

fortismere

Minutes of the Full Governing Body Meeting Monday 5th July 2021 at 6pm *Online meeting held via zoom*

Governors present: Neil Amin-Smith, Mark Chapman (*Chair*), Jo Davey (*Co-headteacher*), Pat Dugdale, Peter Harrington, Romina Harris-O'Hanlon, Zoe Judge (*Co-headteacher*), Nigel Linton, Ian Macaulay, Lauren Overs, Wendy Sloane

Staff present: Darrel Barsby (*Asst Headteacher*), Emily Brooks (*Asst Headteacher*), Nofer Fari (*Director Linc/SENDCo*), Florence Fineberg (*Asst Headteacher*), Stewart Hesse (*Deputy Headteacher*), Anne Keogh (*Business Manager*), Kirsten Sullivan (*Deputy Headteacher*), Andy Ward (*Asst Headteacher*),

Also present: Sam Murray (*Clerk*)

1. **No apologies for absence** were received.

2. **Declaration of interests**

There were no meeting specific declarations of interest made by Governors present. Governors were reminded to inform the Clerk of any changes to their business and pecuniary interests.

3. **Co-headteachers' report**

Governors had received a copy of the Co-headteachers' written report.

Detailed contextual information for governors was included in the report and had been discussed at recent committee meetings.

Information on staff well-being and continuing professional development was shared with governors. In response to a governor question on the latest data for staff absence due to covid, Co-heads gave a verbal update on the number of staff and students self-isolating. Co-headteachers advised governors that the situation is changing rapidly and numbers are increasing; the school is following public health and local authority advice.

Co-heads outlined the current arrangements for students to carry out lateral flow tests at home. A governor asked if the school had any data on the numbers carrying out regular tests. Co-heads advised that the school was not collecting this data but believe engagement at Fortismere to be good. The DfE are contacting schools where engagement levels are low – there has been no contact made with Fortismere.

The written report updated governors on covid risk assessment and the recovery plan. Recovery curriculum planning and updates on actions were set out in the report with information on the pastoral curriculum and year 6-7 transition arrangements.

Staff have continued to receive training and support in the use of the new assessment policy. An update on teacher assessed grades (TAGs) was included in the report. The GL assessments/reporting and TAGs were discussed in detail in recent curriculum committee meetings.

A governor asked if the school had received any requests from exam boards for samples of student work. Co-heads confirmed that several requests had been received and work had been submitted. Responses from the exam boards are not due until later this month.

A governor asked what the GL assessments results had shown. Co-heads confirmed that data was still being reviewed but the assessments will give the school a large amount of valuable information. SLT will consider how best to report this to governors going forward.

A governor gave feedback on the recent GL assessment report sent home to parents. The report was informative and gave useful information but some of the terminology was difficult to understand. Co-heads noted this feedback.

A governor asked for clarification on the sixth form T score data (page 12). SH explained that the T score pulls together three elements to give an overall score. The data puts Fortismere in the top 10% of schools and shows excellent value added. This year TAGs will be compared to 2019 exam results data and not last year's CAGs.

Updates on behaviour and safety including attendance and safeguarding were detailed in the report and considered by governors. Attendance is high at 94% compared to national (78%) and local authority (81%) averages. The next curriculum committee will receive detailed reports on SEND and safeguarding and discuss in greater depth.

Governors asked if there was any local authority support in respect of Everyone's Invited. Co-heads explained that the school is part of a LB Haringey team working on this and as part of this will be using a new tool to audit school provision in this area. Governors will receive further updates on this.

A governor asked about plans for the Intervention Room from September 2021. KS confirmed that the intervention room will be in place from September and described plans for relaunching behaviour management to staff as over the last two years, zoning and bubbles have had an impact on how this is managed. The room will focus on behaviour management and behaviour change with learning and academic support.

In response to a governor question, KS explained how the Intervention Room would work separately but alongside the school's planned Alternative Provision.

Governors noted the update on plans for the **Alternative Provision**.

Finance and resources were discussed in detail in the last Combined Resources meeting. Governors noted the amount of work being undertaken across the site and the positive outcome of the recent Health & Safety Audit.

Governors thanked Co-heads for their comprehensive written report and SLT staff for their input.

4. School improvement plan 2020-21 review

Governors had received a copy of the SIP 2020-21 updated to reflect the latest review plus a supporting commentary document. Governors discussed the purple sections (covid adaptations). Co-heads highlighted areas under Standards, Behaviour, Community and Resources were covid has had an impact on progress against targets. Governors noted and discussed these areas.

A governor asked for the reason for giving more teaching time to science from modern languages in year 9. Co-heads explained that the rationale was to rebalance time and to give more time to enable students on the cusp of being able to study separate sciences to make more progress. This will be monitored to measure the impact of the change.

A governor asked if university medical schools view double and triple science GCSEs differently. AW responded that he had not heard anything from universities or students on this. A level results are always more important and Fortismere students with double science GCSEs have gone on to competitive courses at top universities. Governors discussed the impact on students of double or triple science but saw no evidence that students would be disadvantaged by studying double science rather than triple at key stage 4. Governors would like to revisit at some point the policy position on who is offered triple science at GCSE.

Co-heads outlined the SIP cycle - the current 2020-21 document have a final review and sign-off in the autumn term. The new SIP 2021-22 will be developed over the summer and early autumn term.

5. School vision statement

Governors had received a paper setting out a draft revised vision statement for their consideration. Co-heads explained that a refresh and refocus was needed when school returns in September 2021. The revised statement covers four key areas: defining transformative education; highlighting being both transformative and inclusive; making clear the link between vision and culture; and what this means for the Fortismere student. Governors discussed the draft and gave some suggestions for shorter sentences and wording to improve clarity. Governors agreed that they recognise the school from the statement and fully support the sentiments behind it. **All governors agreed the vision statement** (with some minor changes to wording).

6. Governor engagement September 2021

The Chair had circulated a discussion document to facilitate a conversation on the working practice of governance as the school emerges from the pandemic. The paper set out the context of governance since early 2020 and the impact covid has had on the role of governors and their normal ways of working. The paper proposes different working models based on the current structure or a flatter structure with less committees. Governors and SLT present discussed the paper and the proposals and agreed that the time was right for a reset and that being in school more often with a defined link area would improve governors' deeper knowledge of the school. The Chair stressed that a culture of a governors and SLT working closely together to an agreed programme of work with timely reporting and information was essential to success. Governors and staff would prefer a hybrid model with some face-to-face meetings and some virtual meetings. Governors all **agreed** their commitment to engagement with the school.

Governors **agreed** that Co-heads should take the proposals back to the SLT and gather their feedback and comments. MC and IM to work with Co-heads to develop a structure and working arrangements for the new academic year.

7. GB Membership

Governors had received an update on membership of the GB and noted the following:

- LA governor appointment – Governors ratified Mark Chapman's appointment as the LA governor from 3 May 2021 for a four-year term of office.
- Resignation of Megan Hanson from 17 May 2021.

- Parent governor election – Ballot closes next week and two new governors will be in place from the start of next term.

8. Governor Training & Development

Governors were reminded to book any training needed through HEP on GovernorHub. PD (Safeguarding governor) had attended a webinar on peer-on-peer abuse.

9. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 15 March 2021 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

10. Matters arising from the last meeting

There were no outstanding matters arising from the last meeting.

11. Combined Resources Committee report (NL)

NL gave an overview of the meeting held on 22 June 2021 as per the minutes circulated to governors. The draft budget 2021-22 was scrutinised and reviewed by the committee. Further information was requested to identify areas of risk in the draft budget. Following receipt of the further details the committee recommend approval of the budget. Updates on other areas were also received as per the minutes.

11.1 Approval of the school budget 2021-22

Governors had received a copy of the budget and supporting information and **approved** the school budget 2021-22 as presented.

12 Curriculum committee (IM)

IM gave an overview of the meetings held on 30 March 2021 and 18 May 2021 as per the minutes circulated to governors. In March, governors had received and discussed a detailed presentation on the process for awarding Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) for the summer 2021 exam series. Governors had also discussed issues and actions related to Everyone's Invited and the school dress code. In May, governors received reports and discussed TAGs and assessment for key stage 3, Year 10 and Year 12 students. Plans for the DfE funded year 6 to year 7 summer school were also considered.

A governor asked a question about teacher assessments and student data lost when transferring to the new cloud school system. Co-heads outlined the wide range of current and historic data that was used by teachers for the TAG setting process. There was a separate and specific issue with some data for the year 9 science setting test last year which was lockdown related and not related to the TAG process this year.

13 Admissions committee (MC)

The Committee had considered and agreed medical-social applications as and when required.

13.1 Variation to Admission Arrangements 2021-22 & 2022-23

A change to the School Admissions Code (SAC) requires all admission authorities to also give highest priority in their oversubscription criteria to internationally adopted previously looked after children from 1 Sept 2021 onwards. To make changes to the school's published admission arrangements a variation must be agreed. The revised wording applies to oversubscription criteria A and is taken directly from the SAC. **Governors agreed the variation as proposed.**

14. Lettings policy

An updated Lettings policy has been prepared following a recommendation from the recent health and safety audit. A covid addendum is also included as an appendix to the policy. Governors **approved** the policy.

15. Chair's action

Nothing to report.

Meeting closed