

ELEANOR PALMER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Minutes of the Full Governing Body Meeting Held on 22 May 2019 at 6.00pm

Apologies received:

Mark Pemberton

LB Camden

Boris Telyatnikov

Parent

Flora Cornish

Shanti Fricker

Rifca Le Dieu

Vicky Starmer

Christophe Frerebeau

Staff

Kate Frood, Head teacher

Rosie Thomson

Co-opted

Jennifer Allan – Chair of Governors

Tim Peake

Matthew Lawrence

Mark Pemberton

Associate members

Sally Hill

Natalie Stevenson

Also present:

Tania Voaden, Clerk

1.00 There were no declarations of interest.

2.0 Corrections - No corrections of Governing Body minutes dated 27 March 2019.

2.1 Actions - All actions outstanding and from March minutes have been completed.

2.2 Advocates – Governors agreed that there would not be a replacement advocate for prior low attainers since Josh Franks stepped down as governor

3.00 HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

The Head's report 22 May 2019 was shared with Governors in advance of the meeting.

3.1 Admissions

The Head updated Governors on the Reception 2019 offers and noted that four Nursery children had not secured a place in the Reception class. The class had no children with an EHCP (Education Health Care Plan) and only one known FSM child (Free School Meals). The Head noted the significant drop in pupil numbers for Camden and referenced the detail in her report that the school was 1st choice preference for 56 families with preference of choice totals shown as 224. She commented that the preference number had gone down this year.

Nursery places are challenging to fill for September 2019, but siblings will bring the class to full size in January with the school looking like losing income for five spaces in the Autumn term.

3.2 Staffing

The Head thanked governors for their support through the re-structuring process. The Head informed Governors that she had received three applications for voluntary redundancy ahead of the deadline of 23rd May. She has not received, nor anticipates, any teacher resignations ahead of the deadline of 24th May.

Christophe Frerebeau challenged the Head on the provision for covering absence of support staff, which the Head had noted in her report was relatively high. The Head replied that the absence was being covered by existing staff and that this was better than obtaining supply as staff knew the school and children.

3.3 Determination

The Head was confident that the determination for the school would be renewed at the next meeting of SACRE after a successful visit in April. The Head reflected on the value of the school's assemblies, which did not take the format of rules and reprimand but focused on learning and bringing the school together. Peter Hyman (co-director of Big Education) had advised Heads that assemblies should set the tone of the school and she thought that the school achieved this.

3.3 Curriculum

The Head noted that there was concern around Year 6 SATs given the breadth of emotional need and SEN within the class. The Head updated her report to note that the school would be externally moderated on writing assessments. This would be hard and whilst there were several children working at greater depth, there would also be a number who did not reach expected standards. The school had not yet been given the date for moderation, but there was a window for visits.

Shanti Fricker asked how children had coped with SATs. The Head replied that the papers were reasonable. Rosie Thomson said that the process was kept low key and had been smoother than anticipated. She thought that the reading paper was hard. Two governors have children in the Year 6 class, and they commented that the process had been well managed and that children had not been overly anxious about the experience.

3.4 Ofsted

The Head said that she thought that an inspection was likely in the next school year. They had recently been to two local 'Outstanding' schools who had lost their outstanding status. The Head said that a drop in combined standards this year may trigger concern and that progress data would look relatively poor.

- **ACTION** Redistribute the Ofsted summary sheet to Governors.

3.5 Pupil Premium (PP)

The Head shared a report detailing the school's position with regard to the number of PP on roll, the associated income and expenditure, the statement of how the grant is spent and the impact.

The Head stated that she holds with the view that what makes the difference is great teaching in the classroom. There is evidence to support that this has the greatest impact on learning, rather than separating children out during lessons. The focus is therefore on ensuring excellent classroom teaching and that less experienced teachers are coached and supported by experienced teachers. The school considers carefully which children benefit from targeted support.

The Chair said that since the coalition Government there had been disquiet about handing over additional funding to schools without clear accountability. The result can be a ridiculous breakdown of expenditure in order to justify the funding.

The Head noted that in 2018 PP children had stronger results than non-PP except at greater depth.

Governors reviewed the statement made on the school website about how the grant is spent. Flora Cornish said that the statement reflects inclusion, that there is not an assumption that that children are the same. She said that Maths Mastery had an equalising approach. Natalie Stevenson responded that Maths Mastery gives children the opportunity to have the same teaching and do better but doesn't assume to 'close the gap'. The Head said that it won't 'close the gap' for high attainment but that absolute attainment matters more than high attainment. Governors agreed to stand by the existing statement.

3.6 Healthy Schools

Sally Hill met with the Healthy Schools advisor as the school is due to renew its status. It looks likely that the school will lose the status because of the eight cake sales hosted each term for fundraising. The sales raise around £1000 a year for the school. The Head had shared data in her report around attendance and obesity, the school faring very well in comparison to other Camden schools. She asked Governors for their response to the possible loss of status or on dropping the Friday cake sales. Vicky Starmer thought that the loss of Healthy Schools status was not significant in relation to the value to the cake sales. Rifca Le Dieu noted that cakes and sugar snacks in school drew frequent unfavourable comments in parent surveys. She noted too that whilst the figures on obesity were good, there was also the dental impact to consider.

The Head said that the children were intelligent about sugar in food and that the school would continue to educate in this.

3.6 Premises Development

The Head noted that the school had won a regional RIBA award for The Lab.

The Resources Committee and Vicky Green had reviewed and were costing Summer works.

3.7 Safeguarding

The school had a thorough safeguarding review through Camden in March and await the final report. Overall a very positive review with some recommendations arising.

3.8 Extended Schools

The Head flagged that eight children have been shortlisted for the Young Engineer Award and the school awaits the results.

The Parent Survey will be online this year to hopefully make it more accessible to parents and make analysis easier.

The Head reminded Governors of the Summer Fair on 6th July and the need for a rota of Governors on the gate.

3.9 Keep it EP

Governors discussed the progression of the fundraising campaign following on from the launch meeting with parents.

The Head updated Governors that she had had three offers from parents to join the development sub-committee and had compiled the list of suggestions from the parent meeting. Some immediate actions would be to include a letter in the school starter pack for Reception and to write to school leavers requesting one-off or regular donations.

Governors talked positively about the number of parents attending the meeting and the support and enthusiasm shown. It was noted that in the exercise where parents had to prioritise what were the most important 'extras' to the school, teaching assistants were ranked top.

Governors discussed the value of fundraising for 'visible' results such as the repair of the island in the playground. Also, about the importance of regular updates on the campaign in the school newsletter. It was noted that the cost of the solar panels (a previous fundraising campaign) has almost been paid back in energy savings.

The Chair noted the value to the school coming together as a community, thanked governors for their support and Christophe Frerebeau for his work and advice in setting up the fundraising account.

- **ACTION** To move a donation 'button' to the top of the website for ease of access. Done.

4.00 STAFFING COMMITTEE REPORT

Minutes dated 9 May 2019 were shared in advance of the meeting.

The committee had reviewed the Staff Survey and re-worded the question regarded work: life balance. Three questions had been removed.

The termly Safeguarding meeting between Shanti Fricker, Kate Frod and Vicky Green had been held in March and minutes were shared. Flora Cornish will complete the Safer Recruitment training.

- **ACTION** -To investigate online Safer Recruitment training.

5.00 RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT

Minutes dated 2 May 2019 and the school's budget were shared in advance of the meeting.

Christophe Frerebeau challenged how much money Teaching School could block and freeze in order to earn off investment. Tim Peake said that this was on the committee agenda to investigate. They were looking at plans to set limits to what could be transferred to the school and how best to save and earn from the remaining funds. The Chair noted that the school needed to live within its means, but that the Teaching School monies were a fortunate cushion.

Camden have committed to complete some external maintenance and repair works over the summer break. The committee had identified as a priority the need to repair rotten playground structures. Quotes were also being obtained for replacing the lino in the infant toilets, carpet in the school office and decorative repairs.

The Head stated that it was right to declare that the school was returning a deficit budget, but one with a plan to redress.

The Governing Body formally approved the school budget.

6.00 PPC COMMITTEE REPORT

Minutes dated 14 8 May 2019 were shared in advance of the meeting.

Vicky Starmer said that the Parent Survey would be run online and asked for Governor support to engage with parents before and after school on 13th and 14th June.

Shed Talks continue with 14 parents attending the last session. Three more sessions were scheduled before the end of the year.

There is a meeting planned for parents of children with SEN in which a survey will be completed to feedback to committee.

7.00 CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes dated 1 May 2019 were shared in advance of the meeting.

As committee chair was unable to attend committee, minutes were reviewed by Natalie Stevenson.

The committee had updated the English Policy.

The committee had discussed the curriculum framework in reviewing the policy. The Head said that thought was given to how the curriculum was designed, what the intent was and what impact it had. This had been discussed in depth at the staff meeting.

Boris Telyatnikov said that Ofsted chief inspector Amanda Spielman had spoken on Radio 4 about the need for breadth of curriculum and a shift from simply exam focus.

The Head said that she had always been keen on retaining a broad curriculum, and discussions were around gaining greater clarity of what this should include. She said that the teaching staff thought hard about teaching and learning and about what could be improved.

There was no AOB and the meeting finished at 8pm.

POLICIES AGREED

- English Policy
- Complaints
- Administering Medicines.

School Budget 2019-2020 agreed.