

**COTHAM SCHOOL**

**Meeting of the Academy Governing Body**

**Wednesday 9 December 2015**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

<b>Governors Present:</b>		
Dora Alderson, CG	Andrew Ellis, SG	Jeremy Krause, LA
Jim Bowyer, PG (Chair)	Sandra Fryer, CG	Sujitha Subramanian, PG (late)
David Brockington, Coop	Helen Gordon, PG	David Winter, PG
Jo Butler, Headteacher	Claire Grocott, PG	David Yorath CG
Ed Carpenter, SG		
<b>In Attendance</b> (non-voting) Leanne Sowersby, Clerk Christine Ansell, Dep. Head KS3 Svetlana Bajic-Raymond, Dep. Head KS4 Marian Curran, Dir. Post 16 Mel Sperring, Business Manager	<b>Apologies</b> Jo Feather CG  <b>Absent:</b>	Governors in Post: 14/19 Quorum = 5 (1/3 rounded up) CG = Community Governor PG = Parent Governor SG = Staff Governor SMT = Senior Management Team AM = Associate Member

<b>Item</b>	<b>Minutes of Meeting</b>
1	<b>Welcome, Apologies for Absence, declarations of interest.</b> Apologies accepted. No declarations of interest.
2	<b>Annual Report and Accounts Sign-off</b> Circulated prior to the meeting. These have been approved by FPGP. Proposed JB, seconded CG, carried by show of hands. <b>Approved Annual Report and Accounts</b>
3	<b>ICT Strategic plan</b> ICT Priorities document circulated prior to the meeting. Spend of up to £250,000 was approved by FPGP. SF fed back the discussion from the FPGP meeting and recommended the spend be approved. Seconded DW. <b>Approved spend up to £250,000 for ICT improvements as detailed.</b>
4	<b>Strategic Priorities</b> There have been some developments in the city around secondary provision. A need had been expressed for a new secondary school in the East Central area. MS circulated a paper that she has produced with SF. JBu also circulated a paper detailing secondary expansion plans. The new school may be in the Temple Gate Enterprise Zone area. The Council are asking for

Initials:

bids for schools to sponsor the new school.

In order to be involved we would need to be a sponsor MAT to sponsor the new school.

MS gave some background and discussions so far.

The Regional Commissioner is not keen on approving applications for, 'empty' MATs. Would have a much stronger chance as a sponsor.

Veale Wasborough Vizards would probably charge in the region of £4500 - £5000 to support this work.

SF also gave some further background.

There is a clear steer that the new school needs to be fully comprehensive (non-selective), which will mean some other local schools are not interested in taking this on.

There is support for schools taking on this process.

There was discussion about the potential Articles and possibilities for the new school. May need to reconstitute the Governing Body.

**Q – How do senior managers feel about the proposal?** JBu was appointed knowing that this was the direction Governors wanted. Feels that Cotham has a lot to offer the city. SLT have spent a great deal of time looking at this. As a Cooperative school, we need to be outward looking.

Over 40% of children come from East Central Bristol already.

Redland Green is expanding by one of form of entry this year and one next year.

Would need to think about the impact of building a new school on this school, in terms of catchment area, student numbers etc.

There are some very experienced senior leaders on the team. JBu is very confident in their ability to manage this.

Geographic location is important.

There is also a review of Post 16 provision going on in the city and a desire to find creative solutions for future Post 16 provision.

**Q – Is there still a danger of being, 'scooped up' by another school?** This is still relevant.

It is significant that a large number of Cotham students will be closer to the potential new school site.

There is also some residential development planned for the area.

**Q – Would the enterprise zone mean we would be affected by changing policy in terms of funding?** No – this is part of a Council project. There has been additional money for the area, but the funding for the school is not contingent on this.

**Q – What is the timescale?** This is not currently very clear. This is going to Cabinet on 16 January. Would need to go ahead now. The next round of Free School applications is in March. We do need to work on this soon.

Under the pre-school presumption, the LA is not confined to the two dates per year for Free school applications.

JB asked Governors whether they wish to support the school in developing this idea.

**Agreed by show of hands to put in a sponsor academy bid.**

There may be a need for an extra-ordinary FGB meeting.

Consultation will need to start on 4 January and run for 4 weeks. DB suggested looking at using solicitors associated with the Co-op College. Suggest MSP discuss with Colin Wilkes at the appropriate time.

Initials:

**Agreed by show of hands to run consultation to become a sponsor MAT**

**Q – What happens if the overwhelming response to the consultation is negative? How do we make sure people are informed enough to make the decision?** JBu and SLT will work on putting that information together. This is about the future and safeguarding Cotham School.

The letter needs some work as it does not reflect the vision and objectives in tonight's report.

JBu will e-mail all secondary and primary Heads in Bristol as a courtesy, to say that this is what we intend to do.

The consultation letter will not mention the new school. The City Council and Secondary Heads have agreed they will not mention this.

**Q – Are we going to include other methods of communication, including public meetings etc?**

This is not of the same magnitude as becoming an Academy. The advice is that the consultation would be light touch.

JB suggested a small number of Governors could work on this with MS and JBu. This group to be decided at the appropriate time.

**Stoke Lodge Update**

There has been no decision yet. NA, MS and JBu met with the Community users of Stoke Lodge at the University to put their position to them and make clear that we are the leaseholder and intend to retain the area as school playing fields, to make it useful for community use, but that it must be made safe. There was support from the community users.

Have been asked to out in further representation to the inspector. Have set up a petition and facebook page to try and get some concrete support for retaining this as a community sport facility.

There is a meeting in February which the inspector will attend. Our representation is being drafted by Nathan Allen, SF and MSP in consultation with JBu.

**Meeting closed at 7.00pm**

**Next Meeting – 3 February 2016**

**Signed**

**Date**

Initials: