

East Ayton School Improvement Committee

04/10/19

Attendees

- Derek Johnson
 - Samantha Hay (Chair)
 - David Tomlinson
 - Greg Harper
 - Eileen Race
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Agenda

- Update on visit from Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education 03/10/19
 - Website update – DJ
 - Performance Management
 - Visit from Heather Mensah
 - Monitoring update – GH, DT
 - AOB
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Update on visit from Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education 03/10/19

SH and DJ updated governors on the visit the previous day. This had been relatively impromptu, with only 48 hours' notice and the school had been advised that it would be a low-key visit. There were still several members to Mr Williamsons party which included DfE representatives, Coastal Opportunity members of staff, members of the press and our local MP Robert Goodwill. The visit had consisted of a tour round the school, showing off our forest schools' area in particular. At the end of the visit, SH, DJ and LN had a chance for a meeting with Mr Williamson without press, where we discussed the challenges faced by our school with regard to funding and how we were using the coastal opportunity money to encourage higher engagement by boys in particular in order to drive up attainment across the school.

Question

Was the visit a PR exercise or was there benefit to the school?

Answer

There was clearly a PR element to the visit, although we are always happy to show off the many positives of our school to visitors. The private meeting at the end of the visit gave us the chance to explain to the Secretary of State the challenges we faced and how vital the coastal opportunity money had been. We also made it clear that we would welcome extra funding from any source. We also gained commitment from the Secretary of State and our local MP to host our Year 6 children at the Houses of Parliament when they have their visit to London in 2020.

Action

the visit will be highlighted on our website and we will continue to speak to the contacts we made that day with regard to the visit to London and any possible funding.

Website update - DJ

DJ gave an update on the most recent meeting with the website developer. There had been a few snagging issues that the developer was going to rectify, a photographer was coming to the school in the following week and the images taken would be uploaded onto the website.

Question

When will the website be live?

Answer

By the end of 11/10/19, a soft launch of the website will happen with a full roll out of the website within 2 weeks of that.

Action

Christian Dente will examine the prototype of the website when it is launched on 11th Oct and upload newer school information.

Performance Management

ER and DT had done this with DJ alongside Heather Mensah. All targets were being met and it was felt by all, including Heather Mensah, that DJ should accept a 1 point pay rise from September 2019.

Action

SH to discuss with Finance Committee and Bursar as DJ would prefer to accept the 1 point pay rise after the next Ofsted visit.

Visit with Heather Mensah

She had been very happy with the work being done within school, especially the observation and monitoring programme. She expressed the opinion that if we were visited now by Ofsted, we probably would be remaining at 'Requires Improvement' but the longer away an inspection is, the more chance we have of a Good category as we will have much more evidence of the work being done within school.

Question

How do we manage the pressure of that?

Answer

By keeping lines of communication open within the whole school, making sure everyone is aware of our common goal and what their part in that process is.

Action

For all the governing body to be part of the observation/monitoring process, to keep our School Improvement Committee meetings regular and increase the governor presence in school. Also, to keep in mind the Friend part of our role as a Critical Friend, so that DJ and LN feel they can use us as a sounding board/support system.

Monitoring update from GH/DT

GH and DT have written reports on their latest observation of the monitoring process. These reports are held in school. Of particular concern was the progress of one individual teacher who has been flagged as not making enough progress and whose lessons are not consistently good.

Question

What is being done to ensure more rapid and consistent improvement?

Answer

DJ and LN have made the teacher aware of the need for improvement both in terms of teaching practice but also with engagement with the class and the classroom environment. For example, the working walls were not of a high enough standard so DJ had instructed the teacher to improve those immediately as that should be a quick fix. DJ had given the teacher a week to make these improvements and was then going to monitor again. If no improvements were seen, then we would have to quickly decide if this teacher was going to be on an official improvement plan.

Action

DJ and LN to closely monitor the work of this teacher and make a decision over the next 2 weeks as to the way forward. It was discussed that although we do not want to

disincentivise the staff member we need to move forward quickly and decisively as we need immediate improvement. This will be reported on at the next School Improvement Committee meeting.

AOB

None brought up.

Next meeting will be 25th October 2019, 8.30am.

Meeting closed.