



Lowbrook Academy Extraordinary Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 21st March at 2.30pm at Lowbrook Academy

Present: Dave Rooney (DR), Dominique Du Pre (DdP), Bianca Iasi (BI), Guy Van Der Knaap (GK),

Clerk: Kate Bailey (KB)

Item		Action
1.	Apologies for Absence	
	Paul Harrison, Christine Sherwood-Phelps, James Spiteri, Mary Gallop all with prior work commitments.	
2.	Notification of Any Other Business (AOB)	
	There was no other business to discuss.	
3.	Lowbrook Expansion Project 2017-18	
	<p>DR updated the governors on his telephone conversation with Ross McWilliams (RM) following the Conservative councillor's group meeting on Monday 20th March 2017. DR explained that RM had indicated that it appeared that the Council was extremely unlikely to agree the additional funding required for Phase II of the expansion scheme but that the £1.6 million of funding previously agreed would still be left on the table and it would be indicated that it was the school who had walked away from the project.</p>	
	<p>DR confirmed that he would be meeting with Cllr Dudley personally on Wednesday 22nd March at 1.30pm to discuss this matter further.</p>	DR
	<p>DR expressed his extreme disappointment at the current situation and his unease at managing public opinion on this matter himself. BI agreed and stated that she felt that the school would need to manage the backlash very carefully. It was agreed that DR should seek external advice to review this process.</p>	DR
	<p>DR then outlined his exit strategy action plan to the governors which was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Governing Body Meeting on 31st March 2017 to work on exit strategy. KB to invite Ross McWilliams and Paul Brimacombe. • DR to write letter to parents to be distributed on Wednesday 29th March. • DR to prepare a website statement for the morning of the 29th March. • DR to brief all staff at 8.30am on Wednesday 29th March. • DR to monitor the reaction of parents and community with a strategy to respond, for example, prepared questions and answers. 	KB DR DR DR DR

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PR to communicate with TRL to instruct them to cease work on Phase II of the expansion with immediate effect and ascertain costs to this point in order to seek recompense from RBWM for this. • To communicate effectively with Theresa May's office to ensure that she has a full understanding of the school's position. <p>DdP asked whether the school would still attend the council meeting and vote on the 30th March. DR confirmed that this would be the case.</p> <p>DR notified the governors that he may also be working on a personal exit strategy but that he would need time to think about this. DdP counselled DR to take time to think about this and confirmed that the governors would give their full support to him in this matter.</p> <p>DR commented that he felt awfully sorry for the non-catchment siblings and catchment children who would not be offered a place and who have been let down.</p> <p>DdP reminded DR of the fact that Lowbrook is an outstanding school, it provides an exceptional learning environment for its pupils and it will still be in a position to accommodate and educate 30 children in September 2017.</p> <p>GK commented that the school needed a short term strategy to deal with the initial public outcry and then a longer term plan to explain to its community how things had gone wrong. GK asked DR if governors could be involved in this and DR confirmed that this is the case. It was agreed that DdP and GK are to arrange a meeting with the Editor of the Maidenhead Advertiser.</p> <p>The governors then discussed strategy for DR's meeting with Cllr Dudley and for the Council meeting on the 30th March including the prepared questions which had already been submitted.</p> <p>DR confirmed that he would work on a full exit strategy and would circulate this to governors.</p>	<p>PR</p> <p>DR</p> <p>DdP/GK</p> <p>DR</p>
	<p>The meeting closed at 3.30pm</p>	

Signed.....Dominique Du Pre (Chair)