

MERSEY VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING

Date: 1st November 2016
Time: 6pm
Venue: The School

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Dr W Goundry (Chairperson), Mrs J Jones, Mrs J Mullane (Headteacher), Cllr T McGee, Mrs L Wilkinson, Mrs M Jennings-Aziz, Mr S Farrell, Ms A Harrington

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms C Varetto Associate Member
Mrs N Ahmed

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Governors were welcomed to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from: Mrs A Mohammed

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Ratification of Policies

The Pay Policy (September 2016), based upon the model Stockport policy, has been previously circulated to all governors and discussed at committee meetings 10/10/16.

All staff have been consulted about the revised pay policy. September 12/09/16 issued, displayed on staffroom noticeboard and text sent to all staff informing them of consultation. Staff invited to read and feedback to JM by 03/10/16. Reminder given in staff meeting 03/10/16. No comments or feedback received.

RESOLVED: Governors duly **approved** the following policy which had been previously circulated:

➤ Whole School Pay

2. Options for consideration about possible building development following discussions with local authority (see letter from Michelle Booth (MB), Schools Organisation Manager).

JM gave feedback following on from meeting and phone call with Phil Beswick (PB) and email from MB. This was positive in terms of future investment in school site, claw back

funds protection and protection of future funds set aside toward the project. However, given the lack of Basic Needs funding from central government in 2017/2018, SMBC cannot confirm specific project details at this time. Overall the dialogue with SMBC has been positive and highlights the pressure on school accommodation, especially the school hall.

It was agreed by all present that school needed to be consulted before any plans were finalised but that there was a need for us to be realistic about options available. JM highlighted the need to ensure standards and quality are improved for all children with updates to existing classrooms. Reference was made to the quality and standard of work at St Thomas's Primary School who are pleased with the overall build. Whilst support for the expansion of the school site was unanimous, we wish to avoid temporary structures.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of expanding the school hall first, and what we consider to be an acceptable timescale for this. It was discussed and agreed by all present that this should be a priority and a case should be made for expansion as a first consideration.

TM agreed to meet with JM on the 2nd November, to put together a reply which would include the following questions:

- a. What is the intended timescale for plans to be drawn up? (preferably have a deadline of Dec 2016).
- b. What are all the options available?
- c. Are we tied to a preferred contractor (Carillion) or can we use a different contractor i.e. can the job be put out to tender to get a competitive quote?
- d. Depending on the timescale for future development, can a case be made for work to start on a new hall sooner?

Further to this meeting and the email sent to SMBC, MB replied quite positively to the questions on the same day as follows:

- a. Various options are currently being developed and I anticipate that December / January will be a reasonable timeframe. The relevant Carillion colleagues are currently on annual leave so I will check and confirm on their return.
- b. Options will be dependent upon costs and once costed options have been developed and funding confirmed, the school will have full input to develop the detailed design within the cost envelope. A project team would be established similar to previous projects we have undertaken with the school.
- c. Whilst feasibility options are developed by Carillion Stockport (CSPS), any agreed scheme would be procured via competitive process using either a procurement framework, such as the North West Construction Hub, or a

traditional tender process. CSPA act on behalf of the Council as agent for project and contract management of schemes and are not contracted to provide construction work for the Council. This is the same arrangement that existed with NPS previously and under which the installation of the double-mobile and internal alterations was undertaken very successfully.

- d. We will be able to consider this when we have further information. Whilst I appreciate this is an ongoing issue for the school, I believe we need to better understand the likely impact in detail. Consideration would need to be given to the phasing of construction works and is likely to be limited by the potential increase in costs by undertaking two separate contracts.

3. Collaboration with other schools (see letter from Andy Kent, Chair of GB, Didsbury Road Primary School).

WG discussed his attendance at the GOVAS conference which centered on information about academisation. Overall, WG's opinion was that there was no strong motivation for the school to change to an academy.

JM discussed the letter received from Andy Kent (Chair of GB at DRPS). This was an invitation to an informal meeting on the 17th November at Priestnall School with HT's from community schools (did not include Nursery or Church schools) to discuss partnerships and collaboration.

MVPS is already part of the Trio Heaton's Cluster group which includes Tithe Barn Primary School and Norris Bank Primary School. JM highlighted that this collaboration works well and was non-competitive and currently more support based than challenging. JM suggested that maybe this needed to be formalised to strengthen the collaboration. The consensus was that MVPS should resist academisation and becoming part of a multi-academy trust for the time being, as there appeared to be no benefit to the education of the children in changing our current status as a maintained school. We agreed that we need to ensure that we maintain a flexible approach on this issue.

TM agreed to attend the above meeting with JM. The letter received was very vague and it was agreed that it would be interesting to see what the views were from the other schools attending and whether a collaboration/cluster group was being suggested with other schools in the area and what benefits this could bring. It was highlighted that DRPS is in a Trio Cluster Group with St. John's and St Thomas's who were not invited to attend. JM has been approached previously by the HT of DRPS, who is new to post, to discuss work done in our Trio.

JM requested that any questions for the above meeting be emailed to her prior to the meeting on 17th November.

With no further business to discuss, the Chairperson thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 6.40pm.

SUMMER TERM 2016 GOVERNING BODY MINUTES

MEETING ACTION POINTS

MINUTE POINT	ACTION REQUIRED	ACTION FOR	DATE ACTION TO BE COMPLETED
1.	Inform HR payroll of agreed pay decisions, notify staff of pay determination, update pay policy on school website.	JM/ SF	4/11/16
2.	Email to be sent to PB to pose the questions raised	JM/TM	2/11/16
3.	Attend meeting re. school partnerships and collaboration in the Heatons, Priestnall School 17/11/16, 1 – 4pm	JM/ TM	17/11/16