

Midsomer Norton Primary School
Full Governing Body Meeting
Wednesday 21st September 2017 at 6.00pm

Present

Michael Keeling
Alun Randell
Stephen Robinson
Jane Jones
Beth Selway
Kerry Postlewhite
Eleanor Cook
Rebecca Tapper
Anna Swift

1.	Chairs Opening Remarks	
	<p>MD welcomed the Governors to the meeting and introduced himself. MK is currently Chair of the Governors at Welton Primary School and has a professional background in education having previously worked as a Headteacher. KM stated that he believed joining the MAT had brought positive change to Welton Primary School and would be advantageous for Midsomer Norton Primary. MK explained that, in the absence of a Chair, he had offered to take on the role for 6 months. MK then asked the Governors to introduce themselves. MK proposed that the LGB would meet once a term, with other meetings to be added if required.</p> <p>MK stated that in terms of the relationship between the Trust and the LGB, the Trust is now legally in charge of the school, with Alun Williams at the head of the MAT as CEO. MK outlined that he felt the key focus of the LGB was therefore to monitor the education of the children.</p>	
2.	Apologies for Absence	
	Apologies were received and accepted from DS, PE, HB and AS (who may be able to join the meeting later).	
3.	Declaration of Interests and Register of Pecuniary Interests - Update	
	<p>(a) Declaration of Interests - Update</p> <p>None.</p> <p>(b) Register of Pecuniary Interests – Update</p> <p>None</p>	
4.	Confirmation and Signing of the Minutes of 19th July 2017	
	4.1 The Minutes of 24 th May 2017 were agreed to be a true and accurate record of the last meeting and were signed off by MK (Prop: MK Sec: AR)	
5.	Matters Arising from the Minutes of 19th July 2017	
	<p>13.1 <u>Emphasising the Positive Elements in the SEF</u> – This has now been superseded by the new MAT SEF.</p> <p>7.4 <u>Timings & Details of Inset Day</u> – Actioned.</p> <p>6.1 <u>New Governor Applicants</u>– AR confirmed that this had been actioned by MD.</p> <p>6.2 <u>Governor’s Skills Matrix</u> – LC to forward to AR.</p> <p>6.3 <u>Possible Make Up of LGB</u> – Actioned.</p> <p>7.3 <u>Staffing</u> – AR confirmed that this has been actioned by MD.</p> <p>13.2 <u>Link Governors</u> – To be discussed within the agenda.</p>	

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6.	2016/17 Academic Results – Implications for the New School Improvement Plan	
	<p>6.1 <u>Ofsted</u> - MK explained that a visit from Ofsted was now overdue and expected imminently. BT stated that Ofsted were currently heavily focussing on books. (AS joins the meeting).</p> <p>6.2 <u>Academic Results</u> – AK presented an overview of the data (slides attached). In summary, AR stated that attainment is down but progress rates are better than last year, and therefore whilst outcomes are good, there is more for us to do. MK commented that the results look good across the board, except for the scaled score. MK queried whether the Governors understood the data. The Governors confirmed that they did. AR stated that the Government are producing a new system for demonstrating attainment (ASP). AR outlined that training on this new system has been arranged for Head Teachers and would at some point be available for Governors.</p> <p>6.3 <u>Internal Data</u> – AR stated that the internal data showed progress and attainment is better in Years 2, 4 and 6, than in Years 1, 3 and 5. AR commented that this could be attributed to various factors including; having mixed year groups, internal under-assessing, SATS focus at the cost of Years 1 and 5, the particular cohorts and the relative inexperience of the staff. AR stated that there has been a closing of the gaps in Years 3 and 5 but less so in Year 1. AR explained that the system we use to hold data, SPTO, is good in many ways but has its limitations –it hasn't dealt with the step from Early Years to Year 1 quite correctly and isn't able to appropriately score the children with special needs in Year 1. AR stated that there is a Head Teacher's meeting on Tuesday to look at SPTO. AR stated that we have a new calculation policy for Maths and there is a workshop for parents on this being held next week. AR hopes that this will build the children's confidence in Maths and support them working in greater depth. AR explained that in terms of learning behaviours the school is looking at mindset growth, and development of an 'I can't do YET' culture.</p> <p>6.4 <u>Questions</u> - MK queried what we are doing about Years 1 and 2. AR responded that we have Phonics and Maths Mentors in place for 2 staff members and that the MAT has provided a Maths Consultant to come in and do some work in school. MK queried what AR felt the risks to be. AR responded that this was the issue of outcomes in some areas for disadvantaged children not being as good, but that we are having success in closing this gap. MK explained that in the event of an Ofsted inspection, this would be carried out by HMI Inspectors and they may not even wish to meet with the Governors. AR commented that the Governors were not expected to be data experts but should look at the SEF and be aware of the School Development Plan.</p>	
7.	Summary of Academisation Process Over the Summer and the Implications	
	<p>7.1 <u>Overview</u> – AR stated that the MAT had provided support although there had been some I.T. issues. AR explained that we have a new School Business Manager who is currently putting the budget together as the MAT financial year runs September to September. In terms of benefits, AR noted that he had received support from Alun Williams and that he had made a Maths and English Consultant available to the school as well as potential support from two Executive Head Teachers from High Littleton and Longvernal Primary Schools. SR expressed concern about the amount of work currently impacting on AR and JW the new School Business Manager. AR confirmed that this had been communicated to the MAT. KP queried the reaction to Academisation from the school community. EC responded that they had been reassured by the communication and most people were accepting that Academisation is how the world is now within education. MK added that the Trust included a number of local schools and was therefore working for the good of this community.</p>	
8.	MAT Update	
	<p>8.1 As discussed in agenda item 7.</p>	

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	<p>14.3 AR updated the Governors on the health of Chris, the school caretaker, whose recovery will be a long-term matter. In his temporary absence AR stated that the Dragonfly Trust have taken responsibility for locking and unlocking the school and the MAT are providing some support for maintenance issues. AR reported that we are looking to advertise for a temporary caretaker and will need to consider who manages the Cleaners who we took inhouse in March.</p> <p>14.4 AR stated that the opening of the new nursery, Sunbeams, has been pushed back to November 13th. A new staff member has been appointed and there are 6 children on the list so far. SR queried the numbers we need. AR responded that we needed an average of 8 children in order to break even.</p>	
15.	Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 5th October 2017	

The meeting closed at 7.30pm

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 Committee Chair / Date