



Exeter Children's Federation

Full Governing Body Meeting Minutes

Clerk: Neil Keen

Date: 18 th January 2016	Venue: Montgomery Primary School	Time 18:30
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Present:

Peter Vickery	Local Authority Governor (Chair)
Martyn Boxall	Ex Offico (Executive Head Teacher)
Rebecca Bowden	Parent Governor
Michaela Young	Parent Governor
Terri-Anne Hornby	Co-opted Governor
Chris Neads	Co-opted Governor (Vice Chair)
Lisa Sayers	Co-opted Governor
Emma Bowler	Co-opted Governor
Gill Brown	Associate Governor (no voting rights)
Chris Briggs	Associate Governor (no voting rights)

Apologies:

David Coven	Staff Governor
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Item 1 - Opening of the meeting

NK opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present. NK explained that those wishing to be co-opted onto the governing body would need to leave the meeting to enable the remaining governors to consider which governors they wanted to co-opt onto the governing body.

Item 3 - Review nomination for LA Governor Appointment.

MB, MY and RB considered the nomination of Peter Vickery to be elected to serve as the Local Authority Governor. Governors were unanimous in accepting the County nomination. PV was invited to join the meeting.

Item 4 - Appoint Co-opted Governors & Associate Directors

MB proposed that LS, CN, EB and TAH be co-opted onto the governing body and PV seconded the motion. Governors voted unanimously to elect the 4 members onto the governing body. All the newly elected co-opted governors joined the meeting at this stage and were informed that they had duly been elected to serve as co-opted governors. All governors agreed to appoint GB and CB to serve as Associate Governors and they will not carry voting rights.

Item 5 - Election of Chair and Vice Chair

TAH nominated PV to stand as chair for a period of 12 months and this was seconded by LS.

Governors were unanimous in the vote to elect PV as chair. PV Nominated CN to stand as vice chair and this was seconded by MB. Governors voted unanimously to elect CN as vice chair for a 12 month term of office.

Item 6 - Declaration of pecuniary interests

PV asked if any members had any pecuniary interests to declare. LS declared her interest in Montgomery energy management company.

Item 7 - Agree Terms of reference for Governing Body and areas of responsibility for governors.

A single governing body model was tabled that would see the governing body meet every 6 weeks and is a model that doesn't have a committee structure. MB ran through the key points in the document. MB asked governors to familiarise themselves with the document which underpins the work of the governing body.

MB discussed self-evaluation and explained that each governor needs to champion a specific area/subject and at some point governors need to book appointments through Gill and/or Chris in order to carry out a visit in their respective specialist area.

Governors agreed the areas that they would take responsibility for and these can be found in the 'ECF - Terms of reference document'.

Item 8 - Agree appointment of governors for head teacher performance management

It was agreed that PV and CN would have responsibility in this area and the details of this were agreed in the terms of reference.

Item 9 - Policy Review & Audit & Finance Policy

It was agreed that a group of governors would get together and start looking at policies and adopting the best ones across the federation.

NK to meet with MB to look at where the gaps are in policies and LS and PV volunteered to look at policies as and when they are sent them.

Finance Scheme

MB tabled the financial scheme and explained that it isn't just a finance policy; this covers remission and charging as well as educational visits. There is a need to have to bring in a robust policy so that before trips are approved the full cost is considered. The scheme also has an element for governor expenses, a lettings policy (not applicable to Wynstream due to the PFI arrangement) and a statement of internal control.

Governors agreed the policy and adopted it. The policy needs to be reviewed before the next financial year.

Item 10 SIP priorities for schools

MB presented governors with the self evaluation and school improvement plans and explained the biggest issue now is the strategic development of the federation. The document outlines all the data and highlights the strengths and weaknesses of both schools.

Item 2 - Report from the Exec Head on the co-operative trust and the future direction of the governing body.

MB explained that the co-operative trust hasn't been working as effectively as it should. MB in looking at all options was advised that the formation of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) with a minimum of 3 schools would potentially give the federation greater financial stability and the option to bid for the Children's Centre contract. MB has done a lot of research into various MAT models and believes that the model in operation by the White Horse MAT is an excellent

working example.

There is a £75k set up payment and then £75k per school that joins the MAT. MB explained that the MAT would bring about a lot more freedom and would enable the federation to look elsewhere for services that are better suited to the needs of the children than what is currently being offered by the LA/Babcock.

MB has 6 schools interested at this stage in getting around the table and discussing the MAT model.

The risk here is that Ofsted could put either school to Requires Improvement and force the schools down the academy route, if the schools act now they are able to shape the MAT from the outset and ensure that the schools involved retain their values and ethos.

PV explained that the first step in the very tight timeline is for the governing body to give Martyn the mandate to leave the trust if the other member schools decline to join the ECF in a MAT. LS proposed that the school leave the trust under these circumstances and this was seconded by MY. Governors were unanimous in their vote and agreed for Montgomery School to leave the trust if the vote goes against the ECF proposal.

If the school leaves the trust, MB will continue discussions with interested schools. MB explained that he has been approached to run the Children Centre Contract in Exeter but before he could do this a MAT would need to be established by June which means that the timeline for all of this is very tight.

Governors agreed they would have to meet in early February to take a vote on how to proceed further and decide on the future direction of the federation.

Item 11 - Agree Dates for next meeting

It was agreed to just set the next meeting date for now which was agreed as Monday 21st March at 6.30pm at Wynstream Primary School