

Arnside National School
Minutes of the Governor Meeting held on Tuesday 11th February 2014 at 7.00pm

Mr Dudley opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed the attending governors.

Present: Mr A Cook, Mr I Dudley, Mr D Adair, Mr A Capeling, Mr N Sharp, Mrs J Bratt, Rev'd D Cooper, Mrs L Sharp, Mrs G Deane, Mr G Jones, Mrs Inchmore.

Apologies: Mrs N Till

Mr G Beaumont arrived.

Declarations of Interest in respect of Agenda Items: There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the last meeting were proposed as a true record by Mr D Adair and seconded by Mr A Capeling. All governors present voted in favour.

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

Governors Business Interests: There were no declarations of interest. Mrs L Sharp and Rev'd Cooper completed their declarations.

Headteacher's Report: Mr Cook talked through his report to governors, a question was asked about how school had dealt with the staff absences since September. Mr Cook said that the part time teaching staff had covered the teaching staff absences and that Mrs Sharon Farrer had been employed on a temporary basis to cover Mrs Thompson's absence in the nursery.

Mr Cook has been working as a national leader with Broughton-in-Furness Primary School, they recently achieved 'good' status at their recent Ofsted inspection.

School to school support - as a teaching school we have been approached to mentor two local schools both of which attract £10,000 funding direct from central Government. Arnside will work with one school and another Teaching School Alliance school will work with the other school.

Universal Free School Meals for Infants: Mr Cook outlined Arnside School's position regarding the provision of hot school meals, after discussion with the governors it was decided to wait for more information to become available regarding funding and the nationwide feasibility of this undertaking.

Building Report: Mr Adair had nothing to report.

Finance Report: Mr Beaumont reported the following balances:

Barclays Community Fund	2818.18
Annie Inchboard Memorial Scholarship Fund @ 31.12.13	3813.91
CCLA Investment Management Ltd	3551.99

Mr Dudley told governors that the school finances were well in credit at the moment and on track for a small surplus at the end of the year. Mr Cook explained to governors that any carry forward over 12% of the budget could be forfeited.

SATS 2013: Mr Cook had hoped to have the data dashboard to present to governors but this should be published by March. Mr Cook handed out DFE Performance Tables in which Arnside was second Cumbrian school against similar sized schools, also a BBC published primary school table. The SATS results last year were excellent and we are expecting them to be excellent again this year.

Teaching School Update: Mr Cook discussed the changing roles of schools within Cumbria and the diminishing role that Cumbria Education Authority is playing in every aspect. Many different groups have been formed over the past few years made up of local primary and secondary schools and who are taking over the organisation of teacher training, staff training and curriculum development to name but a few. Governor Services have been retained by the County Council. Teaching staff from the alliance are looking at the new IT and History curriculums before sharing this information with other schools.

A question was raised about how the school might manage the wrap around care that Mr Gove is suggesting. Mr Cook replied that although the implications are considerable we must wait until more information is available.

AOB: The governors looked over the Admission Policy 2015 – 2016, there were only a couple of minor changes made to the previous policy. Rev'd D Cooper proposed to approve the admissions policy, Mr G Beaumont seconded and all governors voted in favour.

Minuted amendment required by Cumberland Building Society:

It was proposed that the Teaching Schools Account held with the Cumberland Building Society be amended to require two signatures for transactions on the account as an increased security measure. Mr A Capeling proposed and Rev'd D Cooper seconded the amendment. All governors present voted in favour.

A discussion took place regarding pupil absence in term time and the possible fines to be imposed by the Local Authority. The conclusion, so far as the school is concerned, is that there would still be holidays taken during term time and that there would be a split between authorised and unauthorised absence but that our overall absences probably wouldn't rise and will still be quite low compared to the National level.

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 29th April at 7pm.

Mr Dudley closed the meeting at 8.08pm.

Signed:

Mr I Dudley
(Chair of Governors)

Date: