

Walford Nursery and Primary School - Board of Governors - Meeting held via zoom -
Chair of Governors Impact Statement - October 14th 2020 - Paul Deneen OBE JP DL

1. As this was the Annual General Meeting of the Governors, Paul Deneen said it was a great privilege to be re-elected as Chair of Governors. He said he was delighted to note that Emma Parkes was also re-elected as Vice Chair of Governors.

2. The Chair welcomed Victoria Darrington as the new parent Governor. Governors also considered the co-option of Neil Vanstone onto the Board of Governors. It was reported that Neil was a qualified building surveyor. After discussion, it was agreed to appoint Neil as a governor. Both Victoria and Neil will bring a wealth of experience to the governors. They will also be able to support key projects including the nursery provision (Victoria) and the Health, Safety and Premises, including current considerations involving Covid-19 restrictions (Neil). In addition, there will be an agreed programme of induction, and Emily (Crew) agreed to mentor Victoria, and George (Smith) agreed to mentor Neil.

3. The Governors also updated their involvement in the committees and panels. Dates of meetings were also agreed. The Clerk will update information on the school website in relation to governor information and their declarations of personal and business interests. All governors supported the National Governance Code of Conduct.

4. The Headteacher reported that considering the ongoing concerns about Covid-19, the school term had started very well. Recent refurbishment work undertaken at the school over the summer has further enhanced the learning environment. There is some additional work yet to be completed in the school hall, involving new sports equipment, which will be undertaken in the near future. It was encouraging to note that nursery numbers continue to grow, despite the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. All governors will familiarise themselves with DfE guidance regarding 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' and the school's recently reviewed policy for Child Protection and Safeguarding. Updated safeguarding training will be arranged for governors shortly.

6. Paul Deneen, the joint Chair of the Pupils, Personnel and Community Committee, reported that all teaching staff had been in place at the beginning of term. A discussion regarding support staff will take place in the near future.

7. Charlie Lawson, the Chair of the School Business Committee, reported that all was well with the budget and finances. He will receive a further update from the School Business Manager shortly, in order to prepare for the next committee meeting which will take place later in the term. Charlie will provide an updated report at the next governing board meeting.

8. Governors agreed to set up a Health, Safety, Security, Premises and Covid-19 Working Party in order to review its policies in relation to the Covid-19 risk assessment, cyber-crime and the school premises. A meeting will take place after half term and a report will be made at the next full governors meeting.

8. Emma Parkes, the Chair of Standards, Teaching and Learning Committee, updated the meeting on the current situation regarding the work of the committee. Some new policies on remote learning/home learning, relationship education and PSHE, and child protection and safeguarding had been drafted for governor approval. Sarah Somers, the School Improvement Adviser (and an Ofsted Inspector), will provide an update and advice on pupil performance and the curriculum. Sarah will discuss this with the Headteacher and report on this at the meeting in December.

9. Governors also agreed to review both its SEND provision and its Pupil Premium. Emily and Paul will arrange to discuss key issues with the Headteacher and school team after half term - details will be reported back at the next meeting.

10. There was discussion regarding governor training and development. Information and briefings from the Local Authority, Herefordshire Governor's Association and the National Governance Association (NGA), together with its magazine and weekly briefing will provide governors with updated information. This term, updated safeguarding training will also be provided for all governors and Induction training will be provided for new governors. Online courses are also available from the NGA. In addition, the Clerk will continue to advise governors of any local training courses available.

11. The PTFA continues to go from strength to strength. It was encouraging to note the ongoing excellent support received from parents and carers which is greatly appreciated.

12. Governors continue to act as a 'critical friend' to the school. At each meeting governors offer appropriate 'support and challenge' and make recommendations and decisions, as required. There is a professional working relationship between the school and governors/governance.

14. The Chair also thanked the Clerk to Governors for ably putting together all of the relevant paperwork in readiness for the meeting.

15. The Chair finally thanked Louise George, Head Teacher, and the Senior Leadership Team for their continued dedication and commitment at this very difficult time. The Headteacher is ably supported by her superb team. Governors wished to thank them for the excellent work they do in supporting all pupils and also for their daily commitment to enhancing and enriching pupils' educational experiences. Everything undertaken on a daily basis underpins the key message from the school's mission statement, 'Learning and Enjoyment... Every Child, Every Opportunity, Every Day!'