

**Rolls Crescent**

**17 May 2016, 18:00**

Governor Attendees:	Staff Attendees:
Martin Harding, Chair	Jeff Reynolds, Headteacher
Louise Openshaw, Staff Governor	Helen Turner, Headteacher
Nicky Connell, Parent Governor	Dave Watson, Executive Headteacher
Kay Roche, Staff Governor	Jo Sands, Federation Business Manager (CP and OM)
	Angela Keane, Federation Chair of Governors for CP & OM
	Clair Travis, PA to David Watson (Minutes)
Partners:	Parent Attendees:
0	9

	Discussion
1.	<p><b>Welcome from Jeff Reynolds, Headteacher</b></p> <p>Information was given on the different ways parents can submit any questions.</p> <p>Jeff Reynolds and Helen Turner worked through the slides of the presentation: Consultation Presentation 17th May (on Rolls Crescent website).</p>
2.	<p><b>Presentation from Martin Harding, Chair of Governors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MH has been involved with RC for 20 years – it began with wanting to be a role model, particularly for Year 6 children</li> <li>RC was in RI (Ofsted judgement: Requiring Improvement)</li> <li>In the last 18 months we have seen what RC will look like and achieve in a MAT; there has been a growth in confidence in the teaching staff, they enjoy coming to school which reflects on how they deal with children. This has been brought about by working with Dave Watson; we have a greater focus, direction and purpose</li> <li>Today RC are Ofsted ‘Good’ and we want to be Ofsted ‘Outstanding’. In order to achieve this, we believe that working closely with Chorlton Park and Old Moat will need to continue</li> <li>RC’s governing Body have researched the options and have spoken with everyone possible. We have also considered the option to stay as we are. We believe that the best opportunity is to move forwards to consultation with parents and staff.</li> </ul>
3.	<p><b>Presentation from Dave Watson, Executive Headteacher</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dave explained that our vision states that we want to change lives in collaboration, delivering high quality education.</li> <li>Dave is an Ofsted Inspector, has links with DfE and other national bodies. He can provide information to the schools to navigate the future.</li> <li>It is important that the school and leadership are held to account. Dave explained that Dave Pilkington, Chair of Governors at Chorlton Park (present today) who holds Dave to account for the way he operates at Chorlton Park. With this challenge from Governors, Dave has developed as a leader and has been able to effectively work with RC.</li> <li>For RC, we want to achieve ‘Outstanding’, Dave is very committed to the school. There are some needs which need to be addressed but RC is a great school with great potential.</li> <li>Dave’s role at RC is to challenge the school leaders and provide encouragement and motivation.</li> </ul>
2.	<p><b>Question and Answer session</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b> There seems to be advantages that teachers have like cross training and Singapore Maths. Will that bring something valuable to children at RC?</p>

**Response:** *Jeff Reynolds explained that lots of areas in the curriculum have improved since working collaboratively. We see the children are more engaged. We've been searching for fossils in the Foundation stage and they've been eager to write about it. Through ideas that we have used through working collaboratively and we know what motivates our children – they been really involved in topics and researching and having the opportunities blog with opinions – they are not just given information. Helen Turner added that there has been significant improvement in ICT department; we now have a TA who is working with Chorlton Park.*

**Question:** All this change has occurred without being part of a MAT. If it isn't broken, why fix it? We're not sure what the advantages are of being in a MAT. With the LA being cut out, it is taking away the locality. I know of academies in Manchester who haven't made any positive changes, it has led to problems.

**Response:** *Jeff Reynolds confirmed that we are looking at the option of academising following exploration from the Governing Body. It would be working with two schools we have already built close relationships with. We want to keep the standards that we currently have and look to develop them. In order to do this, we feel we would need to keep our strong links with Chorlton Park and Old Moat. We're in a position where we can choose for ourselves, as time goes by more and more schools will find themselves in a position where they have no choice but to convert.*

*Dave Watson explained that we're ensuring all leaders are held to account. The Governing Body will hold the Headteachers and Dave Watson to account and there are robust structures in place to ensure the job is done correctly. Values are high and we have the skills sets required.*

*Nicky Connell added that if the leadership changed, we have a legal time to back us up where needed. No matter who comes and goes in the future, we will still maintain standards – this is why we are considering the co-operative model.*

Angela Keane talked through the proposed structure slide on the presentation;

- CP and OM decided to go to consultation this time last year and we had the same questions i.e. if we take away the LA, where does that leave us in terms of democracy.
- The LA resource has changed and they are no longer able to provide
- The way in which Dave Watson has led the federation and RC, it has shown us that we can do things that the LA has done for us
- There will be a cooperative academy forum; an opportunity for all members of the school community to have some input into the governance of the academy. We are piloting this at CP at the moment.

**Question:** You talk about collaboration but you don't seem sure where you're going.

**Response:** *Dave Watson explained that we are still looking at this in terms of establishing the function. There is a political agenda; where there is a poor inspection in a school, they will force schools to convert including coasting schools and decide which chain the school is going to and there would be no choice on this. Academies won't solve all problems but is the most effective way for all schools to meet the needs of challenge.*

**Question:** Will you be changing the curriculum, bringing in what you feel is best for the children.

**Response:** *Yes, you can decide the curriculum for the children, we will no longer be told what it should be. Jeff Reynolds added that working with other schools gives us the opportunity to see good teaching in practice and being able to choose whether or not we take it back to our school. It's about driving standards forward with the experience the other school have. It's a two-way street; RC has things they could offer CP and OM. Inclusion at RC is good; C and OM have taken on what we are doing – we mutually support. Louise Openshaw added that we attend the same courses as CP and OM, we bring it back to school and we talk about how we can embed the training; it's about keeping our autonomy and looking at how it will work for our school.*

**Comment:** To jump from RI to Good is the easy part – it's maintaining it.

**Response:** *Martin Harding confirmed that it is the processes that are important; the underpinning work to ensure the structure, the teaching and the culture is solid.*

**Question:** The structure slide on the presentation doesn't show how the different schools relate to each other and the Directors. Are the schools at equal levels and what oversight do the Heads retain? Do schools have control over their finance/budget? Is the strategy and HR done centrally?

**Response:** *Jo Sands stated that the finance and HR are functions of different committees. There is scrutiny on finance and HR at that level but it is still maintained in the schools. Money will stay in the school and account and continue to be controlled by the Headteachers and Executive Principal.*

**Question:** Will you have control over the number of holidays you have? There is currently no holiday support in the school and as a single parent working full time, it's difficult. Will the academy help us with holiday cover? Will you be having more or less holidays? Will you accommodate such requests?

**Response:** *At the moment, holidays will remain as they are. Regarding holiday clubs; we review how they work. They have been held in the past but they haven't been financially viable however, it is something we can talk about. It would need to be financially viable and have a good take up.*

**Question:** Regarding admissions; I applied for RC but didn't get a place. Where would you go to query/appeal?

**Response:** *Dave Watson stated that Admissions will remain with the Local Authority – they maintain the control.*

**Question:** How much support are you receiving from staff?

**Response:** *Jeff Reynolds confirmed that all staff at present are supportive of the initiative. Louise Openshaw stated that staff understand why this is being considered and we understand the process the Governors are going through as it's been conveyed clearly to staff. A lot of staff members were against it politically to begin with but now people understand more.*

**Question:** will it make a difference to contract? Will contracts be exactly the same as they are under the LA?

**Response:** *Louise Openshaw stated that this question has been asked and we have been informed that nothing will change, the contracts will be carried over as they are.*

**Question:** How far along with this are we? Have you made a decision to convert yet?

**Response:** *Jeff Reynolds confirmed that it is still being discussed and consideration will be given to all feedback from forms and these meetings with parents and staff – Governors will come together and ensure all considerations are made before making a final decision on 09 June 2016.*

**Question:** If the majority of parents say no, what will happen?

**Response:** *Jeff Reynolds confirmed that ultimately, it is the decision of the Governors. You have asked questions that we hoped you would ask – we've asked the same questions. Moving forwards, we will consider all responses and a vote will be held.*

*Martin Harding added that if we ignored the wishes and comments of the parents, we wouldn't be who we are. We need to capture all comments from stakeholders – they're important to us.*

**Question:** What do the children think?

**Response:** *Jeff Reynolds confirmed that the children have not yet been spoken to but it is the next job. We believe the children will relish the opportunity to work with other schools and the opportunities that would bring.*

**Question:** What about teaching intervention groups. Would this continue?

**Response:** *Jeff Reynolds confirmed that we would carry on with what we have been doing. The children will not see a difference in their schooling, we're developing the curriculum and that includes intervention groups. Dave Watson stated that it will be good for the children to work across the schools, learning from each other and sharing aspirations. Education is important to children. In the future, there is going to be lots of*

*computing jobs, work in science technology and we need to make sure that the children in this school are prepared with high standards so they can be employed locally and nationally.*

Jeff Reynolds ended the meeting by thanking the parents and reminding them that they can still submit comments on the process by using the website and drop boxes in school up to 09 June 2016.