

Minutes of Academy Working Party Meeting

Date: 8.00am 19th June 2018

Attendees: Jill Augustin
Mary Wilson
Katherine Bromley
Gabriel Gottlieb
Jennifer Smith
Carol Carroll

Jill informed the meeting that the Local Authority had disclosed to all schools in the borough of our proposal to convert to an academy via the Budget Share sheet. Governors were concerned that the message would not come from them and therefore the meeting agreed to review the timeline for consultation.

Jill updated progress to date:

- Jill and Mary met with David Kilgallon – Director of Learning, London Borough of Waltham Forest; and Jill met Counsellor Grace Williams to discuss Handsworth's proposal.
- Lindsay Jackson, the project lead for the local authority, confirmed that the consultation can be conducted after an application is submitted to the Head Teachers' Board (HTB) and any decision to convert is not binding until the Funding Agreement is signed.
- There have been 6 visits from REAch2 staff conducting due diligence assessments, which has involved Governors, Teachers, Support staff and pupils. Governors and Jill were very appreciative with staff co-operation.
- The Head Teachers' Board decision needs to take into account KS1/KS2 results from the REAch2 Trust and therefore our application has been deferred until 19/07/2018. A verbal decision will be given to Handsworth following the board meeting.
- Jill has requested KS1/KS2 results from REAch2 overall and the North Central Region, but they have not yet been received.
- Jill will call Daniel Cox (DfE) today to confirm that they have all the information required from Handsworth.

It was agreed that the consultation process should be brought forward to as soon as possible to ensure that the Handsworth community are consulted about the proposal to join REAch2 directly from the school.

The Working Party has conducted research to establish best practice for the consultation process and considered a number of different options to ensure they could capture all stakeholders' views.

Actions agreed:

- The Working Party to finish the draft letter to parents, to send out on Friday with FAQs.

- Jill, with members of the Working Party, to advise Teachers at staff meeting on 20th June about the consultation process and invite questions. Support staff meeting will be on Friday 22nd June.
- Governors were concerned that the consultation period would be shorter than originally planned, taking into account the Summer Holiday.
- As part of our due diligence, Gabriel to meet with Head teacher and governor at Woodside Academy.
- Proposed date for first parent consultation meeting Thursday 5th July 2018.
- A school website page will provide all the information for staff, parents and stakeholders. Parents are encouraged to submit FAQs and governors will consider these on a regular basis and publish answers on the website.

Governors noted that, if the school converts to a REAch2 academy, their usual practice is to remove some existing governors during the transition period for normally two or three terms. REAch2 have exercised flexibility in the past. The existing governing body would re-instated after this period.

Following the consultation, governors will meet at 5.00pm on Thursday 19/07/2018 to consider the next steps. The FGB will be deferred until this date (originally scheduled 10/07/2018).

Action: MW to contact governors and Governor Services to note date change.

Meeting closed 8.45 am