



Oldcastle Primary School

Inspire ★ Motivate ★ Educate

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Minutes - Extra FGB 1.2.21

1. Apologies

- Lyn Walters, Jane Hughes, Damian Faulkner, Neil Harris.

Present

- Ceri Littlewood, Sara Peters, Nerys Sales, Heather Holder, Barrie Lewis, Nia Vaughan, Rachel Evans, David Heyburn, Clare Davies, Martha Ace.

2. Suspension of Parent Governor Ballot

For Information	To be Actioned/Response
The LA have advised they are unable to meet the requirements of the secret ballot process for the governor parent vacancies and have taken the decision to suspend the process at this time. The LA established an email based process for the ballots in September 2020 and has experienced challenges regarding the process and the validity of results. They have confirmed they are working with Central South Consortium to monitor trials of ballot processes, with a view to developing a robust system and schools should not progress with the appointment of new parent governors. In the meantime, governors are urged to follow the current guidance issued by Welsh Government regarding parent governor vacancies. The guidance issued for this particular scenario states - ‘At this current time it may not be practical or possible to conduct elections for parent/teacher/staff governors. If virtual elections are not possible, to avoid leaving gaps in governing bodies, if possible and with agreement from the whole governing body, these governors can remain in post until such time elections can take place when the situation normalises.’ WG guidance was update on January 15th and a link is provided below should you wish to familiarise yourself with the whole document. https://gov.wales/information-school-governing-bodies-coronavirus Martha Ace and Clare Davies will remain as parent governors until the situation normalises or the LA provide a ballot process which is acceptable. Following agreement by all present, governors asked if a letter was forthcoming from the LA regarding the suspension process, as prospective candidates were awaiting a decision. The clerk advised that a request for a letter had been submitted twice to the LA however no letter has yet been received. A decision was made to provide our own letter by Tuesday 2nd Feb in order to provide closure.	Agreed by all FGB who were present at the meeting.

3. School Dog

For Information	To be Actioned
The finance committee agreed in principle to the school's request to purchase a wellbeing dog and feel it prudent that this should be brought to the full governing body for further discussion and ratification. -A risk assessment is available to view within the finance meeting drive. See the minutes from the finance committee meeting around discussion and questions asked. CL has been in touch with a breeder who is kennel club registered and a wonderful breeder. They used to work in schools and for the LA in the past and have been trying to get this concept in to schools for some time. They have mum and dad as their own dogs and are very passionate about what the school is doing, they also wish to keep in touch and help the school in any way they can. A picture of the dog was shared with everyone and CL advised the school can have the dog on Feb 9th. Training will commence and the dog will come to school but will not start 'work' until he is trained. The dog is a Golden Retriever, this breed is particularly good with children and very calm. CL has also been in touch with a local trainer who has many awards, Emily from Clever Canines will put together a bespoke training plan for the school, concentrating firstly on the two main carers, CL and SP. Then moving on to other staff and the children. The dog will be fully trained and Emily is very excited to be involved in the project. Following agreement by all present CL advised a letter will be sent to children and parents this week along with a Q and A sheet prepared with all the likely questions. The school plans to hold a naming competition and will get this underway in the next day or so.	Agreed by all FGB present at the meeting.

The minutes are a true reflection of the meeting



Nerys Sales (Vice- Chair of Governors)



Date