



Governor News – 12/5/2015

Reconstitution

On Tuesday evening last week governors had a lengthy meeting to reconstitute, as we are obliged to do by September 2015 under the School Governance Regulations 2012. This process is mandatory for governing bodies of all maintained schools in England and is designed to help governing bodies reduce the number of unfilled governor vacancies (this has not been an issue at St Matthew's) and also encourage the skills-based recruitment of new governors. For example, if we need someone with legal expertise, we can specifically advertise for a governor with these skills to either be co-opted onto the governing body or elected through the parent election process.

The Outcome for St Matthew's

The main differences are that we now have: four elected parent governor posts (previously six); one elected staff governor (previously three); one elected Local Authority governor (previously four); and the category of community governor has ceased to exist. In practice, the governors whose category of governor no longer exists have been co-opted back onto the governing body for a two-year term. There are two exceptions: Carrie Rice was a staff governor and has stepped down (she is currently on maternity leave) and Ashley Walsh too has stepped down due to work commitments.

In short, our new governing body looks very similar to the old one. This process will now be ratified by the Local Authority.

The Reconstituted Governing Body:

- Elected Parent Governors: Joanna Dean, Sarah Ransome, Sam Wilkes-Read and Gavin Ayliffe.
- Elected Staff Governor: Melissa Hatcher
- Co-opted Staff Governor: Emily Evans
- LA Governor: Carole Mills
- Head Teacher: Tony Davies
- Co-opted Governors: Lucy Walker, Kevin Blencowe, Jill Tuffnell, Neil Perry, Zoe Thorn and Mark Tinkler.

We have three co-opted governor vacancies including one vacancy for another member of staff to be co-opted onto the governing body. This could be a member of the teaching, office or support staff.

At the end of this academic year the school secretary, Anne Maskell, will be stepping down as clerk after 20 years service - an impressive tenure! We would like to thank Anne for all the help she has provided the governing body with over this time. We will soon be starting the recruitment process for a new clerk whose duties include managing the business of the governing body and advising the

governing body as appropriate.

Other Business

Aside from these formalities, during Tuesday's meeting we have ratified the school budget for the new financial year just started. This year we will benefit from increased funding to Cambridgeshire schools [we were previously one of the worst funded counties in the country], although we are not sure how many more years this will last. The plan is to make a small surplus of around 1% of our income by the end of March 2016. This would mark a significant improvement on the position at the end of March 2015 where we recorded a deficit.

Our attention is now focused on recruiting a new clerk and formulating a new school development plan. In relation to the school development plan, we will be sending out a questionnaire later this term asking parents for their thoughts which will feed into this process. In addition, we will be looking into incorporating a permanent feedback link on the new school website so that parents can send us comments more regularly.