



Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Governing Body of Stokesley School held in school on Thursday 10th July 2014 at 6pm

Present: H. Boal (Chair), S. Brennan, N. Briggs, C. Brooker (Headteacher), B. Griffiths, P. Howes, P. Hutchinson, N. Land, G. Lindsay, A. Price, S. Thorogood, V. von Morgen, H. Wiseman.

Invited by the chair and agreed by governors – D. Drumm (NUT rep.), R. Leach (on behalf of NASWT)

In support: S. Newman (Clerk)

GB38/14: Apologies were received from L. Hugill

GB39/14: Special Business:

To discuss whether Stokesley School should express an interest in becoming an academy.

The chair ascertained the quorum and invited D. Drumm to make his representation to the committee. Mr Drumm stated that following the AGM of school NUT members, a unanimous decision was made to strongly oppose the proposal to express an interest in becoming an academy for two reasons.

1. Pay and Conditions

Staff believe that:

- Nearby schools that have converted are not happy places to work in
- Under academy status pay would not be determined by national agreements
- TUPE does not provide any guarantees – all past agreements can be broken
- Academies do not recognise unions
- Staff would be expected to do lunchtime duty and cover lessons
- The LA provides a safety net when in financial difficulties

2. Conversion would not be good for the school

Staff believe that:

- There is no evidence that academies produce better results, some do better, some do worse
- The poverty gap increases
- Academies use unqualified teachers
- Governors may not be fully aware of what they would be taking on
- Only half of all secondary schools have converted to academies, it is not inevitable, once converted there would be no going back.

The chair invited R. Leach to make her representation to the committee.

Ms Leach said that the unions were united in their opposition and agreed with the points raised by D. Drumm. NASWT members had questioned how continuity of service would be affected in particular, maternity benefits and pensions.

The chair thanked both representatives for their comments. D. Drumm and R. Leach left the meeting at 6.30pm.

Governors discussed at length the pros and cons of expressing an interest in becoming an academy `giving due consideration to the points raised by the two teaching staff representatives. In order to reach a

decision, the positive and negative aspects of both expressing an interest and not expressing an interest were summarised.

Expressing an Interest:

Positive aspects:

Information provided by DfE which may help the decision making process

Signal to other schools who may wish to collaborate

Reduces the pressure of forced change

Autonomy of decision

Trigger for governor action – sharpens governance

Negative aspects:

Staff morale – possible impact on teaching and learning

Triggers work

Not Expressing an Interest:

Positive Aspects:

None identified

Negative aspects:

Forced change with potentially alien values

Puts back access to capital

Potential changes to framework

Following discussion the motion 'Stokesley School will express an interest in becoming an academy' was proposed by the chair and seconded by the vice chair. The motion was put to vote by secret ballot. The motion was carried by a majority of 10 in favour and 3 against. There were 3 absentees.

It was resolved that Stokesley School would express an interest in becoming an academy.

Governors discussed actions required and

It was agreed that:

- **staff would be told of the decision at the earliest opportunity**
- **the expression of interest would be submitted in September**
- **the decision should remain confidential with regard to parents and students until September**
- **a governor academy committee would be formed, any governors interested in taking part would email the chair**

The meeting concluded at 7.30pm