

## COPNOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Governing Board** held at Copnor Primary School on **Thursday 20 July 2017** commencing at **5.00pm**

### **Present:**

Peter Stokes – Co-opted Governor (In the chair)

Lauren Findlay – Co-opted Governors

Angela Wall

Lynn McBeth

Pam Paice

Barry Fanning

Elaine Cowley

Toby Simmonds

Mo Williams

Rachel Stewart – Parent Governor

Lynne Stagg – LA Governor

Darran Cowell – Staff Governor

Douglas Brawley – Headteacher

Sara Petipher – Associate Members

Allyson Roberts

Tracey Pinkney

**Also in attendance:** John Stock (Clerk)

### **ACTION**

**40. Apologies for Absence** accepted from Wayne Frampton

**41. Declarations of Interest** - none

**42. Governing Body Membership**

The Chair reported the resignation of Luann Newell (Co-opted Governor) and it was **AGREED** to appoint Mo Williams to the vacancy for the four period ending July 2021,

**43. Minutes – 25 May 2017**

**AGREED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

#### 44. Matter Arising from the Minutes

##### Minute No. 32/17- Traffic Problems

Lynne Stagg reported on her meeting with Oliver Willcocks of the Local Authority when they undertook a 20 minute traffic survey of cars approaching the pelican crossing in Copnor Road. As there was a light controlled crossing, the Local Authority were not prepared to employ a school crossing patrol but offered to provide warning signs on both sides of the crossing. The estimated cost of employing a crossing patrol was £3,000 pa if the school wished to take that course of action.

**AGREED** (1) that the offer of warning signs be accepted with the suggested wording "School Ahead- Children Crossing"

(2) that an advertisement be placed for the employment of a crossing patrol to commence at the beginning of term in September 2017.

HT/Chair

HT

#### 44. Committee Reports

The minutes of the following committees were noted:

- Curriculum Committee – 13 June 2017
- Finance, Buildings & Personnel Committee – 20 June 2017
- Standards Committee – 11 July 2017

#### 45. Headteacher Report

The Headteacher Report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The sections dealing with data had been the subject of detailed scrutiny at the Standards Committee and the Chair would be producing a full note of the main points raised by governors at that meeting.

Chair

In response to questions from governors, the Headteacher explained the reasons for the increase in reports of racist incidents and fixed term exclusions. The former was as a result of more detailed reporting and the latter related to one particular pupil being the subject of many fixed term exclusions.

It had been possible to employ experienced staff for 2017/18, with just two NQT's, and therefore enabling a four way split in teaching in Year Groups 5 and 6.

The Headteacher Report was noted with satisfaction.

#### 46. Ofsted Report – June 2017.

The overall decision was that Copnor Primary School was a good school.

The main points in the summary of findings which were particularly pleasing included the following:

- Successful amalgamation into a cohesive community
- A team of dedicated leaders and managers
- Teaching was good
- Personal development and welfare was outstanding
- Effective safeguarding
- Excellent curriculum to enable pupils to develop their skills
- Excellent ethos
- Staff positive about school leadership
- Senior leaders accurate in their judgements
- Good professional development and coaching
- Good spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Capable Teaching Assistants
- Parents highly supportive of the school

The following points in the Ofsted report required action from the school leadership team and the Governing Board:

- Attendance was improving but there were still problems with FSM and SEN children
- Limited opportunities for Early Years pupils to develop activities on their own
- The progress of disadvantaged pupils needed to be better
- The most able pupils need more challenge in order to progress
- Some teaching lacked precision

**Q.** – What action did the school propose to improve the progress of the more able pupils?

**A.** – The curriculum was based on a mastery of the subject before moving on and there were no proposals to move children up but to teach on a more personalised scale. This meant no intervention but dealing with those pupils in a different way in the classroom. An example was the use of problem solving in Maths in place of straightforward mathematical sums.

**Q.** – Was there provision for the more able pupils to assist with helping to teach the less able in the classroom?

**A.** – Each class in Maths had class experts who were learning to lead.

**Q.** – Could there be more contact with Outstanding schools to learn and help progress to that category?

**A.** – This type of contact was already in operation and would continue.

**Q.** – What needs to be done to add precision to teaching?

**A.** – Staff needed to pre-assess before lessons to know which pupils need to be stretched in that subject and then to ensure that happened in the classroom.

The Governing Board agreed with the Headteacher that the whole basis for improvement was to ensure good teaching. It was necessary to ensure progress for all pupils from Early Years to Year 6.

It was likely that the next Ofsted inspection would be three years away and so it would now be possible to concentrate on the whole school with less emphasis on the data, as it had been proven that the judgements of the staff were accurate.

The inspection in June had been stringent and the Headteacher wished to record his appreciation of the Leadership Team, the teaching staff and the children which enabled the school to be classed as Good.

The Governing Board recorded their thanks to the Headteacher and staff for all their hard work but it was now time to review the governance of the school.

#### **47. Ofsted Report – School Governance**

The Chair commented that the report clearly considered the Leadership to be outstanding but the Governors as good resulting in the overall Good result.

The report concluded that whilst the Board had overseen a successful amalgamation, they had not set a clear direction of what they wished the school to achieve for its pupils. Governors were also not collectively challenging leaders to improve the outcomes for all groups of pupils. The Board needed to receive clear information about the progress different groups were making.

The Chair advised that at the meeting in September, the Board needed to agree a vision as to what the school needs to achieve. The way forward following the successful amalgamation needed to be formalised leading to the target of becoming an Outstanding school.

Challenging questions were asked at the committees but they required to be linked together for the Board to act as a whole. Link governors should record the results of any visit with the appropriate member of staff and to ensure at the subsequent visit that actions recommended had been taken.

It was also proposed to have a more organised approach to appointments at the AGM to ensure the right skills for particular roles

**ACTION**

The Leadership Team pointed out that within the SEF, they were aware of the gaps required to be diminished and it was hoped that the governors would be more rigorous in their questioning at meetings. The recording in the minutes also needed to be better.

As a result of the above report from the Chair, it was **AGREED** to request the Local Authority to carry out a Governance Review.

**HT/Chair****48. Academy Status**

A progress report following the decision to proceed with the Hamwic Trust is set out in the attached CONFIDENTIAL minute.

**49. School Visits**

Pam Paice had attended the Award Ceremony which she considered to be excellent

Elaine Cowley had met the new parents and asked to be able to meet the prospective parents in September.

**HT**

Lynn McBeth reported on progress with the gardening project. The Gardening Club of more senior pupils was now working with children in Year R. It was likely that an application would be made to the Finance Committee for the acquisition of a greenhouse to further improve the children's experiences.

**50. Link Governor Reports**

**AGREED** that all Link Governor visits with staff should be recorded and submitted to the Clerk for submission to the Governing Board.

**Link Govs****51. Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 19 September 2017 at 5.00pm**

The meeting concluded at **7.25pm**

Chair