

Education South West AGM

Date: 1st February 2018

Time: 17.00

Venue: Coombeshead Academy

Present: Lyndsay Chell (LC), John Pike (JP), Leon Winston (LW), Sue Clarke (SC), Peter Di Giuseppe (PDG), James Clark (JC), Roger Pope (RP), Matthew Shanks (MS), Jeremy Fothergill (JF), Simon Gotch (SG), Hannah Smith (HS), Barrie Taylor (BT), Lindsay Yelland (LY), Nick Banwell (NB) David Potter (DP)
In attendance: Stuart White
Apologies: Steve Tucker (ST), Nick Grodhunce (NG)
Notes: Jodie Carson (JCa)

Apologies

Noted from ST and NG

AGM1. To receive a report on educational achievements 2016-7

- I. MS welcomed questions on report.
- II. BT asked if MS is comfortable that actions for Teign and Coombeshead are having an effect. MS reassured they were but the summer results will be the ultimate test. Teign leadership is now good and systems and procedures to provide quality education are in place. Coombeshead has now corrected its mistake of using leadership systems that were over complicated – MS monitoring progress to ensure it continues to improve. Both schools have welcomed ESW support.
- III. BT asked if the redundancies have affected morale at Coombeshead. MS said that the redundancies will not have had a huge effect on morale because staff are aware that other schools have also gone through redundancy programmes.
- IV. MS confirmed Ofsted is due for both Teign and Coombeshead
- V. NB said that the feedback from Kingsteignton parents has been exceptionally positive following the appointment of the new Headteacher at Teign and that primary relationships are now very good
- VI. LC asked whether lead practitioners have been appointed – MS said that shortlisting is now complete and that interviews will take place after half term
- VII. JC reiterated the atmosphere at Teign has markedly improved since the appointment of new Headteacher
- VIII. RP said that both Teign and Coombeshead remain high on the risk register and good Ofsted inspections will be a huge hurdle crossed. Both have small and fresh leadership teams which adds an element of risk.
- IX. RP said ESW has proved very positive in enabling to move the schools forward
- X. MS announced Head of School for Christow has been appointed today- Elise Redman. Nick Banwell remains Executive Headteacher

AGM2. To receive a report on financial position for the year ended 31 August 2017

- I. SW confirmed financial accounts are on the webpage
- II. SW presented AGM2
- III. SW confirmed to JP that the heading to the first column of the table in section to should be 1 September 2017.
- IV. LW asked if there are any significant concerns financially. SW said there are challenges going forward. Reserves of £248,000 are small for a Trust of our size. We need to find £2 million of savings to

balance the budgets. A lot of work has been done, and savings of £1.5 million have been identified. There is £500,000 to find.

- V. SW said that the potential changes to the pay spine for support staff may give rise to a big increase in wage costs as the local authority starts moving towards national living wage of £9 an hour by 2019.
- VI. PDG said this is still very much a work in progress. Finance committee meeting following the AGM will address the challenges.
- VII. SG said that a recent article in The Observer highlighted that seven high performing academies have larger deficits than ours. The creation of ESW has enabled us to pool resources and use an experienced finance team to make the savings we have identified. There have been maximum savings with minimum impact.
- VIII. RP said that this is a double challenge – balancing the revenue budget and retaining reserves.
- IX. JP queried how Coombeshead is ever going to sort its reserve budget – RP said this would be done over time. If Coombeshead was standalone, the ESFA would have been consulted
- X. LC asked how the schools feel individually about the cuts they are being asked to make- MS said that ESW have worked incredibly hard to explain this is not just our problem. Staff are disgruntled with finances in our schools but a recent survey showed only 3% were not proud to work at the school they do. MS said having the financial information in black and white from SW has been exceptionally helpful in explaining the position to staff.

AGM3. To receive a report on Governance

- I. PDG said we are offering valuable training to governors. The first three sessions have been very well received.
- II. Members would like to be invited to governor training- JCa to ensure invites are sent going forward
- III. Governors' standards –Adrian Hines has emailed Chairs of LGBs and is developing the project. MS said the aim is to standardise and align performance of governing bodies for a more cohesive approach.
- IV. MS said that the presentation of data has been standardised for Teign by DP to make it more user friendly which would be a good tool to use across all LGBs

ACTIONS: JCa to ensure invites are sent to members for governor training going forward

DP to share data information with LGB chairs

AGM4. To receive a report on the risk register

- I. RP outlined AGM4 and welcomed questions
- II. JP said this was a very helpful document and requested more time to delve in to specifics. RP and PDG to meet with members to discuss
- III. Members agreed this was a much better format and thanked RP for putting this together

ACTIONS: RP and PDG to meet with members to discuss the risk register in more detail

AGM5. To receive a report on plans and progress for the current year

- I. Questions were welcomed on AGM5
- II. LW requested more information regarding the UTC. PDG said that the joining process has started and due diligence is being undertaken. The whole process is likely to be concluded in time for September 2018. RP outlined formal process for joining ESW to Members. JP queried how the UTC will affect the governance of the Board, RP said they have asked for a Director on the Board which has been agreed in principle; however, a skills audit will be carried out before an appointment is made. JP informed that the Members have already nominated their 8 directors and therefore additional directors would be co-opted by the Board.
- III. LW queried whether the UTC had looked elsewhere, RP said they had however ESW was chosen
- IV. RP said that alignment is a priority; good practice should be shared across schools which in turn supports the workload agenda. Impact is being felt positively by staff in schools and the ESW purpose is beginning to become clear

SC joined the meeting at 17.45

AGM6. Appointment of auditors

- i. Members agreed to support the recommendation to continue with Francis Clarke with the Board to agree their remuneration.

A. Giuseppe

