

Minutes of the Governing Body 18th March 2021

Part 1

<p>LA Governors</p> <p>Laura Butterfield, (LB), <i>Chair</i></p> <p>Head Teacher Governor</p> <p>Evelyn Davies, (ED), <i>HT</i></p> <p>Staff Governors</p> <p>Mitchell Browning, (MB)</p> <p>Thomas Amoako, (TA)</p>	<p>Parent Governors</p> <p>Richard Spitz (RS)</p> <p>Lindsay Dearden (LD)</p> <p>Douglas Blackwood (DB)</p> <p>Others present</p> <p>Ewan Marshall, (EM), <i>DHT</i></p>	<p>Co-opted Governors</p> <p>Annette Thurgood, (AT)</p> <p>Fay Jackson, (FJ)</p> <p>Dan Walker, (DW)</p> <p>Helen Da Silva (HD)</p> <p>Ted Lowery, (TL) <i>Vice-Chair</i></p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Nia Harding-Rickards</p>
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Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from MB and TA who were late to the meeting due to after school clubs.

Register of interests

There were no changes to the register.

Minutes of the previous meeting 10th December 2020

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Chair of Governors Report

LB has made the decision to step down as Chair of the GB would like to stay on as a member for the remainder of the academic year in order to maintain her place on School Forum as this will cease when she is no longer a member of the GB. She felt with the new Head Teacher starting in April, it was now the right time to step down.

LB then nominated Ted Lowery as Chair. FJ seconded and TL agreed to Chair the GB starting from next term.

LB was then thanked profusely for her long tenure as Chair of Governors.

Head Teacher's Written Report

ED had written a different style of report to the Governors covering some of the highlights and challenges of her 25 years as Head Teacher of Coldfall from 1996-2021.

ED – I am very sad to leave but want to leave on my own terms and feel it is the right time. Headship at Coldfall has been an amazing journey and I have had wonderful people to support me along the way. I have felt especially supported by my husband Jeremy and Laura Butterfield throughout the whole 25 years.

The children are so pleased to be back in school despite the constraints as a result of the pandemic. We are planning lovely events within bubbles for children for the next 3 ½ weeks they are back. All staff are also delighted to have children back. This includes Art and DT projects and a film version of Coldfall's Got Talent.

One family has decided to home educate. Other than that attendance is very good, with very few absences. We have not had a single case of Covid-19 yet.

Each member of the GB then shared a few words about ED.

LB told the story of ED's interview for the role of HT at Coldfall. The panel were worried they might have to re-advertise after the three previous candidates has been interviewed. However, when it was ED's turn to interview the panel were so pleased and relieved as they had found just what they were looking for in a new HT.

DW – ED is very loyal to her staff at Coldfall. He had planned to be deputy for 4 years then apply for headship but found he did not want to leave Coldfall.

ED had 4 deputies DW was with her for longest.

FJ – when she came to work for Haringey she visited all schools in her first year apart from 3 schools that she wasn't able to enter. One of these schools was Coldfall. Told story of a panel she attended before ED was HT. FJ's children attended Coldfall and she has seen how much the school has progressed over the years. It has just got better and better.

LB – I remember the first time there was an admissions appeal at Coldfall. I was so pleased as it was a sign of the school improving and becoming desirable to parents.

TL – my happiest days of last 8 years have been when I've visited Coldfall. TL's son said he would love to come back despite enjoying his new school.

DB – before he and his family moved to the area they visited Coldfall and was shown around by EM. They knew they wanted their children to come to Coldfall because of the warmth, artistic displays and the nice ethos of the school. The children all seem to be happy.

HD – has had an extremely positive experience as a parent. Interactions with teachers have been excellent and she feels heard as a parent. No matter how brief interactions are she has been impressed with the responses she has had from the SLT. The gives hope to a parent and she knows if she brought an issue to school it would be effectively dealt with. Very pleased about EM's appointment, but he has very big shoes to fill!

LD – was impressed with children's respect for ED on the school tour which is one of the reasons she chose the school. Children are obviously happy here. She thanked ED for creating a supportive environment.

RS – his children so happy at Coldfall. In GB meetings he has been in awe of what has to be done as a Head.

EM – There is too much to say here but thanked ED. He is in no doubt he wouldn't be in position to become HT without Coldfall, Evelyn and what she has created here. Schools are not like this one and the best way to repay ED is taking it forward in the spirit and culture she has created.

Admissions

Numbers in Haringey are declining due to migration out of London. Our numbers for Nursery and Reception for the next academic year look good, but are lower than in previous years. This is an issue to school will need to keep an eye on.

Remote Learning

The remote learning provision is much improved in the second lockdown. ED is Proud of her teaching staff who have had to change their practice more than any other profession during the pandemic.

Committee reports

Finance and Site

TL – there is a fairly detailed note of the meeting in the GB pack. Main point is the budget news not overwhelmingly positive but it is not as concerning as it might have been. Going forward we will not have the usual carry forward and will need to bear that in mind.

ED – we are starting to let the halls/grounds again which brings some income. Clubs are running until 5 and are bringing some money in.

TL – Site Manager's house – the GB wrote to LA asking for money to be refunded that school invested in the property over the years.

Works to roof of Reception & Year 3 – this will be a major piece of work. The school is worried about works running over and disrupting school for children. The school has requested to be involved in planning the works but has had no response.

Mice – we have an ongoing contract with pest control who came into to do a more thorough check. At the moment we have far fewer mice.

ED – mice are ongoing issue.

New Site manager – Alex O’Mahoney is excellent. Very motivated and great with parents.

FoC are planning activities for next term. Easter trail etc.

ED – the FoC have fantastic ideas. We must support them.

School Streets – The Local Authority are planning to make Coldfall Avenue a “School Street”. This means that parents will not be able to drive or park there during drop off and pick up times without being fined. Cameras are going to be installed on Coldfall Avenue to enforce this.

This is temporarily in place from 19th April for 6 months to see how it goes. In theory it will make it much safer for children on Coldfall Avenue at pick up and drop off times. Coldfall is 1 of 20 schools selected for this.

As a result of these plans it was discovered that the garden of 39 Coldfall avenue was indeed encroaching onto the school grounds. The GB decided it was worth raising this with the GB.

Teaching and Learning

RSHE has become statutory part of curriculum which OFSTED will be looking for. There is an increased emphasis on reading as well but the school is in a good position there.

There has been a lot of success in PE despite COVID restrictions.

The T & L committee believe it would be useful to have an external audit of our SEN provision, especially as there seems to be an increase in SEN needs. The GB approved this with a view to it being undertaken in the summer term if possible. EM to organise.

DB and RS to co-chair this committee until RS leaves the GB.

Governor Training

LB urged GB to attend training. LB and FJ attended the BAME conference that morning which was very informative. FJ will send the link to GB.

Training will continue to be on zoom as more people are able to attend.

Equalities

The school has its Equalities targets on the school website; the BAME agenda is part of these. These targets will be reviewed in the next academic year.

AOB

AT, RS and FJ agreed to stay on as Governors until September.

NHR to continue to clerk until a replacement is found. FJ is liaising with HEP regarding this.

Change of dates for summer term meetings – Wednesday 14th July instead of 8th 6.30pm after exhibition evening which is between 4.00 and 6.00pm).

AT – asked about the remote parents' evening?

DB - it was good from a parent's point of view.

HD – it was more convenient for her as a parent.

RS was better than he thought although it is a shame to miss seeing children's work and the school.

LD – is summer catch up likely?

ED and EM nothing has been decided yet but the school is looking at a range of options. Worries about the pressure on the children. They have had such a positive return to school it would be a shame to put pressure on them at this stage.