

| Governor Attendees: | Staff Attendees: |
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| Martin Harding, Chair | Jeff Reynolds, Headteacher |
| Darren Cooper, Governor | Helen Turner, Headteacher |
| Nicky Connell, Parent Governor | Dave Watson, Executive Headteacher |
| Kay Roche, Staff Governor | Jo Sands, Federation Business Manager (CP and OM) |
| | Dave Pilkington, CP Chair of Governors |
| | Clair Travis, PA to David Watson (Minutes) |
| Partners: | Parent Attendees: |
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| | Discussion |
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| 1. | <p>Welcome from Jeff Reynolds, Headteacher</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>Presentation from Martin Harding, Chair of Governors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MH has been involved with RC for 20 years – it began with wanting to be a role model, particularly for Year 6 children RC was in RI (Ofsted judgement: Requiring Improvement) 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 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 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. |
| 3. | <p>Presentation from Dave Watson, Executive Headteacher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dave explained that our vision states that we want to change lives in collaboration, delivering high quality education. 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. 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. |
| 2. | <p>Question and Answer session</p> <p>Question: Raising standards – what does this mean in the classroom? Will the increase the pressure on children?</p> <p>Response: Dave Watson explained that the bar is rising and schools in the UK are being ranked against schools internationally. The government have a view that standards need to be higher, particularly in Maths and Reading.</p> |

We intend to focus on quality of teaching and ensuring the engagement of the children.

Jeff Reynolds added that RC have worked really hard on the curriculum to ensure the children are engaged with learning by learning through enjoyment. Children are choosing the resources they are using. Heads have visited to schools in London which are similar to RC in terms of culture and good ideas have been taken away. It is important to use for the children to be engaged in learning which will improve the standards.

Question: Have you thought about older children working with the younger children?

Response: *Jeff Reynolds stated that we are currently looking at Kagan Training. There are mixed ability children working together, sharing ideas to help them with the curriculum.*

Question: Have you looked at all the pros and cons? Ave you come across any negatives that when you convert, might make a difference in the education system?

Response: *Martin Harding stated that one of the strengths of RC is its integrity. We don't want to lose this within the MAT so we've ensured that we will retain the character and retain the teaching staff we've always known. In terms of weaknesses, the Heads will determine this – we will ensure that the budget is managed. Helen Turner added that we don't anticipate many changes – we will only focus on improving changes. Darren Cooper explained that the biggest change will be the business side; where the money is coming from – this will have an impact on the administration in the school and we are already working on what we need to put into place in terms of support.*

Question: Do you mean that only schools which are academies collaborate? What are the differences between community schools and academies? Is there any way the school can go back once converted?

Response: *All confirmed that the school will not be able to return to being a maintained school once it has converted to an academy. Martin Harding reiterated that the Governing Body has taken a full year to explore the options and we feel that continuing to work with Old Moat and Chorlton Park is the way forward. It will become more difficult as the Local Authority cut more services.*

Question: Why have the Government backed down recently on announcement that all schools to become academies.

Response: *Dave Watson confirmed that they have only backed down on the timeframe for schools to become academies.*

Question: *Singapore Maths – no consistency. Only working in certain year groups.*

Response: *Jeff Reynolds explained that we have started to work on this throughout KS1 and will be building it into Y3 next year.*

Jo Sands added that Singapore Maths began at Chorlton Park who got the ball rolling and then supported RC and OM with rolling it out. The upside is that RC do not need to get to grips with a new system as they have colleagues who have already worked on it.

Question: Will the funding be spent on training?

Response: *All confirmed that some of the funding will be used on training.*

Question: Does being an academy give you more freedom on how you do things or are you bound the same way? Have you got more control over how the children are being taught?

Response: *DW stated that there is no doubt schools are being put under pressure, we feel we need to provide support for the schools to meet those challenges and by we're working together we're in a better position to meet them. We don't believe in 'that child is failing', it's wrong and we need to find a better way within our cooperative views – we don't agree with labelling children. We want to maintain a legal responsibility in a way we feel education should be delivered.*

Being an academy will not make everything perfect but it does give us energy together.

Question: What does being an academy mean?

Response: *Dave Pilkington confirmed that he was originally against the idea when it first came up at CP. His view was that schools were run by the community and it should be kept that way. One of the reasons that convinced Dave was that it is a model that roots the school to the local community. The cooperative ethos ensures that all those values are met and by working with the schools, we can drive school improvement. The Local Authority no longer have the capacity to support schools in this way.*

Question: Where will the funding come from?

Response: *Dave Pilkington explained that the Local Authority only have enough money to run statutory duties. The Maths Leader at RC is recognised that he can work across three schools – with this, you are identifying expertise that can be used.*

Jo Sands explained that the funding will come directly from the DfE. At the moment, the DfE send the money to the Local Authority, they take a top slice for services and send the rest of the money to us so, as an academy, the money will come directly to us. Jo has already worked with an alliance of schools; sharing ideas and have been able to make savings on shared services. As a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT), we are able to drive down prices. Another benefit would be reducing workload; as an individual school, you will need to have risks assessments, for example. As a group of schools working together on such things it will be cost and time saving.

Dave Watson confirmed that behind all of this there is a political climate and it would be good to be in a position where we have control of the agenda rather than be forced to convert.

Darren Cooper added that he wouldn't like someone in an office in London telling us who our school should work with – these could be schools anywhere in the country. Jeff Reynolds stated that he would be worried. By looking to convert ourselves it would mean we are able to work with local schools – we wouldn't have a say if we were forced to convert.

Martin Harding added that for the past 18 months we have almost been working as a MAT. We have looked into the role of CEO to ensure we have the right person and we are convinced we have the right leader in Dave Watson.

Comment: Parent stated that communication needs to be clearer; the ethos and cooperative didn't come across in the letters to parents. This needs to be relayed back to parents more. It would also be good to receive communication from the other schools.

Question: Will there be any competing with the different schools in terms of money i.e. one school wouldn't lost out?

Response: *No, schools will still have their own budgets.*

Jeff Reynolds thanked the parents and reminded them that parents can still submit comments on the process by using the website and drop boxes in school up to 09 June 2016.