

Minutes of the meeting of the Governing Body of Great Chesterford (Church of England) Primary Academy held on 13 January 2016.

Membership		Office	Term
Mr Mike Johnson	Parent Governor		25/03/2018
Ms Elfreda Tealby-Watson	Parent Governor		12/03/2017
* Reverend Jeremy Parsons	<i>Incumbent</i>		<i>Ex-Officio</i>
Mrs Natalie Starbuck	Co Opted Governor		21/09/2018
Mr Andrew Taylor	PCC [Great Chesterford]	Chair	30/09/2019
Mrs Jennifer Fullerty	PCC [Littlebury]		TBC
Mr Bob Rust	CDET** Governor		05/11/2019
Mr Gary Benn	CDET** Governor		31/12/2016
Mr Alastair Blythe	CDET** Governor		13/11/2016
Ms Janet Menell	CDET** Governor		01/09/2019
Mr David Boatman	PCC [Little Chesterford]		08/09/2019
Mrs Lisa Jeremy	Co Opted Governor		12/11/2017
Mrs Fiona Keys	Staff Governor	Link	16/03/2017
Mrs Amy Sargent	Staff Governor		13/01/2020
Mrs Sarah Mitchell	Principal	Headteacher	Ex-Officio

* *indicates absence*
 ** *Chelmsford Diocesan Education Trust*

The Headteacher opened the meeting with a prayer

Action

1/16 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from the Rev Jeremy Parsons.
 The Chair welcomed Amy Sargent to her first meeting of the Full Governing Body.

2/16 Notification of AoB

None.

3/16 Notification of business interests

Mike Johnson advised the meeting that his wife was acting Headteacher for R A Butler Primary School.

Bob Rust advised that his wife was on the PCC at Littlebury and he was on the District Church Committee of Strethall.

Andrew Taylor advised he would be changing jobs and his new employer would be Barratt Homes Eastern Counties.

MAIN BUSINESS

4/16 Admissions Policy

The Chair explained the background to and why the consultation had been carried out and the Headteacher outlined the current admissions criteria.

The school had received a number of responses to the consultation, three responses from parents, one each from Essex County Council [ECC], Little Chesterford PCC and Littlebury PCC, which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The meeting considered the estimated future year intake numbers provided by ECC as well as the per capita income the academy received per child (£2,695.60).

A number of governors asked about the historic link between Littlebury and the Academy. The Academy had been extended to accommodate children from Littlebury when the Littlebury school had closed and there had always been an expectation that they had a right to attend Great Chesterford school. It was agreed that Littlebury fell within the Academy's current catchment area, but there was no legal right for children from Littlebury to attend the Academy.

The meeting considered the financial impact of the proposed admissions policy in light of the current government's education funding policy, which had frozen education funding at current levels. Although reducing class sizes to 28 would be welcomed by teachers, the reduction in the Academy's income would be equivalent to the salary of a teacher which would have a bigger effect on teachers and classes through the loss of TA or other support than the current situation.

If the ECC forecasts on future year intake numbers turned out to be correct, the current high number of pupils would fall in future years and the current problem would disappear.

It was **agreed** that local schools should work closely together to ensure spaces for children were filled and pressures on oversubscribed schools reduced. There was a risk of the Academy being accused of being isolated and not working collaboratively if it implemented its new admissions policy. The Academy needed to take its fair share of pupils in the area. It was highly likely it would always be oversubscribed due to changes over time and the difficulty to plan for increased mobility of families moving into the area. This should be the working assumption for numbers and finance.

SM

It was **agreed** the Governors should focus on improving the building and grounds with a view to tackle the concerns regarding crowding within classrooms.

Chair FPC

It was **agreed** not to change the current admissions policy and that it should be adopted as the Admissions Policy for the 2016-17 intake. It was also **agreed** to closely monitor the situation and to look at wider issues of accommodation.

SM

5/16 Multi-Academy Trust

The school had been approached by a school who had asked if it could join with Great Chesterford [CoE] Primary Academy and become a Multi Academy Trust (MAT). The school was being forced to become an academy following a recent Ofsted inspection.

It was **agreed** to send a list of questions to the school, as part of an initial due diligence, covering current staffing numbers, staff costs and budgets, building condition survey, inspection report and the latest set of pupil attainment results.

SM

It was **agreed** to delegate the authority to the Chair, Vice Chair and Headteacher to take a decision not to proceed. Any decision to proceed would only be agreed by the Full Governing Body.

ROUTINE BUSINESS

6/16 Chairman's action

The Chair and Vice- Chair had not taken any urgent action since the last meeting.

7/16 Minutes of the previous meetings

The minutes of the previous meetings held on 10 November 2015 were approved as a true record of the meeting.

8/16 Matters arising

None.

9/16 Date/time of future meetings

All meetings commence at 19:45

26th January 2016 [Joint governor/ staff meeting]

22nd March 2016

7th June 2016

Committees to organise their meetings to feed into these meetings

10/16 Any other business

Term dates – These were tabled by the Headteacher and approved.

Signed by Andrew Taylor [Chair] on 22nd March 2016