

GLADSTONE ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL
"Learning, caring, growing together"

MEETING OF THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE GOVERNING BODY

DATE: Tuesday 1st November 2016

TIME: 6.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Mr Keith Wright (Headteacher)

Mr T Sulman

Mr Richard Adams

Miss V Lewis (Clerk)

Ms Jane Pepper

Ms Jane Malpas

Mrs Helen Halliday

MINUTES

1. Election of Committee Chairperson

Clerk asked for expressions of interest / nominations for a Chairperson for the committee. RA had been the Chairperson for the previous year. Governors asked if he would be interested in continuing the role and RA advised that he would be happy to do so if there was no other interest. JP proposed RA and said that he had done a great job the previous academic year. There were no dissensions and no other interest. RA took over Chairperson duties for the meeting and the Committee from this point forward.

Action: None Required

2. Welcome

RA welcomed governors to the meeting.

Action: None Required

3. Apologies for absence; consider acceptance of apologies

There were no apologies received though Clerk had once again not heard from Miss Paul who was not present. Other governors had suggested they thought perhaps she had resigned by Clerk has not received a formal notification. It was decided to send a friendly letter to Miss Paul to clarify the situation.

Action: Draft letter to Miss Paul

By: Clerk/KW

4. Confidentiality

No items on the Agenda were found to be confidential in nature.

Action: None Required

5. Declaration of Interest in any Agenda item

There were no declarations of interest in any item on the Agenda.

Action: None Required

6. Minutes of the last School Improvement Meeting 19.07.16

The Minutes from the meeting on 19.07.16 were presented. Proposed by TS and seconded by JP. Minutes were signed by RA and returned to the Clerk for filing as per procedure.

Action: Minutes from meeting 19.07.16 to be filed as per procedure **By: Clerk**

7. Matters arising not covered by the agenda

9. SIDP: vernacular changes etc have been made and the document recirculated.

10. Adviser ROVs: there are a range of Advisers visiting school this term and all of their ROVs will be circulated together once received.

11. SEF: KW circulated a preliminary version in June but will send an updated one in due course once information from the recently released (28.10.16) Ofsted Data Dashboard has been incorporated.

12. SEND: the department is currently in the process of undergoing some changes; Mrs Viney is moving to a new post at Northstead so KW is due to meet with Mrs James regarding the development of the team. Teachers holding lower need pupil support meetings is currently being rolled out.

Action: None Required

8. SIDP Update

All spelling/wording changes identified previously have been actioned and KW has updated objectives by colour coding progress made. RA asked how governors can help with the tracking and achievement of objectives. KW said that at the full meeting on 22.11.16 a governor could be assigned to each area who can then delve deeper into the specifics before feeding back to the rest of the governing body periodically.

Key Aim 1: Phonics

The Scarborough Pledge has commissioned Alison Bailey to assist with Phonics progress across the town and she is hopefully going to be in GRPS on Thursdays. The Scarborough Pledge has also identified Literacy as a key area of focus for improvement and possible spending of some of the DfE £6m Opportunities Funding.

Key Aim 3: Maths

Following significant investigation into learning schemes school has decided to buy into the 'Maths No Problem' Singapore Maths system. Both the DfE and LA support the system and the proven, sustainable benefits it has shown. Singapore Maths is not 'just another' initiative or programme, but a system/way of learning which will change how and what is taught. The school is being given funding for five KS1 teachers to attend 3 day training 14th – 16th November. They will then cascade training down other staff so that the system can be implemented at the youngest stage and feed through to maximise benefit. GRPS is also liaising with Ebor Academy in Filey regarding rollout across different key stages.

The scheme promotes that all children are taught a single objective at the same time but use varied and different methods in order to solve problems at their own level. They progress from their own individual starting point. Children learn the concept (why they've done what they've done) and THEN the methods (how they've done it) rather than the other way around (as is traditional), thus allowing them to apply the concept to any level of the same problem.

Some staff are understandably reluctant but hopefully the gains will quickly change people's mind-sets. Y6 staff are optimistic that the system will feed through to end of KS2 with rapid, positive results and the Maths Advisory service is assisting with this. JP said that training for Early Years providers is being run on Asian Maths, so hopefully this will help the style of Maths feed through at the earliest level.

Key Aim 4: Science

A Science twilight training session has been arranged for 14.11.16 being led by the LA Key Adviser.

Data / Results

The Ofsted Data Dashboard has only just been released and KW is still in the process of absorbing the information fully. Once it has been fed through into the SEF it can be further discussed, analysed and reported on. School achieved above the floor level in Progress in Reading, Writing and Maths however below the floor in Attainment (GRPS was 20% behind the national in attainment). This obviously needs considerable work and the new schemes being implemented such as Singapore Maths and the Reciprocal Reading plan are key indicators that school knows the problem and is working to resolve it. This year's target is aspirational at 70% (5% above national), and whilst it may not be achieved KW feels it is important to aim high.

Positives from the Data Dashboard include: -

- 52% More Able Disadvantaged (key target group) are achieving Deeper Understanding in Reading nationally; for GRPS this is 60% (above national)
- 55% Disadvantaged are achieving Deeper Understanding in Writing nationally; for GRPS this is 100%. This was only one pupil but this can be translated onward – something is being done right!
- In Maths 100% of applicable GRPS More Able Disadvantaged pupils (4 pupils) achieved Deeper Understanding, but again this shows things are moving in the right direction.

Fischer Family Trust data shows that EYFS attainment is down slightly but this cohort has had some significant issues. Their progress and attainment is still solid.

KW advised that he is attending training on the Data Dashboard 25.11.16 and said that once he has done this and had chance to fully explore the data he would be keen and willing to hold a workshop with governors to full interrogate the data, particularly in terms of the SIDP. It was proposed to arrange this date at the next full meeting on 22.11.16.

Action: Ask governors to consider updated SIDP and the areas they might wish to be responsible for investigating further before discussion at the next meeting on 22.11.16 By: Clerk

Action: Agenda Item for 22.11.16: set date for governor training / work shop session re data (to be held before end Autumn Term) By: Clerk

9. Governor Training / Note of Learning Activities / Visits

Clerk had circulated a list of training dates to governors and advised that if they wished to book any training / seminars to get in touch. Clerk was asked to book 'Complaints Training for Schools' 28.3.17 for JM, KW and HH.

RA had visited 10.10.16 with a focus on Maths, Pupil Premium and Phonics. His report will be circulated and presented at the next meeting on 22.11.16 but he did briefly comment that he had been very impressed by the independence and genuine enjoyment KS1 children seemed to have regarding their learning.

JP had met with KW re Early Years and tracking. She is meeting with Sarah Stuart on 7.11.16 to discuss transition, contribution to long term progress, end of key stage moderation/attainment and how this can be translatable to other settings in order to reinforce feeder links. She will feed back at a governing body meeting in due course.

10. Correspondence

No correspondence received to be recorded at this time.

Action: None Required

11. Policies to Approve & Adopt: - Single Equalities Scheme

This policy is important as Ofsted expects the governing body to be aware of the protected characteristics and how the scheme applies. The document is a North Yorkshire template which has been adapted to represent GRPS however the substantive document requires input and further work from members of the governing body in order to ensure it adequately supports all stakeholders. It was therefore proposed to adopt the scheme as a basis and then for a small working party of 3 governors to work on the Action Plan portion of the document. JP proposed this plan, JM seconded and all others present agreed, subject to some identified typo and wording changes. Setting up of the working party has been put on the agenda for the full meeting on 22.11.16.

Action: None Required.

12. A.O.B.

The date for the February SI Committee meeting was erroneously scheduled for during half term (21.2.17). This was rearranged to 28.2.17.

RA said that he would be keen for the SI Committee to have a more in depth discussion re Pupil Premium once Mrs Jenkinson Assistant Head has finished her audit. It was provisionally agreed to have this on the agenda for the 28.2.17 meeting.

RA said he will be coming into school in the near future to hold a refresher assembly/session re the Children's University scheme as there was some confusion at the end of last school year.

Action: Forward updated list of meeting dates to governors

By: Clerk

Meeting Closed at: 8.35pm

Signed (Chair) _____ **Date** _____