

Extra Ordinary Governors' Meeting 12th January 2011

Present: C Molyneux, C Anderson, H Jamieson, I Reed, G Lunt, R Alsoraimi, P Killen, J Arnold, J Coyne, A Dearden, L Wilson, R Owens

Issue	Matters arising/ Discussion/ information	Action Taken/ to be taken
Apologies	None	
Previous Minutes	<p>C Molyneux stated that her name was omitted as being present at meeting of 7th December 2010. Details of PFI contract not minuted. – Amendments to be made. Minutes accepted as true record</p>	
Whole School Strategic Development	<p>The Chair of Governors stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss Academy Status and review the outcome from the Extra Ordinary Meeting on 7th December 2010 listed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The LA Governor to discuss other options with T Warren for the school besides Academy Status. b) The Chair of Governors to meet with the Chair of Ellesmere Port to discuss the advantages/disadvantages of the school becoming an Academy with University of Chester as the controlling sponsor. <p>The LA Governor had met with T Warren and J Corbett and understood that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The local authority has no intention or expectation of closing Shorefields. b) The "top slice" is 10%, rather than 15%. c) The LA does not see any early prospect of being required to impose an Academy transition on Shorefields d) The LA would be keen to offer Shorefields a continuing relationship in the event that the school were set to become an Academy. e) The school was likely to be required to convert to an Academy because our GCSE pass rate is falling below the government's new threshold. f) The LA wishes to see Shorefields remain a member of a Liverpool family of schools. The local authority is appreciative of the past achievements of the school, in the face of severe challenges g) The LA is currently consulting on a change to its 	

	<p style="text-align: center;">admission criteria.</p> <p>The Headteacher fed back on a meeting with Tim Warren where she was told her that within the reorganisation of schools in Liverpool, Shorefields was vulnerable due to the falling role. She had 3 years to increase numbers and after that other options for the school would be considered.</p> <p>T Warren informed the Headteacher that the DfE had met with the LA to discuss the future of Shorefields. Academy Status had been raised and a potential sponsor E-ACT mentioned. At this stage the LA had said no to Academy Status.</p> <p>The Headteacher had researched E-ACT. They are sponsor academies across the country. There was negative feedback on their approach in an Oldham Academy. The research suggested that Higher Education sponsors had more positive impact on school improvement in Academies</p> <p>Governors met with Jane Corbett (Elected member for Education) and T Warren on 11th January 2011. The discussion was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Reasons for Shorefields considering Academy Status with Chester. b) The possibility of Liverpool providing support <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) J Corbett and T Warren understood the reasons for Shorefields considering Academy Status b) They felt the Liverpool would not be able to provide the same level of support so this was the most sensible option. c) They would like Shorefields to remain within the community of schools. <p>The question of Trust Status was discussed with a view to the current Trust's ability to support school improvement and the role the Trust would play in the decision making process.</p> <p>The Headteacher outlined the advantages of becoming an Academy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Rebranding could have an impact on poor reputation and increase numbers on roll. b) School uniforms would be provided as part of the rebranding process. c) Additional funding- As an academy the school would receive: (a) The 'top slice' of the 	<p>Academy Staus will be discussed at the Trust meeting on 21st January</p>
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	<p>education budget and (b) Start up grant funding. It would also receive diseconomies of scale funding. At the moment Shorefields is overstaffed and an expression of interest form has been sent to all staff asking if they wish to be considered for voluntary redundancy. Becoming an Academy would provide extra funding to alleviate the staffing issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) Support for school improvement would be improved through the support of the University e) The Headteacher would be working with the Principals of other schools similar to Shorefields and good practice could be shared amongst all levels. f) The Chair of Governors has been informed that attendance and attainment had improved since the Ellesmere Port school became an Academy <p>The LA Governor felt that we should do more to market the school. The Headteacher stated that this had already been done through advertisements in papers and primary schools and using marketing companies such as Paver Smith with little impact on increasing numbers. If we wait another 12 months the 'pot of money' for the school to become an Academy will have decreased and would result in very little funding for Shorefields. Up until recently the school ran the STEP Project whereby primary school children would come into school and take part in lessons. However research on the impact of this showed no impact on increasing year 7 student numbers.</p> <p>The Chair of Governors asked the Headteacher about the letter from the NUT voicing their concerns regarding changing to Academy Status. The Headteacher stated that if this is the way forward for Shorefields she would be very happy to discuss any concerns with the Unions. It was suggested that a response be sent to the Unions</p> <p>A Governor asked if the terms and conditions for staff would change if Academy Status went ahead but the Headteacher had been assured by Colin Hankinson that they would remain the same. The Associate Headteacher stated that if Shorefields became an Academy the voluntary redundancies would still go ahead, however, as 7 volunteers are needed and if only 5 applied this would ease the process.</p> <p>It was suggested that staff from Ellesmere Academy be</p>	<p>A response to be sent to the Unions by H Jamieson</p>
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invited to Shorefields to meet the staff and address any concerns that Shorefields staff have.

The Governors discussed the options for Shorefields:

- a) Stay as we are and market the school
- b) Consider becoming an Academy sponsored by Chester University
- a) 1
- b) 8

However, before they make a final decision the Governors would like confirmation of the following:

- a) The additionality of funding gained by receiving the 'top slice'.
- b) The school has a strong business case for increasing numbers on role; a guarantee they would receive 'diseconomies of scale funding' for a school role of 800/900.
- c) The amount of funding received which would support 're-branding' from the school to Academy Status.
- d) An assurance that the Headteacher's leadership as Principal would be maintained by the Academy.
- e) Terms and conditions for all teaching and support staff will be protected for the duration of the Academy
- f) The amount taken by the University as their part of the 'top slice' and details of the services received for this 'top slice'.
- g) The costs and implications of transferring a PFI school to an Academy.

As an assurance the Governors would also like confirmation that Shorefields would:

- a) Continue with the current school improvement priorities.
- b) Retain a significant degree of autonomy.
- c) Be given clarity on exclusivity of partners

As Shorefields is a Foundation School with a Trust; the Governors would like to explore the possibilities of the Trust's input to the new Academy.

Responses to the areas outlined above will enable the Governors to make a fully considered decision.

The Governors felt by the date of the next Extra Ordinary Meeting – 9th February Mr Hankinson will have had time to gather information and be able to come

H Jamieson to write to Chester University to make these requests

back to them with a written response. They also felt it would be valuable if Mr Hankinson was invited to the meeting to present this response to them at the meeting.

Meeting closed at 6.05pm

		<p>The Headteacher will respond to the letter from the NUT</p> <p>The Headteacher will contact Colin Hankinson and ask for confirmation of the Governors' requests</p>
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