

Quercus Federation  
Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Governing Board Held on  
Monday 12 March 2018 at 5.00pm at Northiam Primary School

Present: John Crouch (JC), Judith Koral (JK), Pippa Green (PG), Kevin Tomasetti (KT), Carol Feltwell (CF), Jacqui Harding (JH), Chris Davies (CD), Edward Collins (EC), Keith Cheetham, Emily Sparrow (ES)

Also present: Vivienne Davies (VD) (Clerk), Julia Bray (JB, HoS), Alison Flack (HoS)

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	<p><b>Welcome By Chair</b></p> <p>JC welcomed everybody. Apologies were received from Nicola Ottoway.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Prayer</b></p> <p>JC opened the meeting with a prayer.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Declaration of Pecuniary Interest.</u></p> <p>There were no pecuniary interests.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Quercus Direction</b></p> <p>JC had attended a meeting with various other local schools to look at the range of options available for schools to work closer together.</p> <p>JC emphasised that the proposals were a long term development. The Quercus Federation with Hurst Green and Northiam had worked extremely successfully. Platforms of partnership were proposed which would help the school decide on the next steps. There were proposals to form a partnership with Stonegate and possibly Ticehurst/Flimwell in the future.</p> <p>JC opened the meeting for comments.</p> <p>Governors made the following comments:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was important that the Governing Body took control of the situation to drive a plan forward rather than the local authority directing which schools they formed a partnership with.</li> <li>• The academy issue was not a short term agenda.</li> <li>• There are other options to academy. Moving forward as a group of schools would move the schools forward and local control would be retained. It was important that</li> </ul>	

	<p>Governors identified the important elements in future partnerships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governors wanted to ensure the existing governing body structure was maintained.</li> </ul> <p>JC advised that a new academy chain had taken responsibility for a primary school in this locality. Aquinas, a Church Academy Chain based in Bromley had taken over responsibility for Rye Primary and were looking to take over other schools in this locality.</p> <p>Governors resolved that it was important for the schools to retain their own independence. There is currently a partnership with Playden in place. Discussion took place regarding the constitution of the Governing Body. Currently there was no need to federate with Playden. To ensure cohesion it was proposed to have a small executive board across all the schools.</p> <p>Governors noted that as the LA support reduces schools will rely more heavily on the support of each other. A formalised partnership arrangement will strengthen Quercus's position.</p> <p>It was also noted that if the Quercus federation worked with other existing federations this would strengthen Quercus's position.</p> <p>The main link is Keith Cheetham and Kevin Thomasetti who are working with the other schools. Quercus and Playden are currently working in a Partnership, KC and KT have done significant work with Stonegate and Ticehurst/Flimwell.</p> <p>Discussion took place regarding the advantages of further partnerships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide opportunity to progress the careers of JB and AF.</li> <li>• If there were more schools within the group, the schools would be in a better position to employ Speech and Language and SENCO posts.</li> </ul> <p>Governors asked what the negatives could be.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other schools could want to join which did not have commonalities with Quercus.</li> <li>• If our partnership became strong the RSC could want us to take on other schools.</li> </ul> <p>Governors noted that an Executive Governing Board was not necessary at the moment. However Governors highlighted that good channels of communication were important. Any future</p>	
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	<p>Executive group needed to feed back on the partnership and share information. A collaboration section within the headteacher's report was proposed.</p> <p>The Governing Body voted on the following proposals:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To retain and extend the partnership plan with Playden until July 2019. EC Proposed, ES seconded. <b>The Governing body agreed to this proposal unanimously.</b></li> <li>2. To explore a formal partnership with Stonegate from September 2018 until July 2019. <b>Proposed JK, Seconded JH. Governors unanimously approved the proposal.</b></li> </ol> <p>The Local authority are willing to draw up the collaboration agreements. The Governing Body would approve the letter before it went out to parents at the end of term 5.</p>	
12.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting –</b> 27 March – Hurst Green - Safeguarding training 4-5pm. FGB to take place 5pm- 7pm.</p>	