

Walford Nursery and Primary School - Chair of Governors - Impact Statement regarding the Board of Governors Meeting held on Wednesday 13th May 2020 - Paul Deneen OBE JP DL.

1. Zoom Virtual Meeting - In relation to governance of the school, the Governors held its meeting virtually by Zoom. This was as a result of the government 'lockdown advice,' not to meet in small or large groups.

2. Coronavirus/Covid 19 - Discussion on school closure and about the potential opening of the school for Years R, 1 And 6 for the 1st June 2020.

The Headteacher updated the Governors in relation to all key issues around the unprecedented situation and Covid 19. Governors discussed the work undertaken by all staff at the school in supporting pupils and parents/carers at this difficult time.

Key worker and vulnerable children had continued to attend school and were being supported at school. A discussion took place in relation to the potential opening date for the school for Year R, Year 1 and Year 6. There then followed a discussion on the potential opening date for these year groups of June 1st. The Headteacher informed the Governors that she would be discussing the situation with local Headteacher colleagues, as well as taking professional advice.

In addition Ms George would be reviewing the 5 government tests. This included the scientific advice, as well as the progress of the test and trace programme, and the R level and its number which was currently evidenced as being just below 1 at 0.7 to 0.9 and was at a high level. Ms George would also take into consideration any other relevant information at hand locally on the issue and level of Covid 19, before determining the school opening date for the respective year groups.

Concerns by a Ross-on-Wye GP had also been noted in both the Hereford Times and the Ross Gazette. Governors would be further updated once all of the relevant information was available.

The Headteacher said the decision would have to be made within incredibly tight timescales. The time frame had been agreed by the government/DFE. This was over a half term period, which was also unhelpful.

The Risk Assessment paperwork from the local authority had originally involved completion of 47 pages, though this had since been reduced to 20 pages. This would focus on preparation and planning and day to day issues involving children and staff and the potential return to school of year R, Year 1 and Year 6. The Risk Assessment would be reviewed by a panel of professionals at the Herefordshire Council.

The Headteacher would update the Governors as soon as all relevant information was at hand. The Government was not finalising comments till

the Thursday of half term, and this was very late in the day. The Headteacher would also discuss the matter with local colleagues on the Thursday as well.

The Governors were aware of the operational management issue of the potential opening of the school. When a letter was prepared, Governors would be asked for input, though there would be a tight timescale. The decision about opening was for the Headteacher. Parents/carers and pupils would be kept informed of all key decisions. A considerable amount of information was being included on the school website which was accessible and was for all.

3. Pupils, Personnel and Community - Committee - Update

Staffing levels were in place in readiness for the Autumn term. Mrs Nicholls would be on maternity leave and an appointment had been made to cover her maternity absence.

4. School Business Committee - Update

The School Financial Value Standard (STVS) had been completed. This is a comprehensive document on finances and financial planning involving the school and the governors. The budget for 2020/21 had also been considered and this was recommended for approval. It was approved by the full governors.

5. Standards, Teaching and Learning - Update

A full discussion had taken place about the quality and support being offered to all pupils who were working from home, so that the approach was fully inclusive for all. This included ICT equipment for any pupil who did not have access to this at home. The Headteacher updated the meeting on the superb work being undertaken by staff at this very difficult time. All pupils had received individual support and the feedback from parents/carers had been excellent.

6. Conclusion and thanks to all involved with the school.

Governors were continually being updated on key issues and governance via the national Governance Association and its magazine. On-line courses were also available and the Clerk made governors aware of local training and development opportunities. The Chair took the opportunity of thanking all of the Governors for their commitment and dedication and for their input at the zoom virtual meeting.

The Chair also thanked the Clerk to Governors for ably putting together all of the relevant paperwork in readiness for the meeting. The Chair finally thanked Louise George, Head Teacher and the SLTeam for their dedication and commitment at a very difficult time. The Headteacher was being ably supported by her superb team. Governors wished to thank them for the excellent work in supporting pupils and also for all that they did to enhance and support pupils and home learning and the key worker and vulnerable pupils who were at school at this very difficult time. Everything was being undertaken to aim to continue the key message from the school's mission statement of 'Learning and Enjoyment...Every Child, Every

Opportunity, Every Day.' Though it was noted that on this occasion and for the majority of pupils this was being achieved via home schooling, with the excellent help of parents/carers, together with superb support of class teachers and the school.

Walford Nursery and Primary School - Chair of Governors - Impact Statement regarding the Special Board of Governors Meeting held by Zoom on Thursday 4th June 2020 - Paul Deneen OBE JP DL.

- a) The Head Teacher gave an update on the situation regarding the possible return of pupils for Year R, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Ms George provided a detailed and thoughtful update on all key issues regarding Covid 19, and whether the school would re-open, and if so at what date?
 - b) Governors took the opportunity to ask questions about the situation. There was a detailed discussion on the health and safety and wellbeing of staff and pupils. Governors felt reassured that all key issues had been addressed, and that a programme of work had been developed which supported the return of respective year groups for Monday 8th June. Parents/cares had provided excellent feedback on the work and support for all pupils which it had provided for home learning. It was also noted that the school had been open since March for pupils of key workers, and for vulnerable pupils.
 - c) There were no issues of concern noted.
 - d) The Chair and the Governor Lead Member for Health and Safety would also meet at a later date with the HT to discuss an update on key issues. An update report on the health and safety and wellbeing for pupils/staff and the return to school would be provided at the next Governors meeting in July.
 - e) The Governors unanimously endorsed the recommendation of the Head Teacher that the school would re-open for the respective year groups on Monday 8th June.
 - f) All other pupils would be supported via the home learning programme.
- Parents/carers would be notified of the decision as soon as possible.

Governor Vacancies - Update - June 2020

The DfE had provided an update on governor vacancies during Covid 19. Governors were able to be appointed during this period.

The school currently had 2 vacancies for parents/carers.

The update on the vacancies would be mentioned in the school newsletter to parents/carers and would reference the governor's website for further information.

Governors had discussed the skills/qualities required for new governors, and were looking for individuals who had an interest, knowledge and experience of any/all of the the following:-

- i) The school nursery ii) Health safety and wellbeing iii) Fund raising.

Governors would explore and gauge the interest amongst the parents/carers in relation to the vacancies.

If there were more than 2 people interested in the vacancies then an election would take place.

If up to 2 people were interested, and they evidenced the skills/qualities, and had satisfactorily completed the enhanced DBS check, then they would be appointed.

The Chair and the Clerk would look to provide a simple pro-forma for completion of interested parents/carers who were interested in becoming governors.

Anyone who was interested would need to also evidence that they had a proposer and seconder from amongst the parent's/carer's of pupils at the school.

Any parent/carer interested in becoming a governor should contact the Clerk to the governors, Mrs Gwyneth Gill via e-mail :-
mandggill@btinternet.com

All registers of interest and completed pro-forma's should be returned to Gwyneth by Monday 13th July at 4pm. A decision would then be made about the appointment or whether there would need to be an election.