



Cotham Cooperative Academy Forum
A Great Meeting AGM
Tuesday 3rd December 2013, 7-8.30pm Dance Studio
MINUTES

1. **Opening Cotham Cooperative Academy Anthem** Composed and played by Cotham students with support from Richard Barnard.
2. **Welcome and Thanks** Students
3. **David Yorath, Chair of Governors:** Summary of the role of the Governing Body, its responsibilities and how it works with the Forum; **Becky Chapman, Parent Representative and Chair of the Forum: summary** of the role of the Forum and its membership; achievements and how it will move forward.
4. **Mervyn Wilson, Principle of the Cooperative College,** Manchester and custodian of the Rochdale Pioneers Museum, introduced the history of the Cooperative movement and Cooperation: its function, definition, why it is needed, UN and global view.
5. **Geraldine Hill-Male** introduced a film about Cotham Cooperative Academy and the Cooperative Forum's Vision statement. Becky Chapman summarised recent Forum meeting.
6. **Student Update:** their role and achievements to date including a short film about the student membership Champions, their history and activities.
7. **Staff Update:** Ross Geoghegan, Staff Representative summarised three key areas of concern - behaviour and relationships, curriculum and teaching and communication. the staff reps were communicating with members in an informal and sociable setting.
8. **A short film:** student membership achievements to date
9. **Parent/Carer Update:** Julie Nottage, Parent Forum Representative spoke of her involvement with the Coop and highlighted the diversity of range of members. She said that consultation had shown that parents, staff and students prioritise the same issues.
10. **Students described** why they had become members of the Cooperative, how they trained, and what they do now. They detailed membership activities, their work with Clevedon School, and how small changes have noticeably benefitted the students.
11. **Community Update:** Nancy Copplestone, Community Representative spoke of the community membership role.
12. **Group Discussion** on current priorities and any other questions, comments, suggestions.
13. **Mervyn Wilson closing remarks:** thanks to everyone for an innovative Forum meeting and congratulations to the school on its remarkable progress and fantastic achievements. Cotham could be a showcase for how to do things and MPs should come to similar future events or for a school tour. 'Top-down chains of command' are clearly not the only way to organize "Well done."
14. Final performance of electronic music from Post-16 students.

PLENARY FROM GROUP DISCUSSION

Role of Cooperative Forum

- There is a need for more clarity about what should be directed at the Forum and the relationship between the Forum and the school.

Membership

- Colstons Primary School is becoming a Cooperative, which means new Year 7 students and parents will know and understand about the Cooperative structure.
- The community group is the next big step. The Cooperative Forum supports sitting and talking informally. Work with the community should go two ways, not just the school taking from them.
- What about people who attend evening classes at the school – could they be included?
- How will representatives represent and communicate with constituent groups?

Communication

- Raise awareness so parents know who to talk to about problems that arise and how to communicate people's concerns
- The way students brought their achievements to life was helpful. Greater visualisation could be utilised elsewhere.
- Cooperative Forum and Cooperative communications need to be translated to get them out to wider range of people
- Links are needed between the Cooperative Forum Vision, Ethos of school and Cooperative Values.

Curriculum learning

- There were passionate views about science in the curriculum, which languages were taught and how, and establishing better links with universities.
- The Cooperative business model might also connect with the school curriculum
- Wish for more links between Cotham School and universities

School environment

The lockers issue has not been entirely resolved – they are not big enough - they are shared, lack of clarity about how to access them.