



Full Governing Body Meeting

Monday 26th November 2018

Chaired by: Jill Skidmore

Clerked by: Laura McNulty

Present: Jill Skidmore (JS) Chair; Karen O'Connor (KO) Headteacher; Sharon Redfern (SR); Mary Teeboon (MT); Cat Labio (CL); Caroline Payne (CP); Caroline Boam (CB); Helen Smith (HS); Sarah Bellicoso (SBe) and Laura McNulty (LM) Clerk.

Action:

025 18/19 **Introduction and Welcome**

JS welcomed Governors to the meeting at 7:40pm, following directly after Governor training hosted by KO on 'assessment and progress'.

026 18/19 **What we are hoping to achieve this evening**

A positive and productive meeting.

027 18/19 **Any other business**

KO declared three items to be discussed at the end of the meeting.

028 18/19 **Apologies**

There were no apologies of absences

029 18/19 **Governing Body Membership**

There were vacancies for a Foundation Trustee governor and an ex-officio church Governor. There is now also a vacancy for a parent Governor following the resignation of Andrea Kirkland.

Rev Benson has appointed Father Lionel Atherton as the ex-officio church Governor, to act on his behalf. LM to invite Father Allerton to the next meeting (Feb 2019).

The new chair of the trustees – Mrs Carol Gregory-Campeau – is to assist in finding a new foundation trustee governor.

There is a ballot taking place after three parents showed interest in the Parent Governor vacancy. (*Note: following the meeting, on the 29th November Mrs Helen Woodruff was voted into this vacancy. LM to invite to the next meeting*).

030 18/19 **Declaration of Business Interests**

There were no declarations of business interests in the agenda of this meeting.

031 18/19 **Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held on 1st October had been previously distributed. These were agreed as correct and signed by JS.

Agreed

032 18/19 **Confidentiality**

Governors agreed that there were no items to be marked as confidential.

Agreed

033 18/19 **Matters arising and actions**

(113 14/15) Consider purchase re B Gregory – 'Bill's Bell'. Ongoing.

(011 18/19) Consider costs of directly employing caretaker. Ongoing.

(012 18/19) Presentation on progress and attainment. Completed.

(013 18/19) Take amended school vision to staff and pupils. Completed.

(020 18/19) Bring SEF and skills audit results to this meeting. Completed.

034 18/19	<p>Committees: Curriculum Committee – Chair HS Typed minutes to follow. Met last week. Productive and positive meeting on policies, progress, statistics, and student well-being.</p> <p>Finance Committee – Chair JS JS, KO and Caroline Parsons (SBO) met to discuss a letter from DCC with regard to a possible deficit budget by 19/20. To be discussed further in this meeting.</p> <p>Personnel Committee – Chair JS KO and CL met.</p> <p>Buildings and H&S Committee – Chair JS Not met since last Governors meeting.</p>			
035 18/19	<p>Headteacher’s Report KO talked through her report. Governors agreed to funding Nurture training for LS (staff).</p> <p><i>HS left the meeting at 8:10pm.</i></p>	Agreed		
036 18/19	<p>School Vision KO presented two proposed school visions which had been presented to staff and pupils. Pupils preferred the first, less-wordy version and Governors agreed.</p> <p>MT spoke about recent training that she had attended on the SIAMS inspection (due in school in November 2019). Points to note are that the church considers Taddington and similar schools to be church schools and not faith schools. The difference being that schools should enable children to choose whether to follow Christianity by educating them using a Christian ethos, or to paraphrase: ‘providing children with a coat of faith that they can choose to wear’.</p>	Agreed		
037 18/19	<p>Sports Funding and Pupil Premium Sports Funding Taddington have combined with three cluster schools (at a cost of £500 per school) to provide sporting activities. KO judges this to be a success with all children having had the chance to participate in a variety of events.</p> <p>Chris Hill Sports are to run some ‘sports leaders’ activities in the new year.</p> <p>Pupil Premium LS is regularly hearing pupils read and combining this cohesively with nurture activities. Progress is positive and funding is on track.</p>			
038 18/19	<p>Policies The following had been previously distributed and were accepted and adopted by Governors without amendments:</p> <table><tr><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Music• Privacy Impact Assessment Procedures• Privacy Notice• School Roles and Responsibilities• Data breach Procedure• Critical Incident</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">• PE• Positive Behaviour Support• Teaching and Learning• Uniform• DP – Staff subject access• DP – Parent subject access• Physical Intervention</td></tr></table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Music• Privacy Impact Assessment Procedures• Privacy Notice• School Roles and Responsibilities• Data breach Procedure• Critical Incident	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PE• Positive Behaviour Support• Teaching and Learning• Uniform• DP – Staff subject access• DP – Parent subject access• Physical Intervention	Agreed
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Governors discussed the logistics of where to store the Critical Incident plans which contains protected private data. No conclusions were agreed.

039 18/19 **School Improvement Plan**

Report read through by KO. Good and clear progress.

040 18/19 **Chairs Report**

JS explained that KO has met with JS, HS and Mick Bettridge for Performance Management. KO has proven positive progress/ achievement of pre-set targets. All (including Governors) agree that KO is doing an outstanding job running the school. Targets have been set for KO for the next 12 months.

Jim Whitby (ex-Governor, instigator of the new school hall, carver of the absolutely wonderful wooden school cross, and local resident) has recently passed away. LM to write to Janet Quier (Jim's partner) to express our sympathy.

LM

041 18/19 **Extended Services / Explorers**

CP reported that attendance is low and a few parents are avoiding payments that affects cash flow and viability. KO and CP have checked if Parentpay could be used but as the funds are separate to school funds, it can't unless under a separate contract. CP to continue to monitor.

042 18/19 **Parent View**

There have been a few recent negative posts (coincidentally following the departure of two families from the school). There are 18 responses in total, mostly older and positive. Governors agreed that the nature of online polls attracts a few responses from people wishing to express positive views, but is mostly used by those with negative issues to vent their opinions, justifiably or not. Governors considered the comments and felt that there were no further areas to address.

CP asked if the recent parental complaint had been resolved. JS and KO felt that it couldn't/shouldn't be discussed, but felt comfortable in stating that the complaint had been address and not upheld. All correct procedures had been followed. JO wished for it to be minuted how supportive the Governing Body had been through this difficult and upsetting time.

043 18/19 **SEF and Skills Audit**

Governors discussed the results and SB found a spelling mistake. Oops.

044 18/19 **Budget**

KO explained that DCC predict a budget deficit by the end of 19/20, of £42,000. KO explained that this was not accurate, being based on incorrect assumptions and estimates, and gave many reasons why the budget is much more optimistic. The budget is being monitored closely by staff, Governors and DCC.

045 18/19 **Virements, Approvals, Disposals and Transfers**

Disposals – KO requested the write-off of all blue assets on the inventory list (distributed to governors), totalling in excess of 40 items. Some may have already been written off by governors but have not been removed from the software system due to its complexity. Governors agreed to write them off, and discussed the minimum value of items that are added.

Agreed

046 18/19 **SEND**

Covered in Headteachers report. Nothing additional to report.

047 18/19 **Safeguarding**

A new Safeguarding policy and lots of training is now available. There are new Domestic Abuse (previously violence) Procedures and a new E-Safety policy. 'Early Help' school funding is no longer payable as DCC have reduced the services which they can afford to offer, streamlining due to budget cuts. KO is to discuss with cluster schools in the hope of finding a suitable replacement

048 18/19 **Governor Visits**
Nothing to report.

050 18/19 **Correspondence and Information for Governors**
Nothing to report.

051 18/19 **AOB**
KO 1: Acceptable use of ICT Policy
Not previously distributed. Agreed by Governors

Agreed

KO 2: Request for out of age admission
Prospective parents have contacted school to ask if their August-born child could start reception in the year they are 5 (a year behind normal intake). KO asked if Governors would support a child being outside of their normal year group. The decision would impact on council funding options. Governors agreed to the request to accept the child if DCC agree funding. The family do not presently live in the area, and admission would not be this academic year.

Agreed

KO 3: Benchmarking
KO distributed generic school benchmarking data which Governors discussed with varying degrees of amusement. No significant discoveries were made, with the data being of limited interest or conceivable value.

What have we achieved that will make a difference to the children in our school?

Governors support and challenge all aspects of school leadership in a constructive partnership with the outstanding Headteacher.

The meeting ended at 10:30pm ish.

Date of next meetings: **Monday 4th February 2019**
Monday 1st April 2019
Monday 20th May 2019
Monday 15th July 2019

All meetings start at 7:30pm and are held in Taddington School.