



MINUTES OF THE FULL GOVERNING BOARD

25th February 2021, via Zoom 6pm start

Attendees	Role
Jules Belton (HT)	Governor (& Headteacher)
Nandini Ramakrishnan (NR)	Governor
Jason Bridgford (JB)	Governor
Zoe Bishop (ZB)	Governor
Greg Watson (GW)	Governor
Greg Powell (GP)	Governor
Sam Hopcroft (SH)	Governor
Rvd. Anne Stevens (AS)	Governor
William Hall (WH)	Governor
Father Paschal Worton (PW)	Governor
Hannah Martin (HM)	School Business Manager
Lucy Heard (LH)	Deputy Headteacher

Apologies	Role
Richard Walton (RW) - Chair of Governors	Chair of Governors
James Poole (JP)	Governor
Laki Begum (LB)	Governor
Simon Bland (SB)	Governor

Minutes clerked by Deepti Bal (DB) – Clerk to Governors, St Mary's & St Pancras

Minutes of Meeting

	Agenda Item	Detail	Action
1.	Welcome and Introductions	AS offered an opening prayer.	
2.	Apologies for absence	Apologies were received from RW and JP.	
3.	Declarations of Interests	None.	
4.	Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising	Previous minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.	
5.	Spotlight on... Reopening	<p>SH explained the purpose of the new Spotlight sessions which would provide opportunities for all Governors to freely discuss and contribute to discussions on key themes at Governor meetings.</p> <p>SH explained that schools will be reopening on 8th March and hence the first spotlight on this. He asked for a discussion around priorities for reopening, and over the next term and a half.</p> <p>GP explained that he is a Y6 teacher at another school and will be focusing on transition to secondary school and restrictions on mixing once school reopens.</p> <p>JB is a classroom teacher and explained that there is an excitement at returning to school and the classroom. He felt it important to set consistent expectations around behaviour, routines and structure, given that these will have been missing during the lockdown period. The focus will then switch to 'making progress', academically.</p> <p>AS noted a potential lack of social development through lockdown, and asked how this might impact the return to the classroom.</p> <p>JB explained that GoogleMeet sessions are being held with students and their excitement/enthusiasm is notable.</p> <p>NR noted that children will have questions about what has happened with respect to Covid-19, and how the world has changed. She asked how these questions would be discussed.</p> <p>HT explained that the school doesn't put a 'rosy glow' on the situation and newsround updates are provided (as part of PSHCE) to children to explain current affairs, etc.</p>	

		<p>LH added that children will likely need to be retaught how to socialise/play, which they will no longer be in the habit of doing.</p> <p>HT explained that education of the ‘whole child’ will be important, and the school will not be able to focus solely on academic achievement. Re. catch-up planning, the focus will need to be wider than just the national curriculum.</p> <p>ZB explained that she is not concerned with the academic side of learning, at this point. She is more concerned that her five year old ‘has fun’ at school.</p> <p>WH noted a concern with pupils who have not engaged with academic learning throughout the lockdown period.</p> <p>HT explained that, at this time of year, booklets for maths, english and science for pupils are bought out of the pupil premium fund. She felt that this is not appropriate under the current circumstances and she would prefer to spend this on colouring pencils/books, hula hoops, etc, to ‘allow children to be children’.</p> <p>AS noted a discussion on Newsnight, highlighting the massively extended role of a school in the community beyond academic teaching.</p> <p>WH added that, if this is to be accepted as the role of the school, it will need to be fully funded by Government.</p> <p>SH felt that this discussion is ‘big’, but Covid-19 has given an excuse to be more creative/radical than before.</p> <p>HT explained that the updated SEF will grade the provision for Personal Development as outstanding in her view. She highlighted SENDCO provision, in particular.</p> <p>Separately, HT noted the work that the school had done beyond this - for example the government vouchers, food, bunk-beds, quilts, etc, which have been provided to parents. The offering, in this regard, far surpasses other local schools.</p> <p>LH noted the focus on catch-up, extending school days, etc. She felt that catch-up in terms of academic attainment will not happen quickly but needs to be a focus area to ensure children do not miss out.</p>	
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		SH explained that pupils will need to be baselined when they return to school and this discussion should be continued at the next meeting.	
6.	Headteacher's Report	<p>HT gave an update:</p> <p>The school has had no further Covid-19 cases reported on site. There are still many cases of Covid-19 in the surrounding households (Somers Town) and many families are declining to take up testing.</p> <p>Test and trace was operational during half-term and no cases were captured.</p> <p>All staff on site have been offered LFD tests. There are enough in stock for reopening on March 8th. Testing is recommended but cannot be enforced. HT noted that testing is not 100% accurate but felt that it is worthwhile.</p> <p>The risk assessment has been reviewed but is not yet formalised. The school will be run, from March 8th, in the same way as the autumn term. The focus will also remain on wellbeing and prevention of infection.</p> <p>All parents were written to last week to inform them that staggered starts/finish/lunchtime, enhanced cleaning, etc would be employed.</p> <p>Only one bubble has been required to go home October 2020, but it is not known what will happen on reopening in March.</p> <p>Peripatetic teachers will be allowed to attend, and HT has spoken with music teachers from Camden.</p> <p>Staff will be permitted to wear facemasks in communal areas.</p> <p>All pupils with an EHCP have been contacted to agree arrangements for reopening.</p> <p>Advice from the LA on shielding is being challenged, as the school believes that the list of eligible pupils is incorrect.</p> <p>Greggs have offered funding of £500 to be spent on anything, but likely food vouchers.</p> <p>Safeguarding training is up to date.</p> <p>An external CPP visit has taken place, and a report is in draft. This will be circulated once signed off.</p>	

		<p>Priorities are as follows, and replace those set out in the latest school development plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Settling in children and staff. ● Ensure the curriculum meets the needs of children. ● Plan the use of Covid-19 catch-up funding. <p>HT felt that the school needs to bolster the children’s capacity for learning before implementing additional lessons.</p> <p>PW felt that the priority should be enabling learning and supported HT’s point.</p> <p>SH asked if the national tutoring programme had been considered.</p> <p>LH confirmed that it has. The school has reservations about quality assuring the support that would be provided.</p> <p>SH felt that the school would qualify for the academic mentors programme offered by TeachFirst.</p> <p>LH confirmed that this is under investigation and thanked SH for signposting this.</p>	<p>HT to circulate CPP report once signed off.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Budget Monitoring</p>	<p>HM gave an update:</p> <p>The SFVS is due for ratification and is shared on GovernorHub. This can also be discussed at a future date, should governors request this.</p> <p>HM explained that the DfE requires the school to report on budget monitoring six times per year.</p> <p>It was agreed that Governors would review the SVFS and be in touch with any queries or amendments.</p> <p>A contract register is not currently in place, but will need to be addressed.</p> <p>An audit of the current financial year School Fund Account will need to be arranged.</p> <p>HT outlined the budget monitoring report:</p> <p>Nursery funding income is around £81k more than forecast, due to an increased number of pupils.</p>	<p>Governors to review the SFVS.</p> <p>HM to create contract register.</p>

		<p>High-needs top up for SEN children is around £94k, including funding for a pupil travelling from out of borough (Essex).</p> <p>Total income is £1.714m.</p> <p>Staff turnover has been higher than expected, this year.</p> <p>A member of support staff has resigned and will be temporarily replaced by an agency member of staff.</p> <p>Indirect employee costs are overspent by around £6k, due to a settlement payment.</p> <p>School trips have made a saving, due to Covid-19.</p> <p>An anonymous company in Kings Cross has offered a donation of around £7k to help with catch-up funding.</p> <p>Fire extinguishers have been serviced, PAT testing taken place, etc. The LDBS will pay to replace the glass canopy, but only in the EYFS area (not the second one). They will also fund a new boiler under the proviso that the school pays for a new replacement motors on the front doors (the quotes for this being around £6k).</p> <p>HM asked that Governors email her any questions, explaining that the documentation is all on GovernorHub.</p> <p>NR asked whether this anonymous donation is usual, solicited by the school, etc.</p> <p>HM confirmed that the school has had nothing similar to this, previously.</p> <p>Governors took an action to review the SFVS.</p> <p>HT explained that the donation has been reviewed to ensure that it is legitimate. She noted a previous trend of companies making false 'donation' claims with a view to marketing opportunities.</p> <p>NR noted her approval of the way HT has handled this.</p> <p>SH felt that it would be good to consider commercial ties to bring in additional funding.</p>	
8.	Policies	HT suggested that governors review the policies on GovernorHub over the remainder of the week, emailing questions to the board for discussion.	Governors to review policies.

		DB suggested that any comments/queries be sent to her for collation. In the absence of substantive issues, these would be considered approved; otherwise, brought for approval at the next meeting. DB took an action to send a reminder re. policies and SVFS to follow up on this. SH reiterated where there were any substantive concerns or comments, this could be retabled at the next meeting.	DB to send a reminder to Governors re. policy and SVFS.
9.	Training	<p>AS confirmed that she has completed safeguarding training with the Diocese of London.</p> <p>HT and LH have attended a refresher re. safeguarding training.</p> <p>Lesley has redone the safeguarding training two-day course.</p> <p>LH confirmed that the usual CPP programme has continued (phonics training, etc). This is at least six hours per staff member.</p>	
10.	Visits	None	
11.	AOB	<p>DB explained that an Admissions Committee will need to be held to review the admissions for the next academic year. This would normally take place in person to ensure rankings are correctly applied.</p> <p>SH and WH are usually on the panel but not able to attend school in person.</p> <p>DB asked for volunteers, noting a preference that parent governors, AS and PW do not take part in this due to a possible conflict of interest. HT added that this may place the school at risk of a 'difficult appeal'.</p> <p>She explained that there is a requirement that someone is physically on the school premises to complete this, and noted the deadline of next Friday for submission to Camden.</p> <p>GP volunteered, provided this was an afternoon session and not on Monday.</p> <p>NR also volunteered.</p> <p>GW volunteered, should either GP or NR not be able to attend.</p>	HT to share availability with DB.

		DB agreed to co-ordinate and asked HT to send her availability.	
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Minutes reviewed and approved by FGB on 23rd March 2021

Signed by Chair



and accepted as a true and accurate record of discussions.