

West Cliff Primary School

Governing Body Meeting

1st June 2015

PRESENT:	Chair	Diana Jeuda	Head	Christina Zanelli-Tyler
		Dot Russell		Matthew Brown
		Susan Clough		Mark Burnett
		Jo Shipton		
		Kirsty Hird		
	Clerk	Peter Geer		

15/18 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Paul Burnett.

15/19 Declarations of Interest & Confidentiality

There were no declarations of interest.

15/20 Minutes of the meeting of the 19th January 2015

The minutes were accepted and approved by the Governors as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

15/21 Matters arising from the minutes.

15/05 SC and DJ have drafted an advert for a Co-opted Governor. From September the Staff Governor will be Mrs Cockerill and the new Deputy Headteacher will be invited to Governing Body Meetings as a guest.

15/11 Following the elections in May DJ has spoken to new councillors re parking

15/15 All Governors have now completed the safeguarding training

15/13 SC visited the school re monitoring.

15/22 Committee Reports

Standards

DJ reported on the Standards Committee meeting which had taken place on the 22nd April.

Finance

MBr explained that there had been a Finance Committee meeting immediately before this meeting. In summary the budget shows an in-year deficit of just £8.1k for 2015/16. This small deficit reflects changes in that three new members of staff have been appointed and, as West Cliff is committed to the idea of portability, these staff were higher on the pay scale and therefore are more expensive than had been initially budgeted for. There has also been an investment of £8k in further ICT resources.

Projecting forward the Revenue Financial Forecast shows a balance deficit in the third year; however this is speculative and depends largely on pupil numbers. The Governors noted that there were 30 pupils due to start in Reception from September.

The Governors approved the Start Budget and the Revenue Financial Forecast.

HR

SC reported on the HR Committee meeting on the 19th January where it had been agreed to employ an ATA with ICT experience.

15/23 Headteacher's Report

Pupil Progress

The Headteacher reported that there still had been no nationwide agreement or consensus on an assessment system. Therefore in order to measure and report progress to the Governors the school will be assessing pupils based on the old levels system, however because of the changes to the curriculum there will be a mismatch but this is the best way to generate comparative data. The Governors agreed that this was the best option available. *The Governors asked* how the impact of Pupil Premium will be measured. The Headteacher confirmed that this progress will be assessed based on the old system, the data will then be analysed and will be discussed with Governors in the autumn.

Teaching

The Headteacher reported that the school had been flagged as a centre of excellence for art. The Governors wished to congratulate all the art staff for their work.

The Headteacher reported that, driven by KH, the school has been awarded the Science Gold Quality Mark. The Governors agreed that this was a considerable achievement and was down to the enormous effort that KH has put in.

HT has led SEN training for Governors.

Behaviour

Emma Smith attended Stonewall training for homophobic bullying. The staff had not felt that this was an issue in the school and so had not approached this before. There was a benchmark survey of children and the results seemed to confirm that this was not something that occurred in the school. However staff are more aware and there is now a stock response for homophobia.

Other

There are now pledge books for each child. These document what they have done and ensure that the school fulfils the pledges for each pupil.

The Beach Schools has now begun for Reception. *The Governors asked* how this was progressing, the Headteacher explained that as they require more supervision they have paired each child in Reception with one from Year 6 as a beach buddy. The response from Year 6 has been very positive. Reception have all written a letter to their beach buddy and Yr 6 have each replied.

15/24 Governor Visits and Training

SC has visited the school and joined with the Senior Leadership Team in a book trawl. She was impressed with the quality of work in the books that she saw and liked the decisiveness and the detail of the discussions that the SLT had.

MB is scheduled to do H&S walk with a pupil.

DJ is visiting the school next week to talk to pupils about science.

DJ explained that there have now been a number of meetings between Chairs of Governors within the WTSP. At the latest meeting they looked at sharing special needs best practice and drawing up SEN guidelines for other schools. DJ also shared with the other Chairs the experience of West Cliff with Ofsted. This group is now working well together and is much more supportive than had been the case.

15/25 Consider Whitby Schools to become a self-standing academy

The Governors discussed the strategic direction for the school.

The Governors noted that the political climate makes it increasingly likely that all schools will eventually become academies. It was the responsibility of the Governors to have a long-term strategy for the school.

The Governors agreed that their options were:

1. To continue as a maintained school and watch developments.
2. To join an existing academy trust.
3. To create own academy trust.

The Governors considered:

1. Do we wish to do investigate alternatives or simply remain as a maintained school until there are further developments?

The Governors discussed this. They noted that as an academy the school would not have to follow National Curriculum and there would be more options to vary pay and conditions for staff. If the school was part of a multi-academy trust then there would potentially be economies of scale as the schools would join together to buy services. The Governors felt that it was sensible to explore academy options now rather than waiting until schools are forced to convert.

DECISION: The Governors voted in favour of exploring the academy route in principle.

2. Do we want to join an existing academy trust?

The Headteacher explained that Caedmon College Whitby has applied to become a multi-academy trust and has approached the local schools to invite them to join their trust. The Governors discussed this and the consensus was that CCW as a school has a different ethos to West Cliff and has a much more corporate/commercial approach. One Governor felt there is a party political element to the Governance of CCW. The Governors noted that the suggestion from CCW was that, were they to join their multi-academy trust, the school would not get direct representation at a strategic level.

The Governors noted that there were no other multi-academy trusts in the local area.

DECISION: The Governors voted against joining a multi-academy trust with Caedmon College Whitby.

3. Are we interested in a Town Partnership School (plus Filey) multi-academy trust?

The Headteacher explained that there had been conversations within the primary schools in the Whitby Town School Partnership about forming their own multi-academy trust. As part of this discussion it was also agreed that Filey school had close links to Whitby and shared a similar ethos and so could be included – in the longer-term an outlier in Filey might encourage more Scarborough schools to join.

CZT and the other Headteachers would look to drive the discussions regarding the shape of a multi-academy trust but the final responsibility and decision is with Governors. However initial discussions have suggested that all the schools have the same basic priorities and already work together but yet also want to retain autonomy and their own identities.

The Governors agreed that a multi-academy trust based on the WTSP would be the most logical fit for the school.

DECISION: The Governors voted to explore the option of a multi-academy trust based on the Whitby Town School Partnership.

The Governors discussed what it is about West Cliff they would like to preserve within a multi-academy trust.

- The Governors agreed that the fundamental values of the school, which are diversity, equity and inclusion should be retained.
- They felt that it was important that each school would keep own curriculum and West Cliff would remain a beach school.
- The Governors would like to see that teacher pay scales are honoured.
- Would need to be to make and uphold the pledges the school has made to the children.

The Governors would like these to be retained when negotiating on the structure of a multi-academy trust. The Governors authorised the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors to carry out these discussions with the other schools and then to report back to the Governors. It would then be for the Governors to make a decision as to the future direction of the school.

15/26 **Policies**
None

15/27 **Meeting Dates 2015/16**
The Governors agreed to hold an extra Full Governing Body Meeting on Wednesday 15th July @ 4pm with a discussion on academy status as the sole agenda item.

15/28 **AOB**
None

Action List

DJ and CZT to explore WTSP Multi-academy Trust
MB to conduct Health and Safety Walk

