

**THE GOVERNING BODY OF DIAMOND WOOD COMMUNITY ACADEMY**

Minutes of a meeting of the Governing Body held at 5.00pm at the school on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019.

**PRESENT**

Mr K Jones (Chair), Mrs L Whittaker, Mrs N Lyons, Mrs A Farrar, Mr A Marban, Mr M Forrest, Mrs J Alderson.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mrs S Titherington, Mrs R Hughes (Minute Clerk).

**2432. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, CONSENT AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies received and accepted from F Claxton. Apologies received and accepted from A Marriott-Mills. No amendments to declarations of interest.

**2433. NOTIFICATIONS OF ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT UP UNDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**2434. REPRESENTATION**

KJ said to start afresh in September and that a new Parent Governor is to be sought. A Marriott-Mills will not attend another meeting as she notified the chair that her term of office ends in September 2019. F Claxton has resigned from her role as Governor, effective immediately.

**2435. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2019**

Page 852 MF asked for the Nursery numbers to be clarified to operate a full Nursery. MF was satisfied with the clarification and that the numbers in the minutes to remain as they are.

Page 854 regarding Attendance, the role of Attendance Officer needs to be changed from Welfare Officer in bullet point 3. The prosecution was not facilitated by DWCA but by the Local Authority. The minutes are to remain as saying "one family has been prosecuted" and the minute can be left as a public item.

MF asked if the family could be identified from the information supplied from the minutes. LW confirmed no, that even she didn't know who the family was herself.

**2436. MATTERS ARISING**

KJ has spoken to Ofsted about DWCA's report. They had agreed to change the wording of the last report, but then agreed to leave the report as it was so that it could be circulated to the public and the outcome acknowledged.

**2437. PUPIL PERFORMANCE EYFS-GLD DATA & KEY STAGE 1 RESULTS**

ST distributed a pack of data to Governors and discussed key facts.

Reception – 70% were at Good Level of Development, compared to 68% last year, the National figure is 72% last year. There is still a 21% gender gap, the cohort has a large number of boys. 46 boys are at Good Level Development and 36 girls. There are 73 boys in the year group. Disadvantaged children outperformed non-disadvantaged children by 6%. AKPN children 75% reached GLD, which is above the National figure for last year.

**Governor question** – Was there the same gender gap in disadvantaged children and AKPN children? ST is going investigate this.

Year 1 – 75% again passed the Phonics Screening Test. This year 86% of girls passed the test, compared to 75% last year. The number of boys passing the test has fallen this year. The new arrivals to Year 1 have been predominantly boys and this has affected the data. 2 boys and 1 girl were disapplied. 1 boy was away on extended leave, when he returned to school he scored 36, but his score could not be submitted as he returned to school after the deadline. 2 or 3 children should have scored better on the test than they did, this will be focussed upon in September.

**Governor question** – What was the National figure? ST 81% last year.

LW reported that DWCA has been targeted by the Local Authority for support with Phonics. Some staff are to receive additional training and extra funding will make a difference next year.

Year 2 – Writing was the lowest score with 68% of children reaching Age Related Expectations (ARE) and 19% at Greater Depth.

Reading figures had risen with 72% at ARE and 27% at Greater Depth.

Maths, 74% are at ARE and 26% at Greater Depth.

The number of children at Greater Depth is above last year's National figure for all subjects. The number of children at ARE is in line with National figures. Maths is 2% below National, Reading is 3% below National. This isn't a significant figure and is a starting point to work on in September.

NL commented that our figures are a real strength of school with so many children having English as an additional language, we need to continue to challenge our Greater Depth children.

LW remarked that Ofsted would like us to continue challenging our more able children and that our more able pupils were exemplary for second language learners.

ST reported that exceeding figures for Reception were low at 6% for Writing, but the children were making a good rate of progress.

ST also reported that 19 Year 2 children were disadvantaged, some of these children were SEN and new arrivals to school.

KJ commented that boys had not done as well in Writing as they had done in Maths.

With regards to the 24 disadvantaged children in Year 1, LW confirmed the gender gap on the Phonics Screen Test, as 7 out of the 8 disadvantaged girls passed, out of the 16 boys only 8 passed the test.

2438. REVIEW OF SDP 2018/19

LW reported that, after reviewing the targets that they had been broadly met and we were still waiting for some data. The gender gap priority had not been fully met, but the gender gap was narrowing. Early Years has been the most difficult gender gap to close, but Ofsted had recognised the reasons why and can see why this may not narrow significantly in the future. LW commented that with regards to all of the targets set, the effort is evident. Ofsted recognised this, especially our work towards attaining the Artsmark. ST commented that Ofsted had also recognised the in-depth work of our Middle Leaders and that was a real strength of the school, evidence of the key target of developing the school workforce.

MF commented that the presence of more male staff in school may help with the gender gap. ST commented that a male SEN 1:1 support staff member had been recruited and was having a positive effect in school and acknowledge that the number of male staff in school was low but common in primary schools.

2439. 2019/20 SDP PRIORITIES

ST reported that next year's key targets largely came from recommendations by Ofsted.

Key Priority 1 – All children will foster a passion for reading whilst developing a deeper level of comprehension. Ofsted had noticed that our children can read but we needed to work on making sure they understood what they were reading. KJ commented that the quality of books in school needed to be improved to instil that love of reading. ST reported that the library had been revamped and that staff had very kindly donated 100's of books to re-stock the new library. LW reported that the new Woodland Library will be ready for September, there will be timetabled sessions for each class to spend time in there and have a story read by their teacher and that there will be set "Author of the Term" to focus upon.

Key Priority 2 – To improve the standard of pupils' handwriting and presentation across school. The books that Ofsted scrutinised were OK but that there was no consistency across the school and that handwriting was not being taught systematically.

Key Priority 3 – To improve language development through high quality outdoor learning opportunities. The school has been fundraising to develop the green house area and create our own Forest Schools. Children talk more when they are being taught outside and the plan is for each class to visit the area once a fortnight on afternoon sessions, leaving the area free on mornings for intervention groups and SEN children to have access to.

Key Priority 4 – To improve overall attendance of pupils, in particular, reduce the number of persistent absentees. Work will be continued to lower the number of Persistent Absentees in school. LW commented that this will be difficult, due to children taking extended leave. It is up to us to impress on parents how much of their learning the children will miss by being out of school for a long amount of time. Work is in place to make sure that missed work is picked up by these children, when they return to school.

JA joined the meeting.

**Governor question** – could homework be given to the children who are going away? ST commented that yes, homework will be supplied. LW commented that senior leaders will meet with all parents who request extended leave. LW also commented that learning objects will be stuck in the children's books, even when they miss the work, so it is evident to the teacher what that child has missed.

KJ commented that the DfE have a list of schools getting special support for instances such as this, DWCA are on this list but do not meet the required criteria for extra support. Last week KJ received a letter saying we have been allocated an NLE. ST is meeting an NLE from Beecroft Academy to mentor us. LW commented that the Beecroft representative will be working with us on a reading and writing initiative. NLE's are supposed to be sent to school's who receive 2 successive RI inspections, so unsure why we have been targeted now that we have received a Good judgement.

2440. HEAD TEACHERS REPORT

2441. SAFEGUARDING REPORT

A new format Safeguarding Report was circulated to Governors, showing cumulative figures for the past school year. MF also reported on safeguarding and wellbeing training that had taken place for staff.

**Governor question** – how many safeguarding cases have there been compared to last year? MF reported about the same. The figures at the next meeting will show the end of this academic year. The threshold for social care has heightened, there are more children on TAF's. MF commented that Governor Safeguarding Training is available via the NGA. P Bell is to review the NGA licences.

MF reported that the Families Connect course had gone well and that positive comments were received by parents who attended. MF has also secured £850 funding to run further courses and buy resources. There is to be a mental health pilot course to support our families.

MF reported that the transition of safeguarding information for our Year 2 pupils is underway.

2442. REVIEW OF GOVERNING BOARD PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR

KJ said that the governing body had been effective and that Ofsted had passed no comment on governance during their inspection. Ofsted were particularly interested in speaking to Enhance Trustees rather than the governing body, during DWCA's inspection. KJ is to organise a review of governance of other schools in the trust and also have an external review of DWCA's governing body.

2443. GOVERNOR VISITS & TRAINING

KJ reported that future governor meetings should be reported on the calendar as an event with an invitation. This is also to happen for events that are happening around school that governors can attend. P Bell is organising our own training modules, so that governors know about the new curriculum etc.

2444. AGREE DATES FOR NEXT MEETING

KJ reported that the AGM is to be at 5.00pm on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Everything will be reviewed ready for the 2019/20 academic year.

2445. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MF asked if DWCA was an "asthma friendly school". MF has spoken to LW, ST and D Tasker (Office Manager) and we are so way already being an asthma friendly school. All children with asthma are logged on the asthma register and have labelled medication in class with a tailored plan. Children who have been hospitalised with brittle asthma have a full Health Care Plan in school. Administering of inhalers is covered within our Medical Needs Policy.

MF commented that there is a peak of children being admitted to hospital during September and Leeds NHS is looking into why and leading the "asthma friendly school" initiative. LW asked what other governors thought, KJ reported that there had been a significant rise in the number of emergency hospital admissions at the start of the school year and this could be asthma related. KJ asked if the letter was from Leeds NHS. MF reported that the relating letter for parents was from Public Health England.

LW reported that DWCA were nominated at the TES Awards but unfortunately did not win. 8 members of staff attended the awards, including KJ. DWCA was also nominated for Primary School of the Year and Innovative Use of Technology.

LW reported that the Huddersfield Examiner Awards have officially awarded us Primary School of the Year. DWCA were also the recipients of the Green Award. The Diamond Dancers also performed at the awards ceremony.

LW reported that the Community Education Awards had awarded MF the Community Champion Award and B Price the Inspirational Teacher Award.

KJ wanted to thank LW for her hard work and dedication to DWCA, as this was her last governors meeting before retiring. LW reported that it had been an amazing 32 years working for the school.

2446. AGREED DATES FOR THE NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date for the next meeting is Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

2447. AGENDA, MINUTES AND RELATED PAPERS – SCHOOL COPY

**Resolved:** That Minutes 2433, 2440 and paragraph 3 of item 2445 be excluded from the copy to be made available at the school in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act