF and JR were unanimously accepted onto the Moorlands Governing Body

**7. Chair and Vice Chair Elections**

A nomination was made for Binky Clark to become Chair

Proposed by RB Seconded by SW.

BC was unanimously appointed as chair.

A nomination was presented for Ruth Balch to be become vice chair

Proposed by JN Seconded by BC.

RB was unanimously appointed as vice chair.

## **8. Committee membership, governor roles and year group links**

A document was sent to all members about their roles for this year the board was happy with what was in place. The year link groups have not been sent out to date so will be with governors soon.

## **9. Head teacher's report**

TPT staff survey July 2016: CGF fed back regarding this. Governors asked how our results compared with other schools within the Trust. CGF and DT have discussed the results and it is felt that the Moorlands responses reflect that up to this point in our journey leadership has had to be prescriptive in order to facilitate the required rate of change. As we move more to a coaching model with staff they are likely to feel more empowered. There was a low number of responses – the survey will be moved from term 6 in future. CGF will consider the information when updating the LIP.

HT's report:

Governors were pleased to note the increase in number on roll. Governors queried what the optimum number of pupils per class was in terms of balancing income with teacher workload. CGF responded that between 28-30 would be the best.

Governors questioned why the attendance figures were lower than previously – CGF responded that there were a variety of reasons, including y6 pupils having a day of rest authorised absence following their residential, the phased start of reception children and that some of our overseas pupils arrive after the start of term.

Governors challenged the HT ask to the cause of the inaccuracy in the phonics data. CGF stated that it was likely to have occurred due to changes in staffing, but that it was picked up because of how well teachers know their children and that the raw results for each child have been re-checked.

CGFCGF then moved on to her Head teachers report stating that numbers on role are increasing. A question was raised asking what is the aim for each class. It was advised that, in an ideal world, we would like 28 pupils per class. Year 3 and 4 are full however in the infants there has been a lot of movement since the beginning of term. A question was raised around attendance percentage which appears lower than normal. It was advised that the year 6 pupils had a day off after school camp, some reception pupils start later and Moorlands have some international pupils that start later.

A question was raised regarding the comment in the report about what happened with the phonics data? It was advised that there was an inaccuracy in the data as it didn't add up after a changeover of staff. The information had to be checked child by child.

"Governors noted the proportion of children just falling below ARS in the formal test results, and asked CGF to advise what action has been taken. CGF and RG noted the significant lack of clear direction from DfE on what the standards would be and the impact that had on achieving secure data for all groups. However, RG and CGF both noted that improvements in understanding of the frameworks, assessment techniques and increased skill of all staff in the new curriculum and assessments is already showing an impact for children across the Federation.

"CGF advised Governors that the reduced TA provision across the Federation was leading to SLT concern for the learning outcomes of all children. SD presented an updated budget position and FGB delegated to Resources committee the decision to review the detail of the budget to enable CGF to recruit additional resources. This decision would either be made at November committee or by email, should earlier resolution be required to avoid negative operational impact."

#### **10. Link Governor reports**

BC apologised that these had not been circulated prior to the meeting as planned – she will do this and then if governors could question the reports by email.

For term 2 this year link visits are to take place as usual, however, as EA is currently in charge of 2 phases in order to help her with her workload it seems sensible if a junior learning walk is planned which all governors may attend in place of phase link visits.

BC to sort and circulate year group links.

#### **11. Vision and Values & 12. Strategic Plan**

RB shared the draft Strategic Plan for the Federation.

The strategic vision of Moorlands School federation – Learning to be the best we can be through great learning, great teaching, great fun for all, while making people feel good, so that we provide always improving outcomes, high quality education that ensures every child matters. Each of these four statements is backed up a list of what Moorlands will commit to and how the school will deliver them.

Governors completed an exercise to update the 'super seven' ethos words they would like for the Federation RB will collate and bring back to SG. Governors were asked to email any comments on the draft plan to RB.

The timescale is for the Strategic Plan to be approved by conversion on 1<sup>st</sup> December – it will be used to inform the School Development Plan and the Governor Development Plan.

The next OfSTED inspections are due in infant school in October 2017 and juniors in March 2018

#### **13. Governor Development Plan**

The Governors development plan has been ordered into four strategic statements. LA is kindly bridging the gap between the PTA and has taken a role in finance, this will help with strategic

guidance and leadership. The relationship with the PTA at the moment isn't the strongest but is being worked on.

The PTA are keen to support development of the school library, CGF said that new books are greatly needed for the children. However, the PTA are also keen to create an inspiring learning space. There are various considerations to be made regarding this before any decision can be made.

A discussion was held as to whether governors should produce a strategic master plan for the site to improve our decision making regarding our spaces. It was agreed that this would be helpful. SD informed governors that on conversion she would make applications for the schools to the government maintenance fund, but that governors should be realistic that moneys allocated would be for specific improvements. SG to take forward.

#### **14. Any Other Business**

Admission Policy entry criteria. Unfortunately, due to the current LA admissions criteria some children who had been in the infants school were not offered a place in year 3 due to the increasing popularity of the schools and more applications from other children higher up the criteria list. . Once an academy Moorlands will be able to change the criteria in our admissions policy to ensure this does not happen. There is a requirement to consult on admissions criteria changes so in order to be able to change it for 2018- resources committee will agree a draft that can be consulted on as soon as conversion is achieved.

Training date 17<sup>th</sup> November 18:15 – good to outstanding.

RB is setting up a google drive where there will be a filing system for all documents so governors can download documents when they are needed. All governors to be given a Moorlandsfederation.org email address – instructions will be given on how to set up a forward on this.