

The Palmer Academy – Governing Body

Enquiring Minds for Inspiring Futures

MINUTES

The REAch2 Reading Cluster Local Governing Body Meeting
The Palmer Academy | Civitas Academy | Ranikhet Academy

Held on Tuesday 13th September 2016

Attendance: David Leeper (Chair), Robert Wyld, Sal Ducker, Faruq Bilbe, Kate Lamburn, Abby Stevens, Libby Thomassen, Anna Speed, Laura Callaway, Dom Prendergast, Louisa Jones, Fiona Chapman

Visitor: Siobhan Chester (REAch2 Governor Support)

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from **Claire Challis**

2. Welcome, introductions and confirmation of Chair

RW & SD confirmed that David Leeper had been appointed as the newly formed R2RLGB (REAch2 Reading Local Governing Body) Chair.

RW stated that he sits on the North Central Regional Board as a Headteacher representative.

DL stated that he sits on the South Central Regional Board.

3. REAch2 Academy Trust Governance Overview & Terms of Reference

RW & SC gave an overview of the structure of REAch2 governance and the terms of reference within this. The legal body sits with the Board of Trustees. The responsibility of each region is given to the Regional Board. R2RLGB are part of the North Central Region. The Local Governing Body have the responsibility and power to monitor, support and challenge leaders of the school. This works as a 'three tiered system' where main decisions are made at Regional Board level.

Actions:

All parties read the trust governance and terms of reference document.

SD to email the constitution and terms of reference.

4. Setting up membership of committees

As a whole governing body we will take responsibility for Resources and Standards, rather than setting up separate committees at this stage.

5. Portfolio of roles & responsibilities

After some discussion members were given the opportunity to voice their preferences for roles and responsibilities within the R2RLGB. These will be decided and confirmed at the next meeting.

DL distributed a list of possible roles.

Actions:

DL to distribute electronic copies of link role options.
DL to send out skills NGA skills audit.

6. Confidentiality Agreement

SC explained the importance of the confidentiality agreement and the responsibility for all members to be mindful about what they say and to whom.

Action: SC to email confidentiality agreement

7. Dates for the year

It was agreed that the next two full governing bodies will be:

Wednesday 19th October at 5pm at Ranikhet Academy where the main agenda item will be Resources

And

Monday 5th December at 5pm at Civitas Academy where the main agenda item will be Standards and the Executive Headteachers Report.

The remaining dates for the year will be decided on the 19th October.

8. Agreement on reporting arrangements

All minutes will be shared with Linda Meredith, Chair of the Regional Central Board.

9. Introduction to the Reading Cluster

RW recapped the Regional Governing Body and how Ofsted inspect and views REAch2 Governance (that all reports had been very positive about how REAch2 schools are governed).

RW gave a history of REAch2 in Reading and why it was decided that the three schools working together was best for all children. They made clear that it was an informal cluster and not a federation. It was formed to improve standards, recruitment and retention and financial stability in all schools.

SD outlined the benefits: 1. Recruitment and retention. 2. That The Palmer Academy's stronger budget can support both Civitas and Ranikhet. 3. Shared CPD and opportunities to run INSETs together. 4. Opportunities to work together to develop the sense of wider community.

RW outlined a summary of each school: The Palmer Academy's Self Evaluation judgement is 'Good' Civitas Academy's Self Evaluation is 'Good', which has been verified by a recent Moderated Trust Inspection and Ranikhet Academy's current Self Evaluation is Inadequate.

RW explained how staff were recruited (via The Palmer Academy) for all three schools and then offered a position at one of the schools.

AS asked: how can we sell the cluster to the parents?

RW and SD agreed that this needed to happen but stated that the schools were already working together, e.g. The Edible Playground project, and that plans were in place for the schools to visit the pantomime together. Plans are also in place for the EHTs to distribute a regular cluster newsletter.

DL asked: what do you want from your cluster local governing body?

RW answered that they needed challenging. Are actions focussed towards the spirit of the cluster? Is there consideration of community understanding and perceptions?

DL asked: how many pupils on roll?

RW stated that there were spaces on roles in every year group at TPA (current number on roll 417)
FJC stated that there are 269 on roll and that classes are mixed for years 3 and 4 (combined) and that Ranikhet was not the school of choice in the community yet.
SD stated that Civitas was not full and that there are a lot of spaces in both Reception and Year 1 (current NOR 83).

DL asked: is REAch2 subsidising any of the schools?

RW and SD made clear that this was not happening and that additional spending from Civitas and Ranikhet was coming from The Palmer Academy carry forward.

10. Any other business

DL thanked RW & SD for what they've achieved so far and for what is to come in the new REAch2 Reading Cluster.

11. Date of the next meeting

Wednesday 19th October at 5pm at Ranikhet Academy