Arnside National School

Minutes of the Governor Meeting held on Tuesday 24th September 2013 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, Mrs N Till, Mrs G Deane, Mr G Beaumont, , Mr G Jones, Mrs Inchmore.

**Apologies**: Rev’d D Cooper, Mrs L Sharp.

**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, seconded by Mrs Till and approved by all governors.

**Matters Arising**: Mr Cook is to speak to Lancaster Communications and arrange for a quote for rewiring the school.

**Governor’s Business Interests**: There was no change to Governor’s Business Interests.

**Election of Officers**: Chair; Vice-chair; Attendance & Safeguarding Children; SEN; Literacy; Numeracy; Link Governor. It was proposed that as all governors were willing to stay in the roles they were elected to last year, with Mr G Jones taking over the role of Safeguarding and Attendance from Mrs Grieves, that they were elected en bloc. This was proposed by Mrs J Bratt and seconded by Mr G Beaumont, all governors voted in favour.

**Election of Committees**: The only changes were to the Staff Discipline/Grievance committee when Mrs Brockbank resigned from the governing body mid-term last year and has yet to be replaced; and Mrs Grieves, parent governor, was replaced by Mr G Jones, also parent governor. Mr G Jones also replaced Mrs Grieves on the Complaints against staff committee. It was proposed that as everyone was willing to remain in post that the committee’s would be elected en bloc, this was proposed by Mrs N Till, seconded by Mr D Adair and all governors voted in favour.

The governing body voted to adopt the following policies en bloc: Grievance, Behaviour and Complaints. Proposed by Mrs N Till, seconded by Mr G Jones.

Action MI to forward policies to Mr G Jones.

**Headteacher’s Report**: Mr Cook reported that there are 133 pupils on roll with, currently, 16 part-time nursery children, this number will increase to 26 after the January and April intakes.

The nursery has had the carpet removed and washable comfort flooring installed throughout.

Miss C Addison is expected to resume teaching from 1st November after returning from maternity leave; she will be employed on a 0.4 contract, working on Thursdays and Fridays. Miss J Ward will revert to her contract of 0.6 and will work on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Mr Cook told the governors that he had attended a meeting with other local headteachers and Tim Farron, our local MP, discussion was about the Government’s plan to provide a free, hot school meal for all Key Stage 1 children. It is thought that up to fifty per cent of local primary schools no longer have a school kitchen so although there was agreement in principal there were no further details as to how the meals will be provided or what arrangements will be put in place for children who are already in receipt of free school meals, (and attract a pupil premium in the school budget). This is due to be implemented by September 2014 and as more information becomes available governors will be kept informed.

The other directive from Government is that headteachers are no longer able to authorize school holidays in term time other than for those exemptions listed on a letter already sent to parents and governors. Cumbria County Council will administer a ‘fine’s system’, but we have yet to receive clear details of how this might work. The school is obliged to register holidays taken, as unauthorised absence.

After school clubs will be starting in the next few weeks. We welcome Miss Morris back part-time, she will be teaching the Y6 class when Mr Sharp has non-contact time and also will be delivering PE across the whole school.

**Buildings Report**: Mr D Adair reported that there were no issues at the moment and that the Building Committee would organise an inspection in the near future.

Mr Sharp is upgrading our IT equipment and is to ask the PTA to fund an outside storage container for the nursery equipment.

**Finance Report**: Mr G Beaumont reported the following balances:

Barclays Community Fund £2,818.18

CCLA Investment Management Ltd £3547.57

As at 31/03/2013 Annie Inchboard Memorial Scholarship Fund £3629.08

The money that the governors hold can be spent at any time for the benefit of children at Arnside National School.

Mr I Dudley distributed copies of the budget which had been submitted to the DfE during August, please see attached sheet. He explained that we have more money this year because the current years’ funding is based on last years’ pupil numbers, conversely we will receive less money next year based on this years’ pupil numbers. There is a projected surplus of £36,000 to carry forward this year.

Building Insurance is initially paid by the school but then claimed back from the DfE. We also receive money from the Local Authority for the nursery children and this year we receive an extra £8400 for a PE grant.

The Finance Committee also sanctions the budget. It was proposed by Mr G Beaumont to accept the budget, seconded by Mrs N Till and all governors present voted in favour.

**SAT’s 2012**: Mr Cook told the governors that last years’ SAT’s results were exceptional, especially in reading, he said that the progress pupils made from KS1 to KS2 was very high and that all pupils made expected progress. He explained the ‘Average Point Score’ of 31.6 was phenomenal and very near to the maximum achievable.

**CASL – Cumbria Alliance of System Leaders**: Mr Cook explained the new framework of school leaders providing support to other schools.

**Pay Policy**: Mr Cook explained to the governors the changes involved with the new pay policy in that the teaching staff didn’t automatically rise up the pay spine. The policy is a hybrid of the NAHT/NUT/local authority, it is linked to the school appraisal policy which was agreed at the February 2013 meeting.

Mrs J Bratt proposed the motion to adopt the Pay Policy this was seconded by Mr D Adair and all governors present voted in favour.

**Teaching Schools Update:** Arnside is the lead school in a cohort of 32 primary and six secondary schools who are involved in teacher training for students with a degree taking a further one year ‘School Direct’ training in school. We currently have an associate teacher at Arnside. Mr Cook outlined the finance involved with this scheme. We are also involved in school to school support, NQT Induction and Research and Development.

Ms J Piper and Miss K Morris are applying to be specialist leaders of education, (SLE’s).

**Any other business**: There was no other business.

**Date of next meeting**: 11th February 2014, 7pm.

Mr Dudley closed the meeting at 8.25pm

Signed: ......................................................... Date: ................................

Mr I Dudley, Chair of Governors