

Minutes of the Governing Body 9th July 2020

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</p> <p>Douglas Blackwood</p> <p>Others present</p> <p>Ewan Marshall, (EM), <i>DHT</i></p> <p>Laggi Efthymious, (LE) <i>SBM</i></p>	<p>Co-opted Governors</p> <p>Monte Jacobson, (MJ) (not present)</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>Clerk</p> <p>Nia Harding-Rickards</p>
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Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from MJ and LD.

Register of interests

There were no changes to the register.

Minutes of the previous meeting 21st May 2020

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

TL reminded the GB that Part 2 of the minutes should be a separate document.

Report of the Chair

LB welcomed the GB.

The workload of staff, particularly the HT, has been enormous. LB sincerely thank ED and staff for their hard work, long hours and dedication.

Head Teacher's Report

The GB read ED's written report and attachments in advance of the meeting.

It is difficult for the school to meet the needs of so many children, parents and members of staff.

Around 50% of parents still have their children at home. ED is conscious of this and therefore the school will provide a 2 week summer school experience for those children.

Anxieties around COVID 19 have not manifested themselves in the children currently attending school who are really enjoying themselves. Many even prefer having fewer children in school and more space. However, they are finding the more frequent hand washing and social distancing difficult. Year 6 have had a lovely time enjoying being creative and working on projects for the last few weeks of term.

Instead of an end of year show, Year 6 have instead been making a film with Jeremy Davies and a parent helper. Ana Clave and Charlie Koupland have worked very hard to help with this.

Pick-up and drop-off times have been staggered. This is running smoothly and is possibly a better system than the usual system of all children arriving/leaving at the same time.

The school has concerns regarding September. There will be additional pressure on children to catch up and prepare for SATs. There is the possibility of a localised lockdown which the school must prepare for, for example what would happen if there was a lockdown in Barnet but not Haringey. There needs to be a balance between a full curriculum and keeping children and staff safe.

AT asked why some children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 are not currently attending school.

ED – some parents are very anxious about sending their children to school. Some have more than one child in school and feel it is unfair to send one child to school when the other(s) cannot attend. Some are happy with the routine they have at home and feel it is not helpful for their children to return for just a few weeks.

RS informed the GB that parents are very grateful for the upcoming summer school experience as no other schools seem to be offering this.

TAD Days

Coldfall is part of an NLC including most Muswell Hill schools. Most of these are planning to have an additional TAD day at the start of term to prepare for children coming back to school and implement additional safety measures to reduce the risk of infection. ED proposed 3 TAD days in September. The GB agreed this.

School closure on Fridays

ED proposed that the school closes at lunch time on Fridays to allow for teachers' PPA time. This will remove the need for supply teachers next term, which is costly. It is something many schools implemented before COVID 19. There will be 2 more teaching hours per week than there are currently with the school closed all day on Fridays.

ED is aware that this will be more difficult for some families than others.

RS suggested that the school give parents a timeline for how long this is likely to continue.

FJ suggested that children still eat their lunch at school.

The GB agreed and will review at the end of the first term.

Reports

The GB thanked all staff who provided reports which were very informative.

EM found writing his report challenging due to the drastic changes since the pandemic. However, he feels there are positives that the school can learn from.

Learning has been driven by the "terminal end point" of exams. The change in circumstances has given us the opportunity to change that and therefore teaching and learning has become more creative.

ED agreed that we have a very traditional curriculum in England which has fallen behind other countries who have a broader base for learning and produce a wider skill set.

AT said it has been nice to see her own children doing more creative work at home during this time.

The Teaching School has been reduced due to the current budget. The school has so far only recruited one graduate teaching assistant, which is seven less than usual. There is the possibility of employing additional GTAs in the Spring Term if the budget improves.

The GB noted the attainment data.

Finance Report

Laggi Efthymious, School Business Manager, attended the GB meeting.

The school has suffered a substantial loss of income due to the closure of clubs, lettings and the significant reduction in the Teaching School.

If things are "back to normal" by January the school will have a balanced budget. Unfortunately there have had to be cut backs on staff, resources and unnecessary repairs/decorating.

TL noted that figures in the report had changed since the last Finance Committee meeting.

LE explained that DW had noticed some errors in the initial report and that these have been corrected.

The minutes of the Finance meeting were agreed and signed by ED and LB.

DB asked LE whether some of the lost income could be made back?

LE – the school is able to claim for “COVID expenses”, although it is not yet clear what this includes. It is likely that the hand sanitizing points will be included as well as additional cleaning materials. The school can also put in a claim for loss of income due to COVID 19 but it is likely that this will yield little or no return.

ED – the school has received some parent donations which is very helpful.

DB asked when lettings for parties etc will start soon.

The school’s priority is to re-establish regular lettings as soon as possible.

DW asked about funding to help children catch up when back at school.

ED - We haven’t been informed what this will involve. There is the possibility of tutoring. If that is the case will this take children out of lessons? The success of tutoring often depends on the relationship between the tutor and class teacher, who knows the children best, as well as between the children and the tutor. It does work with some children but if over a short period of time (eg 6 weeks) isn’t usually enough.

The pandemic and school closure will have more of an impact on children’s social learning and wellbeing rather than academic. Teachers are able to identify which children will need additional support.

Equalities – BAME Governor

The GB decided that the minutes of this discussion be moved to Part 2.

Summer Holiday plan

There will be 2 weeks of the summer school experience for children who have been unable to attend school. Teachers have a lot of exciting activities planned and it promises to be a lovely time for children to reunite with their peers.

ED and the GB thanked staff for coming in during the holidays to run the summer clubs.

The summer clubs are also an opportunity for children to get used to the new measures in place (social distancing, hand washing etc). The school must follow the new hierarchy of protective measures:

- Maintain the integrity of each class. There will be marked playground zones so children know where they can play at break times.
- Hand washing – there are 4 designated hand washing times in addition to usual hand washing times (eg after using the toilets) and sanitising.

- Catch it, bin it, kill it.
- Reducing the number of people in school at one time - staggered drop off and pick up times. Parents will not be allowed on the premises unless they have a formal appointment.
- A plan in place in case of localised lockdowns. Remote learning will stay live.
- Risk assessments.

The school also needs to find a way to ensure all families have access to remote learning.

School Development Plan (SDP)

The school will focus on 3 mini projects one per term based on the following three priorities:

- Care and wellbeing of themselves (hygiene, confidence, keeping safe etc)
- Care and wellbeing of others (relationships, supporting one another)
- Care and wellbeing of the planet (Sustainability).

As always the school will focus on closing the gap.

We have a new School Improvement Partner, Marva Rollins. She has worked with the school previously on the BAME review. She will be able to help diversify the curriculum.

AOB

ED proposed that future meetings continue to begin at 4pm. The GB agreed to trial this.

ED asked the GB if they would prefer to have one committee meeting per term rather than two. The GB agreed to have one meeting per term with the possibility of calling an additional emergency meeting if needed.

ED will produce the schedule for next academic year.

The GB agreed to postpone GB in school day.