

Arnside National School

Minutes of the Governor Meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 2015 at 7.00pm

Mr Dudley opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed governors.

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

Declarations of Interest in respect of agenda items: There were no declarations of interest.

Apologies: There were no apologies.

Minutes of the last meeting were proposed as a true record by Mr D Adair, seconded by Mrs N Till, all governors voted in favour.

Mr G Beaumont arrived.

Matters Arising from the minutes: A question was asked about how the Early Years' Foundation Stage new software package is working in school. Mr Sharp reported that the system is working well in the classroom but there are some issues still to be resolved regarding presentation to parents.

QCA testing was not used in years 3, 4 or 5 this year as different schemes are being looked at. SATS testing is taking place this week in school for Year 6 and Year 2 children.

Arnside is to take part in a pilot scheme with Cumbria Local Authority for the assessment of 4 year olds through 'Early Excellence'.

Headteacher's Report: Since writing his report Mr Cook has received enquiries for a further 5 children, bringing the total number of outstanding enquiries for September 2015 places to 10, this is in addition to the 16 children due to start in the Reception class.

A governor asked what the acronym NISCU stood for, Mr Cook said that it stood for Northern Inter School Christian Union, the group come into school several times a year and either lead an assembly or work with individual classes over the course of a day.

A question was raised about Pupil Premium Funding and it's impact. Mr Cook told governors that extra money is received for individual pupils for a variety of reasons, eg Free School Meals; low income; 'looked after' or adopted children etc. Mrs J Bratt is the link governor for this group and liaise's with Miss K Morris on the support put in place for these children. The progress these pupils make is also monitored. Mr Cook said that the Arnside pupil premium strategy was recognised as an example of good practice. Both Mr Cook and Miss Morris had attended training with Sir John Dunford, the DfE's 'Pupil Premium Champion.'

Governor Training: Mr I Service and Mrs J Bratt gave some feedback on the governor training they had attended. The training had been very useful but had alerted them to the information about Arnside that they weren't familiar with. They had since checked the school website and found most of the information they needed was available to them, some of which had been presented at past governor meetings.

A Governor Skills Audit was recommended to evaluate governor's expertise and as a useful tool to guide future governor appointments.

OFSTED Dashboard - School Data update: Mr Cook discussed the Progress Report from the School Data Dashboard and explained what the graphs represented. A question was raised about the governors being given the sheets of the report that are marked as suitable to present to the governing body. Mr Cook was unaware of this and will look anew at the report.

Class/staff organisation: It is envisaged that staffing will stay the same for the next academic year with two split classes, five classes with approximately 28 in each class. This may change if, after our appeal for the Condition Improvement Fund, we are given the go ahead to build the extra classroom/teaching area or pupil numbers continue to increase.

Finance Report: Mr G Beaumont presented the following figures:

Barclays Community Fund	2839.68
Annie Inchboard Memorial Scholarship Fund	4032.84
CCLA Investment Management Ltd	<u>3574.18</u>
Total	£10,446.70

Mr Dudley told the governors that we may hold a slightly higher surplus amount than other years but that this will be needed if during the year 2015 - 2016 we are running a kitchen with the increase in staffing costs that this will incur.

To enable ease of ordering on-line goods and obtaining 'best value' for the school it was proposed that the school should apply for a debit card on the school's budget account, (current account with the Cumberland Building Society) with three named users. This was proposed by Rev'd D Cooper, seconded by Mr I Service and all governors voted in favour.

Buildings Report: Condition Improvement Fund

Mr Cook brought the governors up to date with the results of our two bids, the first bid for a kitchen to facilitate the provision of a hot meal to Key Stage 1 children in line with Government directives was given the go ahead; the second bid, for a teaching area (to replace the one lost if the kitchen bid went ahead), and meeting room using the existing footprint of the school but building up and removing an ageing flat roof was refused.

Mr Cook told governors that we would be appealing this decision and had already contacted our local MP, Tim Farron for his support. Mr Dudley will also contact Tim Farron.

Teaching Schools/CASL/LASL update: Mr Cook told governors of his work with other schools in the County and of Miss Morris and Ms Piper who organise support for NQT's (Newly Qualified Teachers).

Only larger schools (over 200 pupils) are presently able to become 'stand alone' academies and many schools are exploring the possibility of becoming part of a MAT (Multi Academy Trust). The Carlisle Diocese is involved through their Good Shepherd Multi Academy Trust.

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

Mr Dudley closed the meeting at 8.15pm

Mr I Dudley

Chair of Governors