

**UPPER WHARFEDALE FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS  
EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2016**

**PRESENT:**

Richard Barlow, Val Berry, Christina Birtley, Stuart Bond, Tracy Briggs, Robert Carr, Stephen Charlton, Andrew Dean, Carey Doubtfire, Maggie McLellan, Nigel Pearson, Sally Sumner, Andrew Taylor and Anne Vetch.

In Attendance: Fay Maude, Clerk to Governors

**1. APOLOGIES:**

Diana Chambers was unable to attend.

**2. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:**

Val Berry welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to make some decisions on the way forward following the findings of the Strategy Working Group.

Anne Vetch described the work that had taken place so far which had involved talking to other schools and investigating possibilities for sustainability. They had also attended a meeting which had been called in March by the LA inviting all schools in the Craven Area to discuss sustainability and this meeting had been excellent. However, in the subsequent meeting called a couple of weeks later, it became apparent that the starting point for these discussions were similar to ones we had been having three years earlier and our situation was such that we could not sit back and wait for everyone to reach the position we were at present.

Cracoe Primary and Burnsall Primary share a head at the present time. As Grassington Primary's head is leaving in the summer it has been suggested that Cracoe, Burnsall, Grassington and Kettlewell come together under one head in a Federation.

Andrew Taylor has been pursuing other avenues for Upper Wharfedale School and it has become clear that in the best interests of both schools, it would be better if we now went separate ways. With the demise of the LA Kettlewell needs to work in collaboration with other primaries and likewise with Upper Wharfedale School who need to link with other secondary schools.

It is with much regret that this proposal has been reached and it was not a reflection on the Federation which had worked very well. Although the Federation between the two schools had only been formalised for a year, the fast changing world of education instigated by the government had forced the necessity for change. It does not mean to say that in the future that a joining together of local primaries and secondaries would not be a possibility.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR QUESTIONS:**

Q: What was the situation with Threshfield School.

A: They are watching developments. However, we cannot wait any longer and someone has to decide on a direction of travel and then invite others to join. The way to get others involved is to talk on an individual basis.

Q: What progress is being made to UWS joining other secondary schools.  
A: Andrew Taylor had met with the chair of governors of Settle and asked for a decision on whether they would join with UWS and the answer was Yes which was confirmed with the head of Settle. South Craven is also interested but with the proviso that there is another large secondary school as well who would be willing to join a MAT. Andrew is currently talking to a head in Knaresborough.

Q: What about the Craven MAT?  
A: AT is not in favour of this and this is now not an option.

Q: If we de-federate, will this be risky if no formal Federation is made in the first instance?  
A: It is more risky to do nothing.

Q: Is it possible to appoint the head of Burnsall and Cracoe Schools to be the head of Kettlewell and Grassington as well or does there have to be a formal interviewing procedure?  
A: It is not clear at this stage and advice would have to be taken.

Q: Is it possible for an individual school to get out of a Federation?  
A: Yes you can, but you can't "rejoin" the LA.

Q: Is there a problem with federating with a CofE school?  
A: There are some difficulties but it is believed the Diocese had brought out a Memorandum of Understanding which sets out their position.

#### **FORMAL DECISION:**

The following unanimous decision was taken following a vote:

**The Governors resolved in principle to dissolve the Federation between Upper Wharfedale School and Kettlewell Primary School with a view to those schools entering into other collaborative arrangements with different schools.**

#### **STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT DE-FEDERATION**

The governors would make arrangements to de-federate at the end of summer and Kettlewell would enter into a collaborative arrangement immediately after de-federation was implemented ready for the school re-opening in September after the summer break. The primaries would then work towards a formal Federation at Christmas.

The practicalities of this were a little unclear and guidance would be sought from governor support. However, once de-federation had taken place, Kettlewell School and Upper Wharfedale School would have to re-form separate Governing Bodies to lead them to the next step of either Federation or MATs.

Anne Vetch would get a group of governors together to meet informally with governors at the other primaries. In the meantime the Strategy Group would continue to meet and the next meeting was arranged for the 24<sup>th</sup> May at 6 pm at Upper Wharfedale School.

Fay volunteered to look into the practicalities to take the de-federation forward and the processes involved for each school to enter into different collaborations/federations.

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE ..... Dated .....