

12TH MAY 2017 Extra-ordinary Governors Meeting 1 Gloucester House, Swindon.	
Attendees: Kath Munby. Chair of Governors Rachel Surch. Head Teacher Jude Scutt Helen Thomas Jackie Peterson Sarah Newman Victoria Robinson Tracey Lynam Deb Rodgers (until 1200) Gary Donnelly Fred Child	Agenda <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss changes effecting Friday pm closing proposal 2. School Vision statement 3. Strategy review - objectives Apologies: John Robinson Alison Paul Khyati Bailey

This is a precis of the meeting to cover the more salient points and issues raised.

Background:

Following the proposal to close the school on Friday afternoon and the agreement to offer parents an open forum to question the board directly it was a unanimously agreed that this meeting would convene as an "Extra-ordinary Governors Meeting" and not as a strategy review of the 'Vision Statement' that was originally scheduled, albeit if time allowed this would be discussed.

Purpose:

The meeting would take time to review the feedback received so far from parents and to evaluate our responses in order to create an understanding of where opinions lay and how parents were responding to the proposal in preparation for the open forum on Tuesday 16th May.

Outcomes:

However, RS brought to the meeting news of very recent and relevant changes within the staffing structure. RS indicated that this could have a direct impact on our budget forecasting previously made.

RS reported. Following several staff giving notice to terminate their contracts to move on to other positions in other schools, plus another internal request for a change of role, responsibility and position, another review on the impact of these change on the budget was undertaken.

Within this review it was realised that some roles and responsibilities could be re-positioned in addition to new staff joining on lower salary scales, that would generate budget savings equal to those that would have been made through the proposed Friday afternoon closing.

It was made very clear that none of these staff changes could have been predicted prior to the release of the proposal to close on Friday afternoon. In addition to this the request from existing staff for change of role and responsibilities were totally unpredictable.

Conclusions:

After long debates, taking into account the current changes now effecting the budget, it was unanimously agreed by the board that we would withdraw the proposal at this point in time as budget calculations were now in our favour of withdrawing the proposal.

It was further agreed that staff would be advised first (scheduled for 1000 Monday 15th May) followed immediately by a letter to all parents/carers explaining the board's decision. (Copy of the letter attached for reference which was drafted jointly by those present.)

Recorded by
Fred Child. Vice Chair.

Monday 15th May 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for your constructive comments made since the start of the consultation period for the proposed reduction of school hours.

Whilst there was never a good time within the academic year to make a proposal of this kind, we tried to find a time which would have allowed for parents/carers / staff, to plan for any changes made to the school week. It also had to allow us, as a Governing Body, time to gather as much information as possible before making any final decisions.

As a result of the initial feedback received, the Full Governing Body convened for an extraordinary meeting to discuss the comments at great length and consider recent changes within the school that have had a direct impact on the decision making process.

Within education, staff changes for the following academic year typically happen during May, with a cut off by 31st May. Prior to this time, we are unable to predict or assume likely staff changes. During the last couple of weeks, there have been several key changes with respect to staffing for September. This has had a positive impact on the current budget forecasts for the next financial year and therefore the Governing Body has made the decision to end the consultation period early with an outcome that there will be no changes to the school hours for the academic year 2017-2018. As a result of this outcome, the Parent Consultation meeting planned for Tuesday 16th May is now cancelled.

As a Governing Body we are always working on managing the budget effectively across the whole school. It is our duty to oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent. Part of this will be to review this proposal and other opportunities on an annual basis to ensure the school's on-going financial stability.

Yours sincerely



Full Governing Body