

# Minutes of the Governing Body 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## Part 1

<p><b>LA Governors</b></p> <p>Laura Butterfield, (LB), <i>Chair</i></p> <p><b>Head Teacher Governor</b></p> <p>Evelyn Davies, (ED), <i>HT</i></p> <p><b>Staff Governors</b></p> <p>Mitchell Browning, (MB)</p> <p>Thomas Amoako, (TA)</p>	<p><b>Parent Governors</b></p> <p>Richard Spitz (RS) (not present)</p> <p>Lindsay Dearden (LD)</p> <p>Douglas Blackwood (DB)</p> <p><b>Others present</b></p> <p>Ewan Marshall, (EM), <i>DHT</i></p>	<p><b>Co-opted Governors</b></p> <p>Monte Jacobson, (MJ)</p> <p>Annette Thurgood, (AT)</p> <p>Fay Jackson, (FJ)</p> <p>Dan Walker, (DW)</p> <p>Ted Lowery, (TL) <i>Vice-Chair</i></p> <p>Helen Da Silva (HD) (not present)</p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p>Nia Harding-Rickards</p>
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### **Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair**

LB was nominated as Chair by ED and seconded by DW

TL was nominated as Vice Chair by LB and seconded by FJ.

### **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from RS and HD. Apologies for lateness were received from TA and MB.

### **Register of interests**

There were no changes to the register.

### **Minutes of the previous meeting 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020.**

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

It was agreed that the committee structure would remain the same as the previous year.

## Head Teacher's Verbal Report

As the meeting was initially due to take place on National Poetry Day, ED prepared and read a poem which informed the GB about school life during the pandemic and demonstrated that as a school we are remaining positive.

The GB read the relevant attachments prior to the meeting.

The children have had a happy start to the term and have settled quickly. They are coping well with the new routine.

We have 60 children in our Friday catch up groups. Children have undergone a baseline assessment focused on reading, after 10-12 sessions and they will be reassessed.

Teachers are using PHSE as a time to talk to give children the opportunity to discuss worries with teachers.

Children are working on their All About Me projects. The school held a gratitude poster competition. ED is filming a weekly video assembly in lieu of one in the hall. Children brilliant with new routine.

Due to school closures last term, last year's Year 1 children will be assessed in Phonics after half term.

Attendance for pupils and staff is currently an issue. We have 40-90 absent children per day. These are mostly covid related (isolation etc) as well as other illnesses. This is really difficult for teachers who never know which children will be coming in. Our attendance is below where we were last year but still above the national average.

We have had 11-12 staff absences for various reasons.

So far we have closed 1 class due to Y3 child whose test was inconclusive but whose parent's test was positive.

We are prioritising school tests for staff to keep school open and for emergencies.

Teachers having very few breaks due to the bubble system. However, there is still a positive attitude around school.

ED discussed the updated Remote learning plan. This is for children who are unwell or self-isolating so those children still have access to learning. If a whole class closes then there is further provision, including 3 videos daily and weekly zoom. This mainly covers English, Maths, Topic and afternoon activities.

AT asked whether all children have access to remote learning.

The school has given out 3 out of 20 available laptops to children who require them.

The school has appointed a full time cleaner who comes in for the whole day to clean touch points. The pandemic is costing the school a lot of money in staff and equipment.

The parents have been fantastic with the staggered pick up and drop off. So far it is going well but we have not yet tried this in poor weather conditions.

Children have been eating in their classrooms which is going well. Children are enjoying the meals but sadly we do have a lot of food waste.

Avril Appiah is now leading Kitchen and we got a 5-star rating in an unexpected inspection.

RS emailed some questions ahead of the meeting:

- 1) What provision is being made for children who end up missing several days of school while e.g. waiting for a covid test result?

Hopefully now we have sent the updated Remote Learning letter RS will feel reassured that there is provision for children who are absent from school.

- 2) Has the school year has begun with the assumption that children completed the work set for them on Google Classroom during the March to July period?

We still have all previous learning on GC. Unfortunately, it is not possible to go through which children did what during the lockdown. Teachers are doing their best but we have had a lot of absences so it's hard to help children to catch up. This will be an ongoing challenge.

LB thanked ED for a very detailed and informative report.

AT – asked whether, if people start panic buying again, does the school have enough stock of essentials?

ED – yes for at least 3 weeks

There was some discussion of what would happen if several members of staff were absent:

There will come a point if lots of staff are absent we might have to close more classes.

AT informed the GB that some walk in testing facilities are open. There is one in Kentish Town.

ED reiterated that the school is keeping tests for staff and that teachers are on the priority list in order to avoid class closure as far as possible. The school has arranged for all staff to have the flu jab if they would like to. Hopefully all staff over 50 will agree. ED feels this is a good strategy to prevent staff illness.

TL asked what is happening with clubs at the moment.

ED – We have after school clubs within year groups until 5pm with 2 members of staff in each. These involve a range of indoor and outdoor activities. Not very many children have taken this up unfortunately. A possible issue is that if a child has a positive test it would affect everyone in their club as well as their class.

The school has been able to take a few lettings but of course these have to follow all the procedures. The school is facing some financial challenges as there is no self-generated income at the moment and therefore the school is making a loss. Pay rises are coming which will be very expensive for the school and we are not getting enough funding to pay for the pay rise. The school will need to ask parents for more contributions. The Friends of Coldfall have given the school money for more reading books, PE equipment and play time boxes which is really helpful.

Rob Bean has taken over from Kate Vetch, who has had a baby, as Music Teacher. The guidelines around teaching music are quite strict and we are unable to run any choirs at the moment.

LD enquired about singing lessons as lots of children interested in these but there seems to be limited availability.

EW explained that we cannot accommodate more music teachers at the moment.

LD also asked about packed lunches as some children bring very unhealthy lunches at the moment.

NHR to add something to Headlines reminding parents of the importance of healthy eating.

EW feels it is not fair to pick individual parents up on this at the moment. Some children have visibly put on a lot of weight during lockdown and we need to tread carefully surrounding that.

FJ said ED had painted a picture of what is going on in school. Coldfall is doing a fantastic job and we need to be mindful of everyone's wellbeing especially EDs as she having to work so hard.

ED said a big concern is that teachers feel really supported as they have many new responsibilities and the way they teach has had to change.

DB asked how often the school can order covid tests.

NHR explained that the school can order 10 tests at a time, and can order them 21 days after the shipping date of the previous order.

### **Committees Terms of Reference**

Changes to the TOR had been agreed in the previous meeting.

The GB agreed that committee memberships should remain the same as the previous academic year.

The GB agreed that the committee meetings could still be in person with social distancing.

### **Governor Training**

At the time of the meeting there had been no GB training yet. NHR reminded the GB that training is very important and that there will be sessions online.

### **Equalities**

The GB appointed HD as BAME link governor.

### **AOB**

The GB ratified HD's appointment.

MJ has stepped down from the GB. LB and ED thanked him for many years of service.

MJ – it has been a pleasure and a privilege. He is glad to feel he has made a contribution. He feels the school is in good hands for the difficult times ahead.

LB's new term as LA governor was ratified.

DW agreed to continue as a member of GB.

December GB meeting change – 10<sup>th</sup> December 4pm start.