

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 Monday, 14 March 2016.

PRESENT

Mr M Eaton, Mrs J Cody, Mrs A Elliott, Mrs G Hood, Mrs R Liu, Mrs E Moore, Mrs S A Spark, Mrs L Taylor, Mrs C Wright.

In Attendance

Mrs B Rushworth (Minute Clerk)
Ms Siobhan Fairbrother (Observer)

485 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, CONSENT AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

There were no declarations of interest.

Governors took the opportunity to welcome Siobhan Fairbrother who was observing this evening and interested in joining the Governing Body. The Chair explained the need for confidentiality and that there were still vacancies on the Governing Body.

486 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT UP UNDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items noted to be brought up under any other business.

487 REPRESENTATION

To report the following matter of representation

Appointment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>With effect from</u>
Ms Gill Hood	LA	26.02.16

488 MINUTES OF THE JOINT STAFF AND GOVERNING BODY MEETING HELD ON 11 JANUARY 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2016 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct and accurate record.

489 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

490 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2016 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct and accurate record.

491 MATTERS ARISING

Any other business (Minute 482 refers)

Facebook for School Governors – it was noted that this is an extremely helpful forum for Governors and a worthwhile tool.

492 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Governors received the minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 3 February 2016, prior to the full Governing Body meeting. Governors had the opportunity to come prepared with questions.

There is a small need for supply teachers to cover staff absence but in the main internal cover is fine.

The Chair of Governors and Chair of the Resources Committee are writing jointly to the LA to establish the progress on the Caretakers bungalow.

There has been a problem with the burglar alarm with a £50 call out fee. Apart from it being very sensitive the company could find no faults. Liz and Jackie completed a Health and Safety walk around school. They found the 'Fort' is rotting. The issue has been dealt with.

Q: Can we replace it?

A: The school cannot afford it.

Q: Can we ask friends about contributing?

A: We can start looking at funding.

There is still a major concern regarding car parking, with parents mis-using the drop off point. The issues are being dealt with.

Q: Can the parents be fined?

A: That is not for school to address, some parents are sending photos in which we are forwarding to the police.

There were concerns surrounding drops in numbers in foundation stage. The school is dealing with ways in establishing a way forward of encouraging parents to sign up with the school.

The school is looking at a £23k overspend this year.

Committee members had received the SFVS information with the request to read the document.

Q: Is it for information only or do we have anything to action?

A: It is for governors to read and agree and for the Chair of Governors to sign off.

The 2016/17 budget is forecasted on current numbers. At present 21 pupils were signed for reception in September 2016.

Thanks went to the Resource Committee for the report.

Governors received the minutes of the Curriculum and Standards Committee meeting held on 8 February 2016, prior to the full Governing Body meeting. Governors had the opportunity to come prepared with questions.

There are currently 17 pupils on pupil premium. A TA had been tasked with supporting the pupils in grammar, spelling and reading in Key Stage 2.

Focus on Reading and Library for Key Stage 1 is being established. The PTA is fundraising for a quiet space in the outdoor play area. The WBW has been a resounding success, and displays are amazing. The Head Teacher sent an email to all parents thanking them.

There are a few concerns on a number of pupils regarding reading.

French teaching is still being offered to pupils even though the teacher providing the teaching is currently off long term sick. The school has a free trial of a computer program to support teachers. This is being reviewed by the Head Teacher.

Q: Is there no support available from the multi-academy trust?

A: It is worth asking the question.

Q: How much teaching do pupils get in the language?

A: There is no statutory amount of time but the school aims to teach an hour a week.

Q: Could we do a theme day or 'French' day?

A: It is a possibility.

493 HEAD TEACHERS REPORT AND GOVERNORS QUESTIONS

The Head Teacher circulated the report with the main points highlighted:

There are currently 174 pupils on roll. The numbers have increased over the year. School agrees that it is vital to spend on marketing to ensure numbers starting in Foundation Stage continue to rise.

Q: Are numbers low in all schools?

A: Yes, at the moment it would appear so, but it is early in the year.

Q: How many are coming into reception next September?

A: 21

Key Stage 1 SATs will take place in May. They will be conducted under strict test conditions and are assessed on grammar and spelling as well as reading, writing and maths. One teacher is currently spending time going through previous tests with pupils.

The Head Teacher circulated the English writing exemplifications for Governors information. The correct assessment is over 6 pieces of work. Some pupils could be seen to fail due to the assessment being so 'fixed'.

School took part in Book Week and invited parents and grandparents in to school to read with the pupils.

The focus on spelling is having a positive impact on test results. School is now looking at reviewing the impact on written work.

A bid has been put in for additional funding for sports coaching.

Parking is still an issue. Police have attended and are visiting the homes of some parents that contribute to the problem.

The bungalow has been confirmed as belonging to the school to use for educational purposes.

The Saturday working party did a fantastic job on the grounds. The memorial bench is in place. The Dunblane plaque is ready to be unveiled to mark the 20th anniversary.

Staff have attended training in making best use of TAs, Shelley Pyramid Heads, Pyramid Science, Pie Corbett, Attachment and First Aid.

Q: Who or what is Pie Corbett?

A: He leads training in English, he is very inspirational and interesting.

During the meeting Governors were notified that a gas leak had been identified, the kitchen will be closed but the school can remain open. There will be no heating or cooking. Governors were asked for their advice on what they would like the Head Teacher to do.

Q: Should we close the school?

A: We understand that we are very reticent to close the school, does sending a text to parents suggesting packed lunches and warm clothes sound an appropriate suggestion?

ACTION: The Head Teacher will send a text to parents notifying them on the following day.

Thanks went to the Head Teacher for her report.

494 REPORT FROM PARENT FORUM TEAM

Claire reported on behalf of the Parent Forum which had their 1st meeting in early March.

There were 9 parents, 5 of which were Governors.

It now needs building up and establishing. There was a very positive tone throughout the meeting. There are plans to have a meeting around late April.

The agenda for the next meeting includes:

- Involvement with more parents and events in schools
- Parking and travel
- Maths and maths homework

Q: What makes you go to the meeting?

A: To see what it was going to be like, it was informative, and informal. Also there were easy fix suggestions that could be actioned immediately to show the forum is worthwhile.

Q: Can we upload the Parent Forum information on the school web-site?

A: Yes, and also include some information in the newsletter.

Thanks went to the team for the feedback.

495 REPORT FROM MARKETING TEAM

The marketing team met with Cath and Lisa. The marketing team discussed social media sites most notably Facebook. The team were in agreement that Facebook when used correctly can be advantageous to the school.

Q: Do parents keep looking at the web-site?

A: Yes, and also pupils.

Q: How do we control the privacy?

A: A lot of schools use Facebook we could certainly ask for advice.

Q: Why aren't we on Facebook yet?

A: We need to look at risks as well as advantages and discuss the options available such as Twitter etc.,. Cathy, Sal and Paula will attend training.

RESOLVED: Governors agreed to move forward with exploring Facebook and to agree to the training costs of £65.

Committee members discussed Nursery numbers and how to increase them. The school had previously met with an independent consultant. The resulting advice came out as contacting the developers of the new housing estate, playgyms and private nurseries.

Q: Is it possible to create a new prospectus?

A: Yes, we can certainly look into this.

RESOLVED: To commit £1500 from the budget for Jackie and Debbie to work on.

ACTION: To contact Dughall McCormick for advice on getting advice on use of social media in schools.

496 SAFEGUARDING (Minute 131(d) refers)

There were no items outstanding.

497 GOVERNOR TRAINING AND GOVERNOR VISITS

Mrs Wright reported she had visited school and focused on Pupil Premium, Safeguarding and additional needs.

There are currently 16 pupils on roll that have additional and complex needs. The cost is having an impact on resources and is also a pattern across the pyramid.

498 CHAIRS STATEMENT – GOVERNOR CODE

The Chair reported that the Code of Conduct has been seen and signed off by all and for governors to be mindful of their responsibilities under the code.

The Chair noted that his term of office is due to come to an end and would like Governors to consider all options available. Although he would be happy to stand again he would welcome scrutiny and challenge. The chair discussed the vision of the school and wants to bring forward working on the strategic vision for school.

The chair reminded governors that Mr Belsey had indicated that he wished to serve as Vice-Chair for 1 year, although will remain as a Governor. The Chair called upon all present to consider taking on the role.

Q: Are we looking for someone that wants to go on as a Chair?

A: No, not all. If anyone is interested please ask for advice and information from the Chair and Vice-Chair.

499 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items noted.

500 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Wednesday, 11 May 2016

Wednesday, 4 July 2016

501 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, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.