

## **Burnt Yates Church of England (Endowed) Primary School**

### **Minutes of a meeting of parents/ carers and governors held on 25 May 2017 at the school at 6.30pm**

#### **Present:**

Helen Leslie (Chair of Governors) HL  
Sue Wass (Interim Headteacher) SW  
Governors: Diana Kitzing, Willam Moore, Janet Newell, Mark Stoddard, Jean Tither  
Fiona Beevers (Diocesan Deputy Director of Education) FB  
Steven Holmes (LA Senior Adviser) SH  
10 parents/carers

#### **1 Apologies**

There were none. After welcoming everybody, the Chair then introduced the governors and also Fiona Beevers from the Diocese and Steven Holmes from NYCC.

#### **2 Questions from parents**

These had been requested from parents prior to the meeting, but none had been submitted.

#### **3 Academisation**

A question was asked about the current situation regarding academy sponsorship. In response HL gave a recap on the process involving the application to the Yorkshire Causeway Trust (YCT) and stated that no final decision has been reached, nor is there a time scale for the achievement of this. However, a lot of work was being done behind the scenes, including discussions that are confidential. Philippa James at the Department for Education (DfE) who is handling our application is not able to give information or guidance at this time due to the period of 'purdah' during General Election campaigning. Meanwhile considerable work is also going on in school to meet the teaching and learning targets required by Ofsted and set out in the LA's Statement of Action.

Further questions:

*What was the nature of the further information/advice being sought from DfE?*

Reply (HL/SH) : It was felt that due to a number of changes in DfE procedures since April, things may have changed that we are not aware of. It was also considered a possibility that just because the DfE has not given out a timescale does not necessarily mean it is not working to one.

*Would Burnt Yates' application be treated separately from an application from Ripley?*

FB replied that our application was only for Burnt Yates.

*Is there a plan B?*

Reply (FB): No, negotiations can only be with one Trust at a time and it has to be a religious one. YCT is the only one that meets the criteria.

*What is the diocese doing to ensure the school's future?*

Reply (FB): *There are new academies which are in the process of coming together where the Church has the majority in their Instruments of Government, but they need to achieve sponsor status from the DfE which takes time.*

*What would the Admiral Long Trustees do if the school was no longer CofE?*

Reply from Trust governor (DK): They would talk to the Diocese, but the current agreement with the LA stands until it is rescinded.

*Are YCT being kept informed of the improvements and changes the school is making?*

Reply (HL/FB): Yes, YCT has been sent a copy of the school's action plan and the Diocese regularly communicates with YCT.

Comments were made about inadequate communication between governors and parents; the weekly newsletter update did not always cover academisation. In response parents were asked what form of communication they wanted from governors. One parent requested that it would be helpful for parents to have a copy of the 44 page Statement of Action that the LA has prepared for the school and progress made. It was agreed that a document would be prepared from this and sent out to parents. On the subject of communication the Chair reiterated that there were negotiations in progress that she could absolutely not divulge because of their confidentiality. Parents were also encouraged to send in questions between the monthly meetings.

#### **ACTION POINT SH/HL**

#### **4 Progress on targets**

*Would an Ofsted tomorrow have the same outcome?*

Reply (SW): The school would not yet have reached the Ofsted judgement: 'Good'.

Parents were then asked how they felt that their individual children were progressing. General satisfaction was expressed, but several parents said they would like more information from teachers on day to day progress, including opportunities to look at their books; feedback in the children's planners; how the 'links' rewards had been earned. HL and SH urged parents not to wait for parents' evenings to look at their children's work, but to come in after school or following Friday afternoon assembly to see them.

#### **5 Staffing issues**

In response to questions HL said that the governors and the Headteacher are working on these matters, but she cannot go into individual cases due to their confidential nature. The cost of supply staff is met by the insurance cover the school has. SH reported that the current staff members are improving the situation in the school.

On morale, HL said that the members of staff are aware that the governors fully support them and SW has acknowledged their commitment and the extra time they give to their work.

A question was asked of SH if he could supply extra help from the LA. He replied that this was being done through the Dales Alliance.

The appointment of the interim executive head for only two terms on secondment was raised by some parents. HL/SH responded that this was dependent on the academy outcome and also to give flexibility in this situation. The collaboration in place with Ripley also impacts on this.

It was proposed and agreed that Ms Palmer, the new interim head is invited to the next parents' meeting on **6 July at 6.30pm** and to the school barbecue on the last day of term.

**ACTION POINT HL**

The meeting was closed at 8pm