

Minutes from JRSA meeting 17th October 2018 (Held at Westcombe Park site)

1) There was an introduction from Eve Daniels & Julie Keating (new Co - Chairs) covering what the JRSA does: meets x6 per year, fundraising, socialising and aiding communication between parents and school. It was confirmed that Mandy Warrick is the new JRSA Treasurer and Ruth Cracknell and Amber Hickman will continue as Co-Secretaries.

2) HEADTEACHER'S REPORT - Cath Smith (Executive Headteacher)

a) The school is working hard on communication with the weekly newsletter (which was well received)

b) Staffing levels/recruitment situation is now much better than previously

c) There were good numbers of Year 6 parents attending Open Mornings/Evenings and lots of positive feedback. (Many parents interested in future plans).

d) Academy timeline:

- Department of Education is pushing for 1st January 2019 (1st Feb is more realistic).

- UST is still the sponsor.

- Hope to be in a position after October half term where more information will come from UST/Council/D of E.

- Strike by number of teaching staff is about transfer of employment. The Head advised that striking now will not change the speed of academisation. The strikes & 'will it / won't it' become an academy has had a very negative effect on the children (plus there is false /incorrect information circulating).

- FAQs on the school website contain correct information.

- The Headteacher is anticipating a turbulent year ahead, probably with a number of staff leaving.

- The Head will keep focusing on the children and appreciates parental support keeping the school to account.

- Cath won't undermine the strike but does want to minimise the effect. She is aware that some staff are apprehensive of not striking.

e) Teaching and learning

- The Headteacher has made close links with 5 local Primary schools so that JR teachers are more aware of what curriculum work Year 6s cover – the aim is to make year 7 work more relevant and to ease transition.

- HT has been concentrating on middle leadership, who will have accountability for their departments.

- When UST link is firmer, they can put in more staff to model good teaching, provide support eg re: methods for marking work, preparing effective lessons etc.

- With more resources from UST there will be better monitoring, teaching, training and planning.

- HT wants half termly monitoring, but it will take time to put in place across the board.

3. QUESTIONS TO HEADTEACHER

Q: *Does the school want parents to be involved more with the school?*

Yes, the school would appreciate parents being involved especially with links regarding business and work experience.

Reading schemes/ literacy programmes/ extra-curricular clubs/ debate mate - parents could get involved with these. Cath would need to find someone to take a lead on it.

A dedicated person is ideally needed to organise a parent group to help with volunteers.

Eve has a database of skills from parents. Parents want to help - would be much easier with a dedicated contact person.

Good to get the local community involved in supporting the school.

Q: *After conversion, what are going to be the biggest challenges and how can parents help?*

- There are going to be some very tough financial decisions ahead. Parents are voters - elected MPs follow and listen to the 'noisy voice'. Supportive parent voice needs to be heard.

- IT work is needed in the school and will require serious fundraising. IT work was carried out 4 years ago but wasn't 'future-proofed'.

4. A group of parents gave some feedback to the Head and wanted to let Cath know that they are supporting the school. They have been collecting signatures from parents who want the school community, local MPs, local newspapers etc to know that they do not support the current striking and want to back the Headteacher with improving results and behaviour at the school. For more information they can be contacted on:

johnroanopenletter@gmail.com

5. FUNDRAISING / EVENTS

- Christmas concert (date to be confirmed) - volunteers are needed to help run refreshments on the night and donations are needed for the raffle.

- Celebration of Achievement Evening date is now set as 20th December (7 – 9pm at Maze Hill site). Volunteers are needed to help with refreshments.

- Quiz night - to be arranged in the New Year.

6. A request was made for the JRSA minutes (plus the lottery form and easyfundraising link) to be included in The John Roan Weekly News.

Ends