

Threshfield Primary School

Minutes of a Meeting of the Governing Body held at the School on Tuesday 9th May at 4:30pm

Present:

Sarah Harper (SH) – Headteacher
Brettle Roberts (BR) Chair – Co-opted Governor
Ian Green (IG) – Parent Governor
Tina Tierney (TT) – Co-opted Governor
Andrew Bode (AB) – LA Governor
Richard Hore (RH) – Parent Governor
Jenny Whitaker (JW) – Staff Governor (covering maternity)
Val Berry (VB) – Bursar (arrived for finance then left)

Apologies:

Sarah Hill (SH) – Co-opted Governor
Peter Huff (PH) – LA Governor

1 **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. JW took the minutes as still no Clerk available.

2 **Apologies**

Apologies from Peter Huff and Sarah Hill. Bethany Alexander on maternity.

3 **Declarations of Interest (pecuniary or other) for any agenda item**

None

4 **Any confidential items to be excluded from the publicly available minutes.**

None

5 **Notification of any urgent other business items.**

See section

6 **Minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2023.**

The minutes were agreed.

SH explained that a paragraph was to be added regarding the next step on the academisation journey.

Q. IG asked where we were in on the process.

SH explained that herself, ESH and BR had a meeting with Jo Robinson and Don Parker. SH had then had a follow up meeting with EPM (Educational Services to Schools) who were the company dealing with the application to the DfE.

Meeting with Michelle Thompson held on 05.05.2023. Actions completed and they were moving onto the next step of the journey.

7 **To consider matters arising from the minutes for which there is no separate agenda item.**

None

8 **Governing Body Matters**

- a) Governor Vacancies (Co-opted Governor) – still vacant
- b) Chair and Vice-Chair – Brettle Roberts and Sarah Hill to share the responsibility of Chair and Vice Chair. This was proposed by TT and seconded by IG

- c) Clerking is now with Judicium as NYCC are unable to supply a clerk. NYCC have offer a refund. The new clerk will join the meeting via ZOOM. This will commence at the next meeting.

Q. RH asked how much this service was in comparison to the service with NYCC.

SH answered that it was substantially more expensive than the service from North Yorkshire. North Yorkshire was around £3000 and Judicium was £4700.

Q. RH asked if we felt this was value for money.

SH answered that we really had little choice. NYCC had not supplied a clerk for nearly a year and seemed to have no availability of supplying one. She had contacted various organisations, including the YCAT academy trust and there was no availability. SH shared that the expectations for clerks had dramatically changed which had resulted in a lot leaving the profession and there was a struggle to find them. It seemed that this increase in costs and Zoom attendance would become the norm.

9 **Budget and Finance**

10 Budget Report (VB) explained the new budget. The budget is better than expected due to energy efficient grant – which could be used for solar panels if the YDNP allow them. Bank interest is currently high and pupil numbers are good. The cost of school dinners was raised as we were not informed of earlier price increases – from Sept Nursery meals are £3.20 and pupil meals £3.10.

Governors approved it for submission.

Q. SH asked if the expected additional income would provide a better picture.

VB answered that the picture was not 'bad' but the additional balance coming in would make a difference, especially as it would be continuing the years following.

Q. TT asked if we should be worried about the third year.

VB answered that it was in a deficit and a meeting was advised in school to remove the annual deficit, however, a deficit in the third year was not unusual.

Q. BR asked whether there was anything which was significantly larger than usual.

VB answered that during her meeting with SH they had discussed the increase in online subscriptions. SH explained that due to some new technology, e.g. CPOMs and phonics expectations (Little Wandle subscription), which were both very expensive and a requirement in school. This had dramatically increased the budget.

SH & JW

Q. BR asked specific details regarding the Environmental Fund (approximately £11,000).

SH

Could this amount be spend on solar panels?

Yes, but would require planning permission.

SH Could it be used to purchase a minibus which would reduce travelling pollution?

Perhaps, however, these come with a lot of additional costs.

IG mentioned the minibus in Grassington which is available for public use.

Q. BR asked what we were able to use the amount for, if we could not find any environmental improvements to the school.

VB answered that it would become part of Devolve Capital.

Monitoring Visits

Brettle Roberts (SEND – diabetic nurse meeting) – things seemed very casual but for school they need to be much more prescriptive. HCP finalised plan to be sent through to NYCC

Action: JW to email plan to NYCC

Q. IG asked what was the expectation for the staff

SH answered that they had been expected to inject the child after one session and the school had refused. All treatments of the child were put into place within two weeks which is the expectations of the SEND Code of Practice.

- Sarah Hill (ECT Monitoring Visit) – absent
- Peter Huff H & S report – absent

Q. BR asked about the fire extinguishers which hadn't been checked this year.

JW answered that a lady had checked them on 5/01/2023 but had not put new stickers on them.

- Rebecca Rothwell Mathematics Report – decision to be made as to whether to stay with White Rose

Q. RH asked whether the direction of mathematics now would be the development of different problem-solving questions.

SH answered that it reflected the advisor's view of White Rose Mathematics which is the programme we use. Ofsted recommend fidelity to a scheme and we have fidelity to White Rose Maths. Rebecca Rothwell was suggesting on broadening our children's reasoning skills through other avenues, e.g. NCETM.

SH showed the governors the White Rose Maths programme through the school website.

- Catering Report
- Strategic Questions sent by Sarah Hill prior to the meeting these were answered by SH
- Karen Butler monitoring form

Q. BR what was the main outcome from this.

SH said it was the outdoor area of the EYFS. SH said she felt it was a difficult one, as at the time the weather had been awful and it was raining heavily so the suggestion of word cards and vocabulary in areas would not have been appropriate.

SH explained that they were looking at designs and possibly copying Brougham Street Nursery who had completely woodchipped their area.

Q. BR asked how this would be beneficial for the vehicles in the area.

SH explained that it wouldn't be accessible to the vehicles and they would have to use the playground.

Q. IG asked what would be the ideal scenario if possible.

SH answered a very large sand, rock area which the children could access. A water feature and some form of climbing frame.

SH showed the governors some ideas which she had collated for the outdoor area.

11 Parent, Pupil and Staff Questionnaire and School Improvement Plan

- Results and action plans

Q. BR asked what the current afterschool club activities were, as many parents had requested something other than sports.

- clubs afterschool – we have running, football, dance, Kanga, choir and are

looking at yoga, coding and cooking.

- SH thought a creative hub could offer a solution as an alternative

Q. BR asked about the playtimes on the children's questionnaires:

- SH we now have timetabled activities outside at playtimes.

Q. RH asked why the Zoom meetings were not face-to-face

- ZOOM v face to face. ZOOM is more favourable as it keeps time to a minimum and helps parents with childcare. Most parents favour this method. It also improves safeguarding, as during parent evenings we had a lot of unsupervised children on the premises. This was very dangerous, especially during the October meeting when it was darker outside.

Q. RH brought up the comments regarding the communication from school to parents.

- Communications: SH these are sometimes last minute but we do our best under the circumstances. Sometimes information is last minute but we only find out the information last minute.

12 Health and Safety

- Peter Monitoring visit (see monitoring folder)

Q. JW confirmed the fire extinguishers had been checked 5/1/23 but the extinguishers had not been stickered.

Action: SH to contact Peter for lights information.

13 SEND

- EHCP – this was rejected and school will be going to tribunal within the next 2mths
- The second EHCP will be submitted shortly

14 Q. BR asked what the links with Skipton Academy were

- Links with Skipton Academy Outreach – this had been successful and hopefully will help bridge the gap between SEND and schools. The SENCo had been supporting in school.

15

Safeguarding

Safeguarding training for this term had been completed by all staff. This would be part of the Headteacher Report in Summer 2.

Q. BR asked if there had been any safeguarding concerns. SH confirmed that there had not been.

SH confirmed that another Early Help referral had been submitted. Family Coach had been shared with parents via the newsletter.

Discussion regarding Smoothwall – safeguarding notifications were now being sent to IG (safeguarding governor) regarding internet searches and use in school.

Action: JW to send through Educare password for RH

GDPR

- Report (check policies)
- SH discussed the meeting and next steps. Veritau were concerned about the safeguarding smoothwall and the use of the information. They were approaching Smoothwall to find more information to share with all schools.

16 Academy

- Update on current process – the application has been put in and the

expected conversion date is 1/1/24

- Hewitt Trust – happy to proceed as long as the terms are the same as NYCC.

16 **Governor training opportunities and learning activities.**

RH wasn't sure if he had an Educare account.

JW

Action: JW to resend the link to Educare.

Governor would like more training on Finance, Curriculum journey, safeguarding and phonics.

SH

Action: SH to create short training sessions for governors.

17 **To deal with any matters agreed for consideration under item 5 above.**

SH explained that the Local Authority needed AB to be confirmed as a governor prior to their agreement, not before. Therefore, we needed to formally elect AB as our LAP governor.

This was agreed by all governors.

18 **Date of next meeting on the 27th June, 2023 rescheduled to 11th July 2023 so the new clerk could attend**

19

Additional Important Dates: