

THE GOVERNING BODY OF DENBY DALE FIRST & NURSERY SCHOOL

Minutes of the meeting of the Governing Body held at 7.00 pm at the School on Wednesday, 11 May 2016.

PRESENT

Mrs J Cody, Mrs A Elliott, Ms G Hood, Mrs R Liu, Mrs E Moore, Mrs P Stringer, Miss J Wood, Mrs C Wright, Mr M Eaton, Ms K Howgill

In Attendance

Mr K Rothwell (Minute Clerk)
Mrs D Kimmings (School Business Manager)
Mrs S Fairbrother (Governor Designate)

502 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, CONSENT AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Belsey (consent), Mrs D Watkins (consent) and Mrs L Taylor (consent)

There were no declarations of interest.

503 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT UNDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following items were notified to be brought under Any Other Business:

- Information

504 REPRESENTATION

The following matters of representation were noted:

Resignation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>With Effect From</u>
Mrs Sally-Ann Spark	Staff	13.04.16

Appointment of Co-opted governors

RESOLVED: That Mrs S Fairbrother be appointed as a co-opted governor.

505 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 MARCH 2016

Different versions of the minutes had been circulated. It was agreed that the clerk would produce a revised version of the minutes. This would be checked and approved by the Chair and signed copies sent to the school and to Governor Services.

506 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

507 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEESMarketing group

Mrs Elliott reported on the activities of the Marketing group. Advertising leaflets and posters for the Nursery are being printed and will both be available on the 18th May. Copies were circulated for inspection.

It was proposed to circulate these in nearby villages/businesses/GP surgeries as well as in Denby Dale. The Nursery could be a convenient drop-off for commuters from areas some distance away – heading for Sheffield or the M1. Governors had been allocated streets/districts for distribution of leaflets. Mrs Fairbrother (a health visitor) would distribute leaflets to her colleagues and Health centres. Other possible outlets mentioned included libraries, playgroups and estate agents. The leaflets would go out to parents with the school newsletter and parents would be encouraged to help promote the Nursery.

Parent Forum

Mrs Wright reported on a meeting of the Parent Forum held on 29th April. 12 parents had attended and there had been several apologies from parents who had attended the previous meeting of the Forum. This indicated a good level of parental interest and involvement.

Topics had included; Maths and Maths homework, travel and parking; Communication with parents. Mrs Wright would produce a grid of responses, to be circulated to governors, discussed with the Head teacher and posted on the website.

To maintain the level of interest show it was agreed to hold another Forum meeting in June. This would discuss and agree the contents of a Parents Information pack to be given out in September.

Q. What do the parents want to know?**A. Homework policy – planning and targets for individual pupils.**

Maths: Parents have asked for information on on-line resources available. They want to know how their child is getting on and how they can help and support them. Parents are keen to support the school/their child.

Parking/Travel: It was suggested that parents be encouraged to set up a group to discuss this. The school would support them to produce a plan but it would be more effective if it was led by a group of parents.

The Head Teacher commented that the School Forum was proving to be very useful.

Curriculum and Standards Committee

Mrs Liu reported on a recent meeting of the committee. Life after Levels and the monitoring process was discussed. A wealth of information and examples was provided for the committee to consider. Mrs Liu outlined the assessment stages and processes through the different levels of the school.

Q. How difficult had the SATs been for the young children?

A. It was not an easy process for 6/7 year olds but our children seemed to have a healthy, positive attitude to it.

508 APPROVE THE BUDGET

The Resources committee had scrutinised the draft budget and recommended it for approval. After consultation with the LA, a deficit of £8,400 is being budgeted for. With the deficit carried forward from last year of £22,600, the accumulated deficit will be £30,000. We have agreed with the LA that school will reach a balanced position within 2 years. Lower children numbers in Nursery and reduction in high needs and pupil premium funding have contributed to the shortfall.

Budget cuts will be made in Staffing, Resources and Buildings.

Higher pupil numbers in nursery are needed to improve the financial position. We will need to market the setting as the predicted need for early years and childcare places shows no increase in numbers.

We cannot join a Multi Academy Trust while we have a deficit, however the recent information about academy conversion eases the pressure and we now have time to consider all options carefully.

RESOLVED: That the draft budget be approved.

The Chair thanked Mrs Kimmings for attending in Mrs Taylor's absence and the Head Teacher, Mrs Kimmings and Mrs Taylor for their hard work on this difficult budget.

Mrs Kimmings left the meeting.

Q. Is Nursery the main financial problem?

A. Yes. Other schools also have a problem with Nursery attendances. David Gearing had been very helpful and in recognition of the fact that school worked with the authority to maintain Nursery provision in Denby Dale he has agreed to extend nursery block funding (£20,000).

509 SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA

Q. What will be the effect of the National Funding Formula be on the school.

A. It is not clear as yet but it is unlikely that the school will be better off.

510 HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT AND GOVERNORS' QUESTIONS

The Head Teacher spoke to her report, copies of which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Topics highlighted included:

(a) Staffing

A child with SEN in Year 3 had had 1 – 1 support for the last 2 years, the temporary contracts for the 2 support staff involved will end in August and there is no longer a statement for the child. The temporary contracts will not be renewed and support will have to fit in with other staff.

Q. As a result of the 1-1 support has the child progressed to a level where they can cope better?

A. Only with the 1-1 support.

Q. Have the parents been informed of the change in support?

A. Not yet but they will be informed.

Q. Are parents of children with challenging behaviour approaching us because we have a good reputation for helping these children?

A. Not necessarily. There are an increasing number of children with social and emotional needs in schools. Sometimes children move for a fresh start in a new school. In some cases this does help but not always.

(b) Community Hub

These are a focus for engaging with families and children in several schools in an area. Breakfast clubs, holiday clubs are features plus involvement of outside agencies, with pastoral care, behaviour support etc. The Head Teacher, in a recent casual meeting with Carol Lancaster, had suggested that the vacant caretaker's bungalow on our site might be a suitable place to help support a hub, together with the school's expertise in the areas involved. It had been arranged for Carol Lancaster to visit the school to examine this possibility further.

(c) Garden Party

A garden party will be held to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

(d) 30 hours free Child Care

We have registered our interest in this with the LA.

511 SCHOOL SELF EVALUATION – SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (Minute 19 refers)

This is being revised in the light of feedback from the Parent Forum and possible Community Hub development.

512 SAFEGUARDING (Minute 131(d) refers)

Mrs Moore will arrange a Health and Safety, and Fire Safety visit to school.

513 GOVERNOR TRAINING AND GOVERNOR VISITS

Mrs Elliott will be having a meeting on 16th May with Dughall McCormick to discuss E-safety and how to manage the risks on the proposed new Facebook page.

Areas of Governor responsibility. The Chair asked for governors to make contact with the school staff in their particular area of curriculum responsibility.

Now that the past two years of change and transformation in the school were ending, we should focus on governor training and development, and more governor involvement in school to support the Head Teacher and staff.

The PTA had raised £23,000 to support the school in the past year. The Chair asked governors to support the PTA as much as possible, particularly at the forthcoming Summer Fair from 1-3 pm on 2nd July.

514 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of any other business covered.

515 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS

RESOLVED: That the next meetings of the Governing Body be held at 7.00 pm at the School on:

Monday, 4 July 2016.

516 AGENDA, MINUTES AND RELATED PAPERS - SCHOOL COPY

RESOLVED: That no part of these minutes, agenda or related papers be excluded from the copy to be made available at the School.

