

fortismere

Minutes of the Full Governing Body Meeting Monday 15th March 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, Megan Hanson, Zoe Judge (*Co-headteacher*), Nigel Linton, Ian Macaulay, Lauren Overs, Wendy Sloane

Staff present: Darrel Barsby (*Asst Headteacher*), Emily Brooks (*Asst Headteacher*), Nofer Fari (*SEnCo*), 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*)

The Chair welcomed Nofer Fari to the meeting.

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. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 16th November 2020 were approved and agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from the last meeting

There were no outstanding matters from the last meeting.

5. Co-headteachers' report

Governors had received a copy of the Co-headteachers' written report. The Co-head teachers gave a brief overview of the content.

The period from November 2020 to late February 2021 had involved lots of changes and challenges due to the constantly evolving covid situation. In December plans were made for mass testing of students from the start of term in January 2021, these were not actioned as the national lockdown was introduced.

The school was able to smoothly switch to remote teaching and from January 2021 live teaching according to timetable was offered to all students. There were 60 to 80 keyworker/vulnerable students on site daily during the lockdown period.

The school improvement cycle continued despite school closure including the introduction of the new assessment cycle which has provided better data for tracking and monitoring. Work with LB Haringey on the Alternative Provision project has continued at a slow pace but progress has been made.

From early March 2021 things moved quickly in preparation for schools re-opening and mass testing on-site. Testing of all students has worked well as a result of detailed and careful planning. KS and AK have worked hard on with support from staff and parent volunteers. Students have also been very co-operative with approximately 98% consenting to tests. No positive cases have been identified so far.

Recovery curriculum work continues with a focus on identifying where students are as experiences will vary greatly. Staff are talking to students and doing light touch assessments.

Attendance is 95% for the first week back and the general atmosphere and behaviour is positive. Students are pleased to be back and it is great to see them on site again.

As yet, there is no detail on what the Exams series 2021 will involve for the school, DfE/Ofqual guidance is due next week. Governors **agreed** to move the date of the next Curriculum Committee meeting to 30 March 2021 to allow discussion of the detail.

Governors noted their appreciation of all the hard work and effort that has helped to make the return to school run smoothly and effectively. Thank you to all involved.

In response to a governor question, Co-heads outlined a range of pastoral interventions that will be provided to those students who need such support. ROH described to governors how the school were also supporting families with applications for free school meals and access to LB Haringey hardship funding.

Governors discussed the contextual data in the report including data on Year 9 option choices for GCSE. In response to a governor question, JD explained that there had not been any noticeable changes in the number of students opting for creative or practical subjects. A viable GCSE class would be around 20 students but the school do not want to limit the options on class size, however, the viability of small classes has to be explored.

A governor requested some general reflection on how students had engaged with remote learning during the lockdown. SH advised that students had responded well to live teaching and had been able to work more efficiently this time. Findings from the recent student survey were very positive and showed that engagement had increased.

EB described for governors the wealth of information that was collected by Heads of Year during their well-being calls to students and how these helpful and informative conversations have been shared with others and used to inform planning.

Governors **agreed** that the Curriculum Committee meeting in May would focus on analysis of gaps in learning and diagnostic testing.

A governor asked if there was a particular reason for the reduction in Oxbridge and medical school applications this year. AW feels that offers are down in general and have been in subjects that Fortismere students tend not to apply for. There are only a very small number of Year 13 students who are not part of the UCAS process and it is very positive that so many students are engaging this year.

The Chair thanked the Co-Headteachers for their detailed report and commented that the school looks to be in a positive position and moving forward.

6. School Improvement Plan 2020-21

Governors had received a copy of the SIP 2020-21 showing progress against targets since the start of the academic year. SLT regularly meet to review the SIP. Some priorities and implementation plans have been revised as a result of school closure.

Key priorities were considered including progress of identified student groups. JD will attend the LB Haringey BAME Conference this week. Work on the recovery curriculum is ongoing. Planned work on effective teaching strategies has been difficult to implement with remote learning and zoning but will progress now that that school is reopen. Implementation of the new behaviour system has also been affected by covid. This will be relaunched again and will also be included in next year's SIP as a priority. Partnership working with the New River Teaching Alliance continues. The school is waiting for more detail from Haringey in respect of funding for site improvements.

Standards: Rollout of the new Assessment policy has taken place but not as planned due to covid and school closure. The quality of data is much improved. The assessment calendar has been revised and will be launched from September 2021.

Teaching and learning: Staff have been supported to develop their remote teaching skills.

Covid funding: Some expenditure has been paused during school closure but will restart now that students are back on site.

A governor asked if any of the areas marked as red were not as a result of covid related delays. JD advised that covid had impacted all areas in some way and classroom-based plans have obviously been very difficult to action. Also some formative assessment and CPD plans have also been paused. However, SLT are confident that any delays are not holding back the progress of the school and can be actioned next year if needed.

In relation to safeguarding the school is working with agencies and families in different ways as a result of covid. The programme planned for student safeguarding education will refocus now that students are back on site.

Work on the new behaviour system has not taken place as planned; zoning and social distancing has necessitated a different approach. Staff haven't been able to use the training they received earlier in the year and have had to work hard to adjust to the new ways of working. The restructured Behaviour Team has worked well.

Attendance figures are good and progress against targets is on track. The school is working closely with a small number of families who are anxious about school reopening.

Risk management systems and procedures are working well and information is shared with staff to ensure compliance and help staff to feel safe at work.

A governor asked about children at risk of exclusion, how this group is tracked and if the group needs to focus in the SIP. KS explained how the school uses the inclusion panel to identify, support and monitor students at risk of exclusion. Permanent exclusion rates are low and often for serious one-off incidents where the behaviour is unexpected. The group does not need to be prioritised in the SIP as exclusion is not considered to be a significant issue at the school. A governor asked about work to avoid exclusions for vulnerable groups of students. ZJ explained that the school is

doing lots to support these students and suggested that this could be drawn together to inform a strategic conversation with governors around avoiding exclusions.

Governors thanked the Co-headteachers and the SLT present for their hard work in continuing the school improvement journey during the challenging covid times.

SLT left the meeting

7. Committee reports

Governors had received minutes from recent committee meetings.

7.1 Combined Resources committee (NL)

NL gave an overview of the meeting held on 23 Feb 2021 as per the minutes. Governors reviewed the budget and income/expenditure statements and all is on track. An extra meeting to review the draft budget is planned for May 2021.

Governors had reviewed and approved the audited voluntary funds 2019-20.

Governors had reviewed and agreed prices increase for lettings and school properties.

Governors had agreed an updated Health & Safety policy.

7.2 Curriculum committee (IM)

IM gave an overview of the meeting held on 26 Jan 2021 as per the minutes. Governors had received an update on remote learning, provision for vulnerable students, well-being and safeguarding. Governors discussed the format of assessment data for reporting to governors.

Safeguarding policy – Governors had approved the updated Safeguarding policy. Changes had been made to reflect the updated KCSIE statutory guidance.

The full governing body meeting ratified the policy.

7.3 Admissions committee (MC)

The Committee had considered and agreed medical-social applications and address of convenience cases in respect of applications for entry in September 2021. Governors had agreed the ranking list of applications for entry in September 2021. The Co-Headteachers' report contains data for offers made on 1st March 2021.

Admission Arrangements for 2022 – No changes were proposed or made to the school's published admission arrangements. The admission arrangements were agreed by governors on 23 Feb 2021.

The full governing body meeting ratified the admission arrangements for 2022.

8. Governing body membership

Parent governor election - The process to elect new parent governors was paused during school closure. The process will restart next term.

Local authority governor – Governors would like the local authority to appoint Mark Chapman as LA governor when his term of office as a parent governor ends on 02/05/21. Governors agreed MC had the skills and experience for the role.

Action: Clerk to contact Haringey Governor Services to start the formal process of appointment.

Co-opted governor - Pat Dugdale's term of office as a Co-opted governor ended on 05/03/2021. The Chair proposed that PD be reappointed for a further one-year term of office and this was agreed by all governors (by email).

The full governing body meeting ratified the appointment of Pat Dugdale as a Co-opted governor from 08/03/21-07/03/22

SEND governor role – MC highlighted the need for a governor to take on the SEND link role as Wendy Sloane has given this up. Governors should contact MC with any queries on the role.

9. Governor Training & Development

MC had attended the Haringey Governors' Conference and heard from Emma Knights (National Governance Association)

Haringey BAME Conference takes places this week and includes input from a former Fortismere student.

10. Date of next meeting

FGB meeting 5 July 2021

Meeting closed