

Meeting of Saltley Academy, Local Governing Body, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

Present: Mick York (MY – chair); Nelam Madahur (NM); Shamin Akhtar; Anwar Hasan, Keran Janagal; Chris Spiers.

Also present: Jon Cale (JC – Finance Director, WHMAT); Oxana Morgan (School Business Manager).

Apologies: Riaz Bi

There was a single agenda item: budget.

- 1) MY asked for an update on queries regarding the present year's budget. JC reassured governors regarding the 'orders brought forward' and explained the situation with some monies to be returned to the Academy from the Arts block build, plus some Pupil Premium (PP) underspend from the previous year. This means that in fact a £47,000 'overspend' would result in a spent budget. JC explained how specific school grants such as PP carry forward to the school, but general underspent budget returns to WHMAT.
- 2) NM explained how there is information which would ensure a better informed judgement on the budget and it was agreed that these were missing due to the context of the Academy in terms of the vacancy in the SBM role, which is now thankfully filled.
- 3) JC explained the income streams into the Academy and which are certain and which are estimates. He explained how staff costs were calculated; PW explained how vacancies in the teaching assistant and curriculum assistant teams were now not to be filled in order to secure a balanced budget. In response to a question from MY, PW stated that the budget allowed for the Academy to deliver its main purposes and that the cut should not adversely impact key outcomes too greatly, although both roles would have had beneficial.
- 4) In going through the budget, the following areas we especially scrutinised:
  - a. How we ascertain that the WHMAT 'top slice' provides value for money – JC agreed that a form of impact reporting/accountability is required, but it was also agreed that any such reporting must not create a bureaucratic burden.
  - b. Pupil Premium: the way that this is included in budget information is to be simplified to make it easier to account for the impact and the action planning for the use of this funding. Therefore, on the present budget, PP funding has been collated and a plan for its spending to be shared. PW reminded governors that an Assistant Headteacher has PP as part of their new job role.
  - c. PW explained how the Academy wanted to explore the use of the 'Local Choice Fund' for ICT and therefore ICT budgets are emptied. Any costs would have to be absorbed into the School Development budget if they could not be covered by the Local Choice Fund.
  - d. PW explained that no budget had been set for exclusions, a financial statement of our intentions re: permanent exclusion. However, if a student were to be excluded, we would need to fund their education.
- 5) MY proposed that the budget be recommended to WHMAT for their acceptance. This was unanimously agreed.
- 6) JC was thanked sincerely for his work, on top of his normal duties, to bring us to this position.