THRUSSINGTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL
MINUTES OF FULL GOVERNING BODY MEETING
Held at School on Thursday, 10 December 2015 at 3:00 pm

Action

FGB/15/4/00 Present
Janet Heath (Chair) (JH), Patrick Rendall (Vice Chair) (PR), Liz Moore (Headteacher) (LM), Diana Clarke (DC), Sarah Whitehead (SW), Rev. Lorna Brabin-Smith, Angela North-Rose (ANR) and Ryan O'Neill (RO)

Rosie Thompson Clerk (RT)

Opening Prayer LBS opened the meeting with a prayer

FGB/15/4/01 Apologies for Absence were accepted from Frances Rendall, Karl Donaghey, Rachel Lehner-Mear and Nick Moore

FGB/15/4/02 Declaration of business and Pecuniary Interests – None

FGB/15/4/03 Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on the 18 November 2015

It was AGREED that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting. They were then signed by the Chair.

FGB/15/4/04 Matters arising from the minutes and Action Points not covered in this Agenda - There were no matters arising.

OVERSEEING FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

FGB/15/4/05 Report from Pay Committee (Recommendations to be approved)

The recommendation from Pay Committee for the 1% pay increase and the extra payment for the SENCO teacher, which was agreed nationally and in the budget, was approved by the Governing Body. The headteacher’s performance review has yet to go to the Finance Committee, this will come to the next FGB following their meeting.

FGB/15/4/06 Report from Finance Committee (Annual Accounts to be approved)

Last year the External Audit highlighted several weaknesses arising from the under performance of the LA bursary service. These had been rectified during the year. This year there were only two low risk weaknesses recorded, which were already being addressed. Thanks were sent to the Financial Adviser for the work done to achieve this. Clear and Lane reported no items of concern. Attendance at meetings had been quite high.

The Annual Accounts for year ending 31 August 2015 were circulated prior to the meeting.

Page 21 showed net current assets to carry forward of £23,981. This was less than the amount of carry forward suggested by the Accountants (one month’s expenditure, approx £34,000), in part owing to the invoicing problems discovered last year and also because pupil numbers were recorded in January 2014 as 53, but the actual NOR in September 2014 was 70.

Page 29. Supply teacher costs had increased - this was due to corrections in budget coding from last year.

Finance committee was pleased with the way accounts had been dealt with and recommended that the accounts be approved. Approval was given by the Full governing Body.

Q. The fourth column shows income and expenditure. Why is more expended than income received?

This is due to the numbers on roll and the problems experienced with the bursary service. The position is improved for 2016. Little can be done with resources expended. The school is looking at the contracts coming up. The Finance Committee is very focused on what can be achieved.

Appendix of weaknesses

This document was circulated. Item 1 The private account to be pulled in with the regular accounts - This will be actioned during the
Spring term 2016.
Item 2 Details of Members and Trustees to go on the website - This is in hand.

FGB/15/4/ 07 Other reports to be presented
It had just been announced that Lorna Brabin-Smith, our vicar and ex-officio School Governor, would be leaving the parish at the end of February, to take up a new position in the Diocese of Lincoln.

FGB/15/4/ 08 Documents received by the Chair/Chair’s Action
The answers to the questions on radicalisation had been typed up and were signed off by the Chair.

FGB/15/4/ 09 Items for next agenda
- Headteachers's written Report
- Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) – bid
- Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) - update

FGB/15/4/ 10 Any other business agreed as urgent
The Headteacher has attended a series of meetings which has included: Headteachers from schools within STEP; the Regional Schools Commissioner; a communication with the head of education of the Church of England. The purpose has been to seek clarity with regards to Church schools forming / becoming part of a MAT. The position with regards to Church schools is set out in the DfE model. Aided schools are in a unique position in so far as there is a stipulation of Church membership on the Board of a MAT. This position has caused difficulties within STEP – community schools wish to proceed with the formation of a MAT which does not represent the Aided schools’ model and have made some progress towards creating their structure. A meeting has been planned between the Headteachers of the four Church schools and the Leicester Diocesan Director of Education in January, 2016, with a view to exploring the situation and discussing potential options. An amendment to the Education and Adoption Bill is expected to include academies within the definition of “coasting schools”. This has relevance to the MAT structure. Coasting schools will be vulnerable and could be taken over by a MAT.

Q What is the way forward?
LM has approached the head of education for the Church of England. The Church has a way of influencing numbers on the board of a MAT. Thrussington is waiting for the Board of Education to come back to them. If we can influence the community schools on how they go forward we may be able to join them later if not to begin with. The situation is still not clear.

Q. Is the Diocese as concerned as the schools?
The national policy is for schools to form or to become part of a MAT. This was endorsed by the Regional Schools Commissioner. The ultimate decision with regards to a school being taken over will lie with the R.S.C.

Q. What are the options?
A discussion followed with governors raising the following ideas for further debate:

1. 4 schools form a new MAT with the new C of E school yet to be built.
2. Form another Diocesan MAT with others.
3. Stay as we are working collaboratively with the 4 schools. (The teaching school stays as it is for the next 3 years).
4. Join an existing MAT.

There are advantages and disadvantages of all of these options.

Q. Will the Diocese be taking a lead?
No they have already said no. LM has asked for a list of other
schools thought from the Diocese.
It was agreed that further discussion on this needed to take place
with a sub group of the FGB. ANR, DC, LBS, LM JH and PR to meet
on 15 December 1:30 - 2:30 pm at the Vicarage.

CIF update - this is to be based on last year's bid and has to be
submitted by 16 December.
The website application has been filled in, waiting for Y M D Boon
who have asked additional queries.

A qualified opinion has been sought on assets due to the property
being owned by the Diocese.

Portakabin update - plans have come back with regard to this and
information on what needs submitting in the planning application.

**FGB and Committee meeting dates for year**

**FGB**
Wednesday, 13 January 2016
Wednesday 9 March 2016
Wednesday, 4 May 2016
Wednesday, 22 June 2016
Wednesday, 6 July 2016 - Academy Budget + Planning

**Finance:**
Monday, 14 December 2015 at 5.30 pm
Monday, 25 January 2016 at 5.30 pm
Monday, 29 February 2016 at 5.30 pm
Monday, 21 March 2016 at 5.30 pm
Monday, 25 April 2016 at 5.30 pm
Monday, 20 June 2016 at 5.30 pm
Monday, 4 July 2016 at 5.30 pm

**SH&S**
TBA - meeting dates need to be rearranged from Mondays

**C&S**
Friday, 11 December 2015, 4.30 pm
Monday 25 January at 7 pm
Wednesday, 2 March 2016, 7 pm
Monday, 23 May 2016, 7 pm

**Date and Time of Next Meeting**
Wednesday, 13 January 2016

**Confidentiality of Business** - reminder
The meeting closed at 4:50pm.

Signed........................................................................

Date........................................................................