

Save Shevington Federation

TRANSITION MEETING

Wigan Town Hall

2nd February 2017

Present: Cath Peeling, Julie Hough, Samantha Doran, Mike Crosby, Margaret Carter (gov), Marlaine Whittam (assoc.gov), Melanie Shanahan and Angela Martin

The council went through very similar issues to those that we had listed which they had collated from the meetings they had with SCP parents and from the consultation. The council have already met with 15 Parents and plan to do some more sessions on Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th February from 3 o'clock to early evening. They realised that the first meeting was at short notice and didn't allow all parents to attend. The council are going to produce a FAQ Sheet with the most asked questions and this will be published on a regular basis.

Transport

The council have identified the families whose children would have to go an extra mile to school with the move to the Vale the number of these is in the low 20's. They are in consultation with the bus companies regarding bus times and bus passes. We asked for the passes for the adults to have no photo or name so that another member of the family could take the children to school. The council have already investigated this and it depends on the length of time you pay for the bus pass e.g. weekly, monthly or yearly as to whether this can be done. We also asked that the passes have no time constraint as parents could be picking up during the day as well. The passes would only cover a journey from Shevington to Appley Bridge. They will continue to negotiate these issues with the bus companies including times of the buses.

Nurture/SEN

Parents with children who were SEN would be seen directly. The Sunflower Room at the Vale will be used as the Nurture Room. We also made the point that any children at the Vale who were SEN would also need to be taken into consideration as there would be an effect on them with so many changes taking place. The council agreed this would happen.

Y6/Reception

As the Y6 and Reception children would move in September 2017 to the Vale we had concerns that if families had children in other years that would still be at SCP would they provide free Breakfast Club and After School facilities for the children of these families at SCP. We explained they would not be able to get children to school in time at both places. If there was room at the Vale to accommodate any children from

these families they would be able to transfer in September. We were assured these facilities would still be funded until October 2017.

Building Work

There will be presentation evenings for both sets of parents showing the building plan for the Vale to show what the building will look like once the work is completed. An inventory of any good furniture from SCP will take place so see what can be used at the Vale anything that is not used will go to any other school that might like it. It was suggested that the Friends of the school might be able to help in raising funds to buy any additional pieces of furniture/equipment that might be needed. We asked if it was possible to ask the builders to donate some playground equipment for the children.

Transition Activities

The school will be planning activities to get the children to get to know each other, some will include parents so they can be introduced to each other as well. Mrs Tomlinson has some ideas already for things to happen including children visiting both schools. We suggested that the children should do some sports activities together and possibly some art work, e.g. a mural similar to the one on the library in Shevington of SCP School which could be hung at the Vale.

Uniform

We discussed the provision of uniform and any families who have any hardship issues will be helped. We mentioned that we did have a recycling scheme at the Vale however, we felt that there were other things they could help with e.g. Book bags, P.E kit etc. We also asked if they could give vouchers for uniform. They did remind us that they did not have a surplus of money however, they took note of these and will come back to us at the next meeting.

Ofsted Report

Although we were not informed of the result we were told that Ofsted had been contacted and were concerned that comments were being made about the Vale. Because of this the council were given a special dispensation from them to disclose the Rating to the Cabinet prior to them making a decision on the closure of SCP.

How many children are moving out of the area?

The council were aware that some children had left or were leaving SCP however; we do not have the exact number at the moment. They did mention that some parents who already travelled in to SCP were taking the opportunity to move their children to schools nearer to where they lived. The council were also keeping their eye on how many children would be left in school as we all said it wasn't a good environment for the children to be taught in a school that was empty. Although the date for moving all children other than reception and Y6 was October they would be keeping an eye on the situation and if there were places at the Vale children could be moved.

Wrap Around Care

There is funding until October. Headstart have said that there will be enough places for all the children and they are extending the care for 2 year olds.

Staffing

Although this is not a subject for discussion within our group we were told that they would be offering Voluntary Redundancy for Teachers and Support Staff across the Federation however, this would not be offered to anyone employed by a private company. Any new jobs would be advertised across the federation and a Assimilation Process would take place to transfer them to the Vale. Staffing structure will be based on the new structure e.g. new classrooms.

Governors

As Mel posted earlier all the committee members sang from the same hymn sheet with regard to the lack of input from the governing body. Both of the governors present at the meeting defended their actions and those of the chair of governors.

Representation

It was suggested that the make up of this transition team should include a representative from SCP going forward. There will be another transition team set up made up of the School Leadership Team, The Governors and members of the committee with regard to class sizes and transition issues these are the issues that are not decided by the council but by the school.

Date of Next Meeting has been agreed and will include Mrs Tomlinson.