

**Hoyle Court Primary School Governing Board
Minutes of the Extraordinary Full Board Meeting
Held on 21 May 2020**

The meeting commenced at 6:03pm.

Present: Val Sherred (Chair), Judy Walton (JW), Simon Kemp (SK), Tim Phillips (Head), David Pike (DP), Roger L'Amie (RL), Ros Sheridan (RS), Ben Dickinson (BD), Adrian Metcalfe (AM), Liz Will (LW)

In Attendance: Nageena Khan - Clerk to Governors

Welcome and Introductions

Chair introduced the meeting and welcomed all.

Apologies for Absence and their Acceptance

There were no apologies, all were present. The meeting was quorate.

Risk Assessment

The risk assessment has been received from the LA and Head is checking that it has gone through union agreement. He intends to share this with staff members on Monday but can delay this if governors need longer to review the document. Governors informed that they would like to have some more time to review the risk assessment and email any queries/comments/ideas to Head.

Q: Chair- when is a letter detailing plans due to go out to parents?

Head informed that the letter will be sent on Monday 25 May 2020, the risk assessment can follow.

It was agreed for governors to have until Monday midday to review the risk assessment, after which information will be sent to parents.

Q: RL- are we opening on 01 June 2020 or the middle of June?

This decision is up to the school; the risk assessment has taken into consideration a lot of national guidance, governor and staff input etc. schools within the district are taking different approaches.

Q: VS- was the statement from Bradford Council instrumental in impacting on decisions of a number of schools?

Head stated that each school is different and the headteachers know their pupils and circumstances and are best placed to make the appropriate decision. The Council will back this decision as long as it is reasonable. Governors felt that the stance from the Council was reassuring for schools.

Q: JW- in terms of the information for parents would we have to backtrack if science shows that the R rate is increasing?

Head explained that all plans and discussions about reopening are reliant on science. The R rate is currently at 0.8 and if it does not reduce further then schools will not be able to reopen. It also depends on the number of pupils that plan to return.

SK explained that the R rate is the trajectory; if it is steadily reducing and the risk assessment determines that children and staff can safely be in school then he would feel more comfortable as a governor about reopening, however any decision need to be guided by the science.

RS informed that in terms of timing there is a Bank holiday weekend and Eid approaching in two weeks' time and there could be likelihood of a spike, which will impact on the R rate in June.

Signed.....

Date.....

Action

RL highlighted that the R rate is only useful if you know the R rate of people coming to school. It is therefore important to know what the R rate is in Bradford not on a national scale. Schools have to be cautious, the R rate is just a statistical method of monitoring the virus.

Q: AM- I suggest carrying out a risk benefit analysis of reopening; I am not convinced of the benefit of children coming into school short term against the risks of them returning. The local and national picture both shows risks and if children do return to school what will they actually be learning and will it need to be repeated again in September if so few children return?

Head thought that plans to reopen for a short period before the summer holidays may be to prepare schools for September as this will be a long-term measure.

Q: JW- connected to what AM stated; if we do go back on 08 June 2020 for a limited number of children is that going to compromise the resources for children who aren't coming back? We cannot lose sight of those left at home.

Head informed that teachers will replicate the same work for those pupils at school and at home. They would not be expected to carry out additional work.

Actions:

- **Governors to get responses back to Head by Monday midday.**
- **Head to discuss the plans with staff.**
- **Head to inform parents.**

Govs,
Head

Q: DP- there is a lot of work to do here, echoing AM's words, what does it look like if we say we cannot open until September 2020?

Head replied that he has the view that he is a public servant and has been tasked to provide a service. If parents need the school, then this service should be available.

SK commented that the relationship with schools takes a long time to establish and the decision on whether to open wider is dependent on whether it is safe to do so. Ultimately governors could risk delaying a decision that will have to be made at some point. The advice to stay at home could be included on the letter to parents along with the rationale and reasons for rigorous planning.

All information regarding schools reopening wider states that it is the Headteacher's decision and schools have to do what is right for their community. Governors suggested holding vote on whether to reopen wider or not, they were confident that Head has gone through due process.

Q: Chair- what is the plan if the R rate goes back up?

School will have to respond accordingly.

Q: LW- have you heard anything about the summer break?

Head replied no; as far as he is aware the summer holidays will remain as they are.

Q: LW- it just feels really wrong to me; coming to school for a short time and then having a massive chunk of time off again. Has anyone else raised concerns about this?

Head welcomed any viewpoints.

Signed.....

Date.....

Q: RL- if we decide not to open, what would happen if everyone from those categories turned up? There are rather more key workers than we think and we would still have to provide care for those children of key workers.

Head informed that the school will manage the process as effectively as possible.

SENCO Role- Head reported that a really positive interview day took place on Tuesday 19 May 2020 involving Head, Chair and the Deputy Head. Thirteen candidates applied and four were shortlisted. A unanimous decision was made to appoint Anna Robinson for two days a week. Head is confident that the successful candidate will help transform the way special needs in school is managed.

Q: Chair- what about the salary?

The salary has been confirmed; the successful candidate is one of the most expensive but brings a vast amount of experience with the role.

Date of Next Meeting- Wednesday 17 June 2020 at 6:00pm

As there was no further business Chair thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 6:51pm.

Signed.....

Date.....