SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT SCHOOL 6/10/16

PRESENT :- Tony Callcutt (Executive Head), Jill Ryder (Head of School), Sharon Lord (SIAMS), Christine Pascoe (Class 4 parent rep), Dave Kay (Class 3 parent rep), Una McGovern (Class 2 parent rep), Kate Burch (FOLS chair), Tom Benson (governor).

APOLOGIES :- Anna Neville (governor), Pip Cartmell (Class 1 parent rep).

1. Discussion about who should take minutes and chair these School Committee meetings. The meetings should not be chaired by a member of school staff. Therefore, the parent reps will chair the meetings and prepare the agenda on a rota basis. The next meeting will be chaired by Christine Pascoe, then Dave Kay, Una McGovern and Pip Cartmell. Kate Burch agreed to take the minutes at each meeting.

2. A report from the FOLS chair should be on the agenda.

3. Discussion about the after school club which is now running on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays each week. It is questionable whether this is going to be viable. At the moment it is running at a loss and the shortfall is being met by the school. We wold need 11 at each session to break even. So far there has been a maximum of 9 and sometimes only

3. This will be pushed/promoted and reviewed at the end of half term but cannot continue at a loss.

4. Jill Ryder has met with Riverford to discuss concerns about the school dinners. The portion sizes will be increasing and a new menu will be prepared taking into account the views of the children. Riverford are also going to provide a tasting tray which does not form part of the meal but will give children the opportunity to try different vegetables which they may not otherwise try.

5. Riverford have also agreed to run some vegetable workshops and a gardening after school club. Jill is discussing this further with them later this month.

6. The academy has applied for a grant to update the library. The librarian from Bearnes has put on hold visiting until the outcome of the application is known. Una has agreed to help out with the library. The library is in need of re-stocking and that is part of the School Improvement Plan.

7. Jill read her Head of School report (copy attached to the minutes).

RE/Ethos/SIAMS:

Sharon Lord reported that the harvest festival is on 14th October and Tom has asked for children to contribute tinned food for the food bank as last year. Collective Worship Ambassadors have now been appointed (from Year 6), to lead our Out of the Box worship twice each half term. Sharon showed committee resources and questions asked about how children will be taught to use and deliver. Sharon has recently attended a course “Understanding Christianity” which provides a new resource for the school. Sharon shared resource and took questions, outlined its structure and will be training the staff members in its use, Tom agreed to help with this training, staff will be trialling it this year, as agreed by the Governing body.

8. Parents have raised concerns about the car parking at the beginning and end of the day. Jill will speak to Hill House and the village hall committee to see if they will agree to parents using their car parks. She will remind parents in the newsletter this week that they should not park on the hatched areas.

9. Concerns about there being no member of staff in the mornings by the gate so children could easily leave the premises without being seen. Jill will ask the member of staff on duty to stay in the top playground near the gate.

10. It is confirmed that the outdoor classroom is being used. It is used regularly by forest school but also by class teachers for other things. FOLS are arranging for a ramp to be built.

11. The school are arranging Christmas cards again this year.

12. Some parents have been upset about asking to sign the Home School Agreement. Tony confirmed it is likely to be in a different format next year and concerns raised have been noted. If parents are unhappy about signing it they do not have to.

13. Tom reported that the owners of AnRan are keen to make links in the community and may be able to offer something to the school. Tom will discuss with them what they can offer.

14. Next meeting 1/12/16 at school at 6pm.