

Moulton School
Minutes of the Full Governing Body Meeting held on
Thursday 28 April 2011 at 7.00 pm

No.	Subject	Action
	<p>Present:</p> <p>Trevor Jones (TJ) (Head Teacher), Geoff Otley (GH) (Chair), Anne Jeffrey (AJ) Lesley Proctor (LP), Rosemary Lucas (RL), Angie Dabbs (AD), Steve Uden (SU), Michelle Devine (MD), John Hancock (JH), Fiona Polnyj (FP), Jonathan Eales (JE), Nigel Smith (NS), Robin Chapman (RC), Richard Hollis (RH), David Sherwood (DS), Judith Shepherd (JS).</p> <p>In Attendance: Peter Earl (PE) (Clerk).</p>	
1	<p>Apologies: Simon Barrick, (SB), Rev Peter Breckwoldt (PB), Jo Brake (JB),</p>	
2	<p>Notification of Any Other Business:</p> <p>Land Transfer Document.</p>	
3	<p>Record of Financial Interests:</p> <p>None were recorded.</p>	
4	<p>Consideration of Academy Status:</p> <p>A question & answer (Q&A) document had been previously circulated to governors and an opportunity to read it given prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The Head provided a very succinct summary of the document requesting that any questions be asked as the document was reviewed. These minutes should be read in conjunction with the Q&A document.</p> <p>It was reported that the option of looking into a possible move to academy</p>	

status was the next natural step from being a foundation school. It would be a continuation of the school's independence, whilst allowing greater freedom in some areas, such as curriculum than currently is the case. It could facilitate the move away from centrally imposed conditions relating to teaching staff pay and conditions.

A governor asked whether the admissions policy would change. It was reported that as a foundation school the capacity was already in place to make changes, however the school remains committed to the existing admissions criteria and to our feeder primary schools.

The issue of funding was raised. The level of academy funding is based on the Local Authority (LA) limit with additions for services currently provided by the LA. Some services, for example transport and some SEN associated costs remain the responsibility of the LA.

The school would assume a responsibility for making up shortfalls in local government pension provision. Payment(s) for redundancy would need to be met by the school.

It is important to note that academy funding is payable on an academic year basis. It was felt this would make preparation of the budget easier.

Concerns were raised at this point on behalf of staff. If a new contract of employment was drawn up, would any future redundancy entitlement be based on the total length of service or the duration of the contract? Much discussion took place on this issue and it was felt that assurances could be given to staff that the governing body would not currently seek to amend staff pay and conditions. It was noted at this point that no assurance could be given on the position of any future governing body.

A decision was made that the legal position of continuous service must be checked. The Head will ask the Business Manager to include this on the agenda for the forthcoming meeting with the Human Resources advisor.

It was asked what effect transferring to academy status would have on capital funding for a major project. The Head replied that there would be no impact on this.

It was then asked whether being an academy would have an effect on the order in which capital was distributed i.e would we be ranked lower than non academies. The Head replied that in his opinion there would be no difference.

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	<p>There then followed two questions relating to pensions. The first was whether we would need to formulate our own pensions for new staff – the Head replied that we would still have to access the national pension scheme.</p> <p>The next question was whether the school as an academy would have the power to force an increase in the amount of pension contributions – the Heads reply was no.</p> <p>Governor indemnity insurance was discussed with clarification that the governing body is indemnified via an insurance policy with individual liability set at £10. At this point LP offered to clarify the details of this policy.</p> <p>In the conversion process it was not clear if accounts need to be submitted. The Head agreed that he would seek advice and guidance on this.</p> <p>The land on which the school is sited belongs to us as a foundation school. The Head agreed to check whether this would be the case for an academy.</p> <p>Collaboration, in particular the need for further explicit collaboration as part of the conversion process is mentioned on page one of the Q&A document. A governor sought clarification on whether this was necessary. Whilst there is no requirement, collaboration could be used as part of the process.</p> <p>The Head reported that he had found it very difficult to speak to anyone at The Department of Education to seek guidance. He agreed to keep trying, particularly as he needed clarification around some of the criteria associated with conversion.</p> <p>Whilst staff would not have a vote on whether conversion to an academy took place, if the governing body were broadly interested in moving to the next phase of the process then meetings would be held with staff, and our feeder schools and parents would be written to. All of the feedback would be brought before the full governing body at the next meeting on 26th May 2011 in order that a decision could be made whether to move to the next stage.</p> <p>The chair pointed out that a vote by the governing body at this point was to agree to go to the consultation phase not to convert to an academy. The Head is to check the legal requirements of the process.</p> <p>The Head will speak to other Heads who have undergone or are</p>	<p>LP</p> <p>TJ</p> <p>TJ</p> <p>TJ</p> <p>TJ</p> <p>TJ</p> <p>TJ</p> <p>TJ</p>
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	<p>undergoing the process.</p> <p>The opportunity was given for any further questions.</p> <p>At this point the governing body unanimously agreed to proceed to the next stage of the process and to seek the views of all stakeholders. Feedback will be presented at the next full governing body meeting on 26th May 2011 when governors will decide whether or not to move to the next stage.</p>	TJ
5	<p>Moulton Travel Plan:</p> <p>This document had been previously circulated to governors and an opportunity to read it given prior to the meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that the report states that the school is doing all that it can with no further car parking capacity available.</p>	
6	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>Two governors were asked to sign a land transfer document legally showing that the governing body owns the land on which the school is situated.</p> <p>There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.25pm.</p> <p>The date of the next full governors meeting is Thursday 26th May 2011.</p>	

Signed:..... Date: