



Cotham Co-operative Academy Forum

Tuesday 1 December 7-9.30pm

Library

Minutes

Attendees:

Parent/Carer Reps: Becky Chapman (BC), Emma Gibbins, Emma Wheeler, Gareth Edmunds (GE), Jo Eades (8.45pm)

Staff Reps: Abbie Allender, Beth Aiken, Louise Arnold, Ross Geoghegan (RG), Gary Hardwick

Community Reps: Nancy Coplestone (NC), Ken Smith

Student Reps: Theo Davies (TD), Oli Wheeler (OL), Izzi Triggs (IT)

Alumni Reps: Jeremy Birch

School Governors: Jim Bowyer (JB), Claire Grocott (CG)

Also present: Caroline Francis (SLT), Helen Ashcroft, Jo Butler (Headteacher), Nicki Warne, Dan Kushlick (parent)

Apologies: Ben Jose, Josephine Brock, Simon Wilks, Adam Finn, Lynda Rooke, Dave Martin, Rose Dayan

	Actions
1 Welcome to all, introduce visitors and apologies.	
RG asked everyone to introduce themselves. BC expressed the need for written updates in advance of the agenda if possible.	
2 Any Other Business:	
Dan Kushlick wanted to raise the issue of the lanyard policy. JB to talk about community governors.	
3 Agree Minutes of last meeting:	
Agreed by show of hands.	
4 Elections to Chair and Vice-chair	
Becky Chapman was elected to Chair with no opposition Abbie Allender was elected as Vice-Chair with no opposition	
5 Key updates on issues from constituency groups	

Parent/carers	
<p>Focus on discipline.</p> <p>Parents welcome the new renewed focus however felt the need for clarity to make sure there wasn't any confusion about policy.</p> <p>Some parent reps felt that there was a disproportionate sanction to the crime.</p> <p>Parent reps request they are involved in the review of policy and are able to comment on it before it is published.</p> <p>Parent reps wish to draw a line under it and go forward into the new term with clarity on sanction, escalation and communication.</p> <p>Dan Kushlick mentioned that there are a group of parents who are incensed by the communication from the head.</p> <p>No one is against the need for discipline but communication needs to be better.</p> <p>Jo Butler – Made it clear that it is not a new policy as it has been in place since 2014. There has been a new renewed focus on following the policy.</p> <p>She is responsible for the welfare and safety of 1,500 students.</p> <p>There is no new policy and there are no new sanctions. She has simply reinforced them at the request of staff.</p> <p>Staff feedback is that teachers can now focus on teaching and learning.</p> <p>She takes great exception to the slanderous tone of emails and communications from some parents.</p> <p>TD – agreed that it is in the policy however the policy is not easy to access</p> <p>CF - pointed out that it is in the planner.</p> <p>AA - reiterated that the feedback from staff is overwhelmingly positive about lanyards and the new R.E.P. As tutors and teachers can get on with their job.</p> <p>JB – looking at the behaviour and rewards policy as it is out of date. Have experimented with lending lanyards but this has not improved the situation.</p> <p>GE – it is not the policy itself but the way it is applied. Parents want more communication and involvement.</p>	
Staff	
<p>RG introduced the new staff reps. Beth Aiken, Ben Jose and Gemma Henderson.</p> <p>Staff wellbeing – JB looking into how to make the staffroom a nicer place.</p> <p>Staff voice – trailing new staff voice sheets through CTL meetings.</p>	
Alumni	
<p>We need access to the email list.</p> <p>We need to be more diverse in the Forum</p>	

Governors	
<p>JB - We are moving into a different stage as Ofsted are having a different view on governors.</p> <p>As Jo Butler said the governors are about strategy.</p>	
6 Jo Butler	
<p>School Strategic Priorities 2015-2018 (behaviour and rewards policy review/ mindset approaches being taken by the school to improve students' resilience, effectiveness as learners).The vision for the school</p> <p>Tried to show a video of Kate Tempest's 'Teens Speech'. Link: http://bit.ly/1vIHTRT "I have a resolute refusal to accept a child's context as a determinant of their academic and social success"</p> <p>The school context is different as the number of PP, FSM and BME has significantly increased and the school context will continue to change. It is about making decisions for the greater good of the students as whole and for the greater good of the school.</p> <p>The Vision is split into 3 components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The values of the School • View of the future/ context of the school • Attempts to right current wrongs <p>This is all underpinned by moral values Jo felt that we need to look at where the co-op values fit into the vision.</p> <p>Strategic priorities – three-year plan Jo summed it up as: Strategy = Envision it, Articulate it, Make it happen through operational areas of activity. Governors – look at strategic priorities SLT – Create and carry out operational plan</p> <p>Q – Are any of the areas on the strategic plan statutory? There are 4 key areas that Ofsted look at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership • Teaching and Learning • Personal Development • Student Outcomes <p>Governors and JB are responsible for Resources.</p> <p>Bristol Secondary School Sufficiency update There is a significant lack of secondary school places due to improvements in secondary schools in Bristol. By 2019 Bristol is 18-20 forms of entry too short</p>	<p>Look at video of youtube if you have time</p> <p>Sign petition</p>

<p>Governors and SLT are looking at developing our 'brand' across the city and looking at options to expand.</p> <p>Stoke Lodge We can't use it as we can't fence it securely which is a safeguarding issue. We are lobbying various individuals. There is a meeting at the start of February. Instructions will come from JB. Petition can be found here: http://bit.ly/1laYODA</p>	<p>JB to give instructions about parents writing letters.</p> <p>Simon Wilks to co-ordinate written representation from parents.</p>
7 Enrichment Fund	
<p>BC – The fund was donations from parents and alumni and has now been wound up.</p> <p>We are moving towards a grant scheme where the money in the fund can be applied for.</p> <p>We need a working party to finalise the grant scheme.</p> <p>GH, TD and Jeremy Birch agreed to be part of the working party.</p>	<p>Working party to meet and discuss (GH, TD and Jeremy Birch).</p>
8 School fundraising strategy	
<p>We don't have a fundraising strategy.</p> <p>We need fundraising expertise from the parent sector. People who have good strategic expertise in raising money from private sources such as trusts, foundations, donors and sponsors to help us build a fundraising plan.</p>	<p>Parent/carer reps to appeal for expertise</p>
9 Website and re-branding	
<p>Jo feels that at the moment there are too many logos and values attached to Cotham School and this needs to be a focus of rebranding.</p> <p>Parent reps feel that there is too much jargon on the website.</p> <p>Companies are submitting proposals – there will be a long list. Members of the Forum to be involved in creating a shortlist.</p>	<p>1 member from each constituency to be involved in the decision making process.</p>
10 AGM	
<p>Q – How do we structure the 20 minute brainstorming at the end of the AGM?</p> <p>BC – Ask for feedback on paper</p> <p>JB – ask specific question like 'what has changed since last time'</p> <p>RG - The focus should be on finding people with fundraising skills.</p>	
11 Reflection next meeting and AOB	

JB - There are 3 vacancies for Community governors. If you know anyone please let them know.	Read before next Forum meeting
Handout of Working Group to improve communication between Coop Forum and FGB – second draft	

FORUM MEETINGS

These are the Forum dates for next year. In the library.

- Wednesday 27th Jan
- Tuesday 8th March
- Thursday 5th May
- Thursday 30th June