

FOURLANESEND COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Governors of Furlanesend C.P. School held by conference call on Friday, May 15th 2020 at 12.00am

PRESENT: Mrs Fran Ferguson, Mrs Helen Marks-Williams (Chair), Mrs Rebecca Norton (Headteacher), Mrs Vicki Richards, Mrs Sue Robinson.

APOLOGIES: Major Adrian Battley, Mrs Vanessa Burton,

IN ATTENDANCE: Miss Caroline Stone (Clerk).

1. **Apologies for absence:** Mrs Burton sent apologies that she was working. Major Battley was unable to access the call.

2. **Return to School situation:**
 - a. The Clerk reminded Governors that the operation decisions for the School are delegated to the Headteacher and that they, as Governors, should not challenge her professional judgement.
 - b. The Chair invited the Head to discuss the situation following the Government's decision to ask schools to reopen. The Head said that she did not wholly agree with the decision and it puts her in a difficult position. So far only one parent has expressed an interest in their child returning to school. Otherwise parents prefer the idea of returning in September. As the Head she needs to make plans but there are frequent changes to the guidance. There are also discussions with the Unions underway. After half term plans will be put in place based on the situation then. There have been exemplars of risk assessments circulated but it needs to be approached as a team effort. The Head is currently working from home. Mrs Ferguson has been in school with the children currently being educated so will have a better idea of the issues to be considered. The risk assessments must be sent to the LA to be checked. Then interested parents will be contacted. It will be based on the numbers looking for provision. The Head has asked parents to contact the School by the 20th if they want their children back in school. After that date there will be a ring around to check.
 - c. In case there are high numbers to be provided for in School, Mr Davies will co-ordinate the home education provision since he is shielding an elderly relative and cannot return. There may be other teachers who cannot return but that is not known at the moment.
 - d. No information has been received on how to keep staff safe. The youngest children have no sense of respiratory hygiene. By preference the Y6s would come back into School first. Any flaws in the plan can then be discovered.
 - e. It may be necessary to operate on part days so that deep cleaning can take place. Much hinges on how many children return.
 - f. The Head of Children's Services has said that a return for all children by July is rhetoric rather than a plan.
 - g. Staff must have a half term break. Provision is currently being given for the children of two key workers. One has other arrangements for child care and the other has been told of the decision to have a half term holiday and is capable of making other provision.
 - h. Governors felt that it sounded sensible particularly bringing the older children in first.
 - i. A Governor said that younger children learn through play which would be difficult under current guidance.

- j. The Head is concerned about the children’s wellbeing and will bring in Danny Biscombe to work with them.
- k. A Governor asked whether it was all about getting parents back to work and whether children might only come in one or two days a week and it become all about child care rather than education. There is a risk that parents will be called back into work by their employers and the situation change.
- l. It is also possible that the infection rate will rise as people start to get out and about and the situation may change again. The plan will not contain too much detail initially. There are too many variables to make that any use. The plan for Millbrook has been seen. It was based on a DfE document which is already out of date which highlights the problems.
- m. The Head hopes that her letter to parents gives enough information. Safety cannot be guaranteed and parents need to make their own decisions. Parents have been told to ring if they are unsure to discuss the decision.
- n. Staff need to know the School’s plans before parents. TAs, in particular, are anxious about coming back. They can only be offered the Government’s scientific guidance.
- o. The Government has not considered children’s behaviour.
- p. The Head will update Governors on numbers and the age groups after the 20th.
- q. It was note that the DfE have strongly recommended children go back to school. Some schools are thought to be expecting 80% of children back. Fourlanesend children tend to have young grandparents, and some grandparents have children of their own in school. It is known that some children are mixing socially already. When the School has an idea of which children will be coming back they will be grouped but this will be quite complicated due to the socialising that is already going on.
- r. A Governor asked what will happen if a member of staff doesn’t want to come back? There will be a meeting with the LA because there is no answer on this yet. It will be safer to run with a minimum of staff but it would be fairer to group them and then swop the groups over.
- s. For the wellbeing of the staff the School does not plan to open at all over the six week holiday. Staff all need a break. Parents don’t usually rely on School over the summer holiday.
- t. There will need to be particular risk assessments in place for specific children.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12.37 pm.

Chair.....

Date.....