

LETHBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY Company number 7685652

Minutes for the Full Governors' meeting held on Tuesday 12th July 2016 at 7.00 p.m. at school

Our duties as governors are:

- *to encourage all governors to contribute to all items discussed and speak freely and openly*
- *setting vision, ethos and strategic direction*
- *holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils*
- *overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent*
- *to respect confidentiality*
- *to declare any conflict of interest related to any agenda item*
- *to ensure that previously circulated papers have been read prior to the meeting.*

Supporting Papers

SDP

SATS results

Code of Conduct

Governor Job descriptions

Home/School agreement

Marking policies: English and Maths

Sun Protection policy

Attended by:

Philip Ashdown (PA)

Matthew Simpson (MS)

Lisa Mayes (LM)

Christopher Hobson (CH)

Carly Chew (CC)

Chris Webb (CW)

Violet McLaren (Head) (VM)

Kristina Mussnug- Barrett (KM)

Simone Franklin (SF)

Damien Mackman (DM)

Terasa Beach (TB)

Tara Moran (TM)

Arlene McLaughlin (AM)

Emily Longthorne (Clerk)

Julie McLaren (JM)

By Invitation:

Peter Nathan (PN)

Cathy Millen (CM)

Absent:

Patrick Weir (PW)

Peter Richardson (PR)

1) Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest

KM chaired the meeting in the absence of PW, who had sent his apologies. KM welcomed Julie McLaren, a new Community governor, to the meeting. Julie introduced herself and explained a little about her experience with business oversight and financial management through working at the Arts and Humanities Research Council. No interests were declared.

2) Multi- Academy Trust discussion with Peter Nathan, Head of Education in Swindon

KM thanked PN for attending the meeting. PN introduced himself and talked about his experience. PN ran through a brief history of academies. PN explained that Swindon is highly academised compared to other regions. PN explained that the benefits of being in a Multi Academy Trust are sharing staff, financial savings and quality improvement of staff. He added that there is not yet any evidence of MATs increasing SATS results or Ofsted marks. PN gave some examples of different MATs and Single Academy Trusts in Swindon and asked the governors to think about who could be a partner school. KM asked if good schools would be disadvantaged by taking on a lower performing school? PN replied that trust is vital when forming partnerships. CH asked if it is more difficult to join with a maintained school? PN answered that the guidance is to become an empty MAT (a multi academy trust with only one school) and then look for suitable schools to join. TM added that in Yorkshire, some MATs have broken down in Financial difficulty. PN replied that a strong auditing system is vital. CH asked if it is possible for schools to share staff and work together without being in a MAT? PN replied that, although this is possible, it is easier to make decisions inside a MAT as it is one committee, and would also be financially beneficial. PN then explained that the structure of MATs tend to have a MAT board, often with a CEO role lead. The board has an overview of the MAT and the governing body would focus on school improvement. He informed governors that the government considers the ideal size of a MAT to be around 6,000 pupils, with the minimum size being around 1,200. KM asked PN's view on national and local MATs. PN answered that local MATs are easier to share staff within and build relationships, but national MATs bring in fresh staff and new ideas. MS asked if the head of the MAT board needed to be a Headteacher or if it could be a highly skilled business manager, for example. PN replied that it is important to have the trust and cooperation of the staff and the Headteachers. A new Headteacher would need at least a year to get to know the school before considering taking on other schools. PN then explained that in Swindon there are not many primaries needing support as Swindon is above the national average for Good primary schools. CH asked what the ideal national MAT structure is. PN replied that it is to be fully academised, however guidance is always changing. SF asked if the White Paper (Education Excellence Everywhere) is likely to be reversed. PN replied that it is hard to enforce the White Paper as lots of primaries are not interested in MATs. TB asked if there is any benefit of becoming an MAT now, other than being ready for full academisation. PN answered that it would be easier to become an empty MAT first and then take on schools. This could put schools in a stronger position. MS asked if it is possible to exit a MAT. PN said that would be within the contract, usually it is a 7 year contract. KM thanked PN again for coming to the meeting. PN said that governors can email him any further questions. CM left the meeting after the presentation by PN.

3) Notification of items for AOB

KM notified governors of 2 items of AOB.

4) Minutes of Previous Meeting held 19.05.16

The minutes were accepted and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

5) Matters Arising

The clerk has circulated the sign up sheet for the fete, invited Peter Nathan and Nick Captick to the meeting and set up a free trial of Governorhub. **ACTION GOVERNORS:** Log on to Governorhub.

ACTION CLERK: Ask to extend free trial until end of September.

No further Link governor visit reports had been sent to the Clerk.

VM had met with Keith Deffer to discuss MATs. This was one of KM's items for AOB.

6) Head Teacher's report SDP

The SDP had been previously circulated.

VM informed governors that as part of Leadership and Management, the Grow project had been successful and would continue next year. LM added that it would be brought into staff performance management and that next year it would include TAs that have asked to be involved.

In Teaching and Learning, there is evidence of mastery in work books.

VM thanked TM for helping achieve the Bronze Healthy schools award. TM said that in order to achieve Silver, next year they will focus on a project around Sports, in line with Sports Day.

7) Measuring attainment *SATS Results*

VM explained the SATs results to the governors. Lethbridge scored well above the national average.

Reading: Lethbridge 94% National average 66%

Spelling and Grammar: 93% NA 72%

Maths: 91% NA 70%

However, the teacher assessed writing results came out below the national average by 4%. This has been a Swindon-wide issue. Staff received training on how to assess the writing papers and a remoderation of Swindon writing assessments has been called. VM believes that after moderation, the results are likely to change. VM added that children who didn't meet the expected level were not far below.

KM and the governors congratulated staff on outstanding results under difficult circumstances.

8) Safeguarding update

LM gave an end of school year report of Safeguarding issues. The annual report is to be handed in to the LA in December.

9) Report from Finance and Staffing Committee

The papers from the Finance and Staffing meeting had been circulated.

The governors approved the budget and three year plan.

CW briefly updated governors on the ongoing fencing project, and reported that the fire report had been received.

10) Policies:

From F&S: Debt write-off, Scheme of delegation, Standing orders, Financial procedures, Risk register

FGB: Governor code of conduct, Governor Job descriptions, Home/School agreement, Marking-English and Maths, Sun Protection

TB suggested that the Home/ School Agreement mentioned the 5 minute walk zone around school.

VM agreed. **ACTION CLERK:** Amend Home/ School Agreement.

KM suggested that in future the Scheme of Delegation could be altered to hold less governors, to avoid vacancies.

The policies were approved by governors.

11) Governor updates

No further Link Governor reports had been received.

12) AOB

VM, LM, CM, PW and KM met with Keith Defer, head of the Commonweal School on July 12th 2016.

Both schools are very happy with the close working relationship between Lethbridge and Commonweal. Governors agreed that it is in Lethbridge's best interest to work closely with Commonweal when considering how to move forward with a potential MAT.

KM thanked VM for all her hard work throughout her time at Lethbridge and presented VM with flowers. VM thanked the governing body.

13) Date of next meeting:

To be confirmed in September. **ACTION CLERK AND LM.**

14) Close of Meeting

KM thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8 :50pm.

Summary of action points from the meeting:

Detail	Allocated to	Action
Minute 5	Clerk	Ask to extend the free trial of Governorhub
Minute 5	Governors	Log on to Governorhub
Minute 10	Clerk	Amend Home/ School Agreement
Minute 13	Clerk LM	Agree meeting date

Minutes approved by on