

BAWB Parents' Forum
Minutes of Meeting held Wednesday 17th May 2017
7pm
West Burton School

Chair: Cathy Bergs

Minutes: Kath Alderson

Present: L Alderson; K Jump; T Dent; A Calvert; G Bottley; F Cartwright; E Dent; N McCreadie; H Dalton; D Wood; M Cooper; M Cooper; P Scott; K Hodgson.

Apologies: C Madley; J Cartwright; R Hewitson

In Attendance: Miss Harper (until 7:40pm)

Federation and Future Plans

On 3rd May, parents received communication that the structure of the federation would remain unchanged (providing there were no unforeseen changes of staff or children) for at least one more year. Miss Harper attended the forum to answer any questions parents may have.

- Miss Harper confirmed that Mrs Robinson and Miss Richardson would be staying at West Burton from September 2017 in Class 2 and Class 1 respectively.
- Mrs Cumpstone is expected back at the end of June.
- Current staffing at Askrigg and Bainbridge will remain; however their deployment may change.

Questions asked prior to the Forum:

- Q: What type of contracts do staff have?
A: Some are permanent and some fixed term.
- Q: Admission numbers are in excess of agreed limit?
A: Each school has a pupil admission number (PAN) set by the Local Authority (LA). As our schools are not full, the LA has agreed to increase the PAN.
- Q: How many children currently in Nursery will register at West Burton in Reception?
A: Two children currently in Nursery are expected on roll at West Burton in September 2017; there are also another two children due to start in Reception at West Burton who do not currently attend Nursery at Bainbridge.
 - The offer of 30 hours childcare has possibly contributed to the healthy Nursery numbers.
 - Nursery provision will continue to be monitored and reviewed, but we would hope to continue with the 30 hour provision in September 2017.

Questions from the floor:

- Q: Has the LA explored extending / altering the schools' catchment areas?
A: The LA has very little flexibility to alter catchments and it isn't a conversation they wish to become engaged with.
- Q: What will happen re the proposed National Funding Formula?
A: With the current political uncertainty it is still under consultation; but may never come into force. If it does, the impact on BAWB Schools is unclear.
- Q: The letter which parents received on 3rd May mentioned 12+ options had been explored. Could parents have any information about the options that had been considered?
A: They include structural variations e.g. all KS2 taught at Askrigg; Early Years taught at Bainbridge and KS1 at West Burton; Splitting KS2 classes between Askrigg and West Burton etc.
 - There have been significant staff changes at the LA; they are being very supportive. They realise a strategy is necessary for Wensleydale and beyond.
 - Governors continue to liaise with the LA and Diocese
 - It is costly to have two classes (one of 8 children and one of 14) at West Burton.
- Q: What is the plan from September 2018?
A: As the government has been in purdah, major decisions have been on hold, though the LA is now proactive in its support. We continue to liaise with the LA and diocese.

BAWB Parents' Forum
Minutes of Meeting held Wednesday 17th May 2017
7pm
West Burton School

- Q: Schools cannot set a deficit budget without a long-term recovery plan?
A: That is correct. Governors are exploring many options which the LA are aware of.
- Q: How long is the LA prepared to support our deficit?
A: LA is aware of our deficits and that we propose to maintain our structure for another year; they support the decision.
 - Small schools are high profile; funding across the country is insufficient; there are many changes e.g. Horton-in-Ribblesdale School is closing.
- Q: Will the outturn and future budget projections be made available to parents?
- A: The information has to be approved by Governors. Will be shared (in summary form) once approved.
 - All schools have a projected deficit
- Q: West Burton had a surplus?
A: All three schools are projecting a deficit. There were similar, understandable, feelings when the structural changes were made at Bainbridge and Askrigg. None of the schools are financially supporting any of the others.
- Q: What is the Diocese' role; are they able to help financially?
- A: Whilst the Diocese is concerned about the future of small schools (especially as many very small schools are Church Schools) they are not in a position to help financially.
 - As Hawes and Leyburn Primaries are now Academies, the remaining primary schools in Wensleydale may be seen to be more vulnerable.
 - The Government expectation remains that all schools will be Academies by 2020; however it is not something our Governors are actively exploring.
- Q: Is West Burton still Ofsted imminent?
A: Yes

Parents are pleased that there are no plans to change the structure of BAWB for the next academic year.

7:40pm: Miss Harper left the meeting.

Communication

- The text service continues to be well received.
- Diary dates on the last page of the newsletter do not always include information that is mentioned within the main body of the newsletter.
- Could admin ensure that the newsletter attachment is emailed as a pdf? Parents can't always open it.
- Parentpay – can parents be reminded to visit the site to pay for dinner and milk money? Could an alert be set up when new items are added? Mrs Alderson said that trips etc. are always mentioned in the newsletter prior to the payment item being added to Parentpay.
- Could Miss Harper communicate (preferably half termly) as to progress with future plans for the federation.
- Would it be possible for Miss Harper to attend all Parent Forums?
- There was some concern over the organisation of the Tournament of Song and also as to how decisions were made regarding which children took part in which classes? E.g. Askrigg and Bainbridge didn't take part in the speech classes.
- There had been confusion around the final swimming session (West Burton specific)
- It was suggested that parents would be keen to help with things like the Nativity. If staff need any help could it be communicated through the newsletter?

Next Meeting

7pm at Askrigg School – Wednesday 28th June 2017

BAWB Parents' Forum
Minutes of Meeting held Wednesday 17th May 2017
7pm
West Burton School

AOB

- A parent asked that their gratitude be noted as to how well their child was progressing thanks to the support they were receiving in class. Special thanks went to the Teaching Assistant.
- Headlice: parents felt the recent bulletin from Miss Harper was very useful. It was also noted that staff had hair bobbles in school and would tie children's hair up if necessary.
- The Usborne Book Fair was advertised (Friday 19th May)
- BAWB Fundraisers. Proceeds from the following will be held in a central BAWB account.
 - ✓ A tea towel, featuring every child's self-portrait, was being produced to be sold. This would be available before the end of term.
 - ✓ A photo shoot was being planned for September
- The West Burton 50's club money was discussed. It is held within West Burton's School Fund.
- Parents hoped that a seaside trip would be planned for the end of term.

Meeting closed 8:20pm