

## MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY – FOUNDRY LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

TUESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2014

Governors present:	Janet Taylor [JT]	Marie Spencer [MS]
	Liz Smith [LS]	David Higlett [DH]
	Anne Webster [AWe]	Robbie Turkington [RT]
	Maureen Kirkland [MK]	James Caswell [JC]
	Andy Withers [Head] [AW]	Tony Croft [TC]
	Andrew Tindall [AT]	Neil Maddock [NM]
Associate Governors:	Sean Taylor [ST]	
Others:	Jack Davis [JD]	
Clerk:	Elisabeth Ruggles	

The meeting began by showing governors a recording of the recent Rock Challenge event, in which pupils performed Jungle Book (I want to be like me!) and won the Southampton City round. On 18<sup>th</sup> June the pupils are off to Portsmouth to perform it at the Southern Regional Finals. Out of the fifteen categories (such as ‘best set’, ‘best costumes’ etc) Foundry Lane won thirteen.

## 01. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

None.

## 02. APOLOGIES

There were apologies from Sam Barnes and Kathryn Lugg, which were received and accepted. Apologies had not been received from Claire Fyvie-Rae.

## 03. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None. MS advised a potential declaration of interest should the strike on 26<sup>th</sup> March be discussed.

## 04. AGREEMENT OF MINUTES

p5: under (08) 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph – insert 5 between L and %

p5: under (08) 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph – delete ‘wiring’ and insert ‘writing’

There were no further amendments and the Minutes were signed by the Chair as being a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed  
Chair of Governors  
Dated

## 05. MATTERS ARISING

- Learning Walks. These are now starting to take place. James and Robbie have arranged a visit for 27<sup>th</sup> May to look at behaviour. Kathryn wanted to look at lateness and attendance before she went on maternity leave, but she will now do so later in the year.

- Sports Premium. The school has signed up with the Southampton City group. There are still a few gaps in the provision, but these can be filled by the school itself by engaging people to come in to do some work. The group is particularly good for competitive team sports.

## 06. HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

Number of children on roll: A previous meeting had already discussed the situation surrounding two children whom the LA is requesting that Foundry Lane take on. A letter has been received instructing the school to do so, but the school replied that it cannot accept children who are not in school. Someone else who wanted a place for their child was told that the place they wanted was being held for another child, so it is a difficult situation.

Although the school is part of a Trust and is therefore its own admissions authority, it has delegated this responsibility to the LA. The LA is looking at its hard-to-place children protocol, which the school can appreciate (and all schools agree to take a percentage of such children), but these children do not come to school at all. The LA wants Foundry Lane to admit them so it can start to prosecute the family. But the school feels it should be able to do this anyway, as this family asked for their children to be placed at Foundry Lane and are now not sending them. MK confirmed that a child is not admitted to a school until it is physically on the premises and is not taken off roll until it has been admitted elsewhere. The older children are enrolled at schools in Portswood.

It was agreed that a governor would look at the correspondence received and sent on this issue, in case the matter goes to appeal. The letter sent to the LA mentions that the matter has already come before the Governing Body, on whose behalf AW is acting. It has also been discussed with TC and MK is aware of the situation. A governor asked that if the children were to be admitted to school, how long it would be before the parents could be prosecuted. This is hard to gauge. JT found it hard to understand why the parents cannot be prosecuted already as they have been offered a place, but are withholding their children. A number of meetings have been arranged at school and AW has made several trips to the house with the Education Welfare Officer, but no one would open the door.

Secondary Schooling: there is not much change from last year in destination schools

Staffing: Mr Bundy has been on long term absence since November 2013 and will not be returning to school until June. A letter has been sent to the parents of children in 5B, but the situation is stable at the moment. Maureen will be retiring at Easter after 27 years of working at Foundry Lane.

SDP / International Links: Unfortunately the school was unable to raise enough funding to take the children to Poland and the Polish children now cannot come to Southampton in June.

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Dated

Quality of Teaching: Two weeks ago 28 lesson observations were undertaken in two days. It gave a true reflection of the type of performance OFSTED would see, although the ‘ratings’ were not as high as would have been liked. Observations are based only on a short period of time spent in a lesson and the judgement was based on that. There was not a judgement given to teachers of ‘good’ or ‘needing improvement’ as monitoring has always been developmental. It is also important to vary the type of observation so an overall reflection is gained. In this observation 19% of lessons were outstanding, 70% were good and 11% (= 5 lessons) were in need of improvement. Staff members were also asked to self-evaluate. DH asked who carried out these observations – it was AW, ST and the phase leaders. Everyone swapped around so judgements could be moderated.

Next term further observations will be linked to phasal targets. Over the course of a year there are 65 observations, so this gives a good view of the quality of teaching.

JD mentioned that the LSAs were also observed on PPA. These are not included in the figures as they were not judged according to the teachers’ criteria. All lessons were good.

DH asked if the school can get some sort of external validation in preparation for OFSTED. This was done in the Autumn Term with Mike Thompson from Prospects but the school could do some more. DH wondered whether other school in the Trust could help. This was a good idea. It is normally build into the Easter Term, but it has been done differently this year.

Strengths and areas for improvement have been included in the list that is put together for training. The LSA training has been very good this year. The training was split as LSAs are indispensable for the running of the school – class LSAs and 1:1 LSAs.

Attendance: It was highest it has ever been for the Spring census. 95% is the national average benchmark. MS pointed out that she had heard on the BBC news that the new regulations on taking holidays out of term time have had an effect.

Staff Appraisals: Most of the midyear reviews have been completed. Targets are in place.

SEN: There has been no change from the figures taken at the November census.

Pupil Behaviour: Two children have been excluded since the last Head Teacher’s report in November. AT asked where Foundry Lane stood with staff safety if a child is subject to violent outbursts. A risk assessment is completed and the school looks for outside advice. With one of the children there has been a ‘challenging behaviour consultation’ with two educational psychologists as the school wants to find ways to include the child. However, there comes a point when the school needs to look at the balance between meeting the needs of these individual children and meeting the needs of other children and members of staff and these are very difficult judgements to make. With some children there are ways forward, but at the moment the school is close to a permanent exclusion for the child, which the LA is reluctant to support. AW also speaks with staff as well as with the child and its parents. Being permanently excluded from school at such a young age is very hard for its well being.

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AT asked what the situation would be if a member of staff refused to teach a particular child. Everything has to be put in place to make the situation work. LS asked if the situation under discussion here was a matter of the child being against other children or members of staff. Here the issue is against adults. There is constant re-assessment to ensure that the situation remains safe.

JC asked whether the school has already contacted Outreach as they are very good. Yes. Another governor asked whether the child has been statemented. It has gone to panel today, so hopefully the provision can be changed.

H&S: In the audit the school achieved 97%. It needed to check the health checks that City Catering had done to make sure they were all there.

Achievement: Moderators are going out to other schools to check their judgements.

JC asked about training and whether the Portsmouth Alliance was being considered. ST has had a meeting with them on the new curriculum and is working with them on Schools Direct.

#### 07. FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The new lettings charges have been agreed.

Benchmarking: Similar results as before.

Budget: If all monies are spent on allocations agreed, there will be a deficit of £5,596. However, extra funding might be received before 31.03.14. All other budgets are very tight. The LA is asking for £25,000 for the new building, but the school is not willing to take this out of the capital budget, now that it has shrunk to £8,000. AW will be writing them a letter.

#### 08. COMMUNICATIONS & FACILITIES COMMITTEE

The only question came from AT asking about the wind turbine. It was confirmed that the damage to it was as a result of storm damage.

#### 09. CURRICULUM & ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting looked at the difference in attainment between boys and girls. At KS2 boys show a falling level of attainment. At the end of KS1 there has been a strong rise in boys' attainment, which is a reflection of the work that has been put into this.

The new curriculum will come into effect in September 2014 for some classes (but not Yr2 and Yr6). Teachers are looking closely at how to implement this. Curriculum plans are being discussed with Hampshire and City schools. A planning day will take place next term.

The Safeguarding Policy has been reviewed.

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## 10. OFSTED UPDATE

Nothing has changed since last meeting.

The school web site was shown to all governors, who are now able to get onto the school web site. The section for governors is pass-worded. Details of the password were given at the meeting – please could any governors not present at the meeting contact the clerk or AW for further details. The section for governors can be found under the Community section and in it governor reference documents can be found as well as OFSTED supporting documents as discussed at the last meeting.

## 12. SATS RAISEONLINE

Governors were handed a document showing various charts. They have a blue ‘G’ in a box at the top indicating that they are useful for governors.

The charts show two measures of attainment and two measures of progress.

Attainment has already been looked at – both at each stage and national comparisons.

The progress charts show the value added measure, which is broadly in line with the national average, as well as the expected progress that each child should make, i.e. two levels progress between KS1 and KS2. A new measure has been introduced – children who are making more than expected progress (i.e. more than two levels of progress). These are published and compared nationally (L3 at KS1 and L6 at KS2).

## MATHS

The table breaks down all the children at KS1 and then looks at them again at KS2. The colours of the chart show the following: green indicates that expected progress has been made; purple indicates that more than expected progress has been made and blue shows that the expected progress was not made. On the table to the right the progress of the children is compared nationally. This enables governors to compare this with the table drawn up by ST on the far right. One child either way is considered to be within the average.

Therefore: exactly the right amount of children made expected progress; fewer children made greater than expected progress and more children made less than expected progress than the national average. This is now a big focus this year.

## READING

These results are shown on another chart. Expected progress compares with national averages, but not as many children as hoped made better than average progress. L2a to L5 is therefore a focus, which equates to 30-40% of all children.

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## WRITING

This chart shows a similar pattern. L1 to L4 is very challenging, but it is on the increase nationally. Children who achieve L2b at KS1 are not getting to L4 or L5 at KS2 and are falling behind.

The inspector will look at this on his next visit. Each of the targets has been given to the teachers of groups containing children who need to make progress.

### 13. PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

There is to be a Planning Conference in June, where the head teachers of the six schools will discuss the transition from a Family to a Trust.

The Head Teacher of the Polygon School is making a presentation to governors next week to look at different options for the school, so it is possible that something will have come back from them after Easter. The school has also been talking to the co-operative college.

The IEB at Regents Park has held three meetings to date. There seems to be a lot of pressure for the school to become an academy. The school web-site includes a statement that schools in special measures have to move to academy status. AW thinks that this is a recommendation only and he has asked for the specific law to which this refers to be clarified. There will be no final decision until the Autumn Term, when a new Governing Body will be in place. However, stakeholders would have to be consulted as the school would then have to leave the Trust. The move could be resisted, but this would depend on the strength of the Governing Body once it is reformed. The senior management team is also an issue as an executive Head Teacher is now in place. AW reported that meetings are very intense – he is trying to keep all options open, although the move seems to be towards academy status. He keeps referring to all the options available at meetings. The co-operative college might support a legal challenge to academy status, but this will have to be made at the right point, if there is an insistence on it being a legal move. Regents Park is ideally looking towards Bitterne Park (which wants to become an academy) to sponsor them as well as Chamberlayne Park. An issue is that Bitterne Park is technically in debt after building their new 6<sup>th</sup> Form, which makes it not possible for them to become an academy. A working party will look at the academy process and other options available.

AW asked governors how they felt if Regents Park were to become an academy and how they think it leaves Foundry Lane. AT reminded governors that during the consultation period stakeholders were assured that academy status would not be considered and felt that this should be honoured. MS wondered how it would affect the transition of the children to secondary school and expected to see a higher level of moderation. LS was concerned at the loss of the community link. All governors felt that anything that affects the relationship between the schools is a concern.

All stakeholders would have to be consulted – i.e. all the primary schools and all parents (as advised by the co-operative college). Schools and parents would have to make a very strong

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case. The idea for academy status for Regents Park came from the DfE and the IEB was appointed by the LA – 7 people, who are also governors of schools. JD asked whether it would affect the Trust if Regents Park left to become an academy, as those left behind would retain Trust status.

LS felt that input from parents at information evenings to put forward ideas and concerns would be useful at this stage. She would be happy to query the statement on the web site and bring it to the attention of the next parent-partnership meeting. The decision to go into a co-operative trust was also based on values and this should be considered whichever decision is taken. AW will keep governors updated as nothing can be pre-empted at this stage.

Regents Park is making rapid progress as a result of the input from Bitterne Park.

#### 14. SAFEGUARDING

The policy has been discussed at all meetings.

AT said that Solent Trust had its OFSTED equivalent last week and were asked about whistle blowing. MS said it is in the staff questionnaire. The policy has recently been looked at. There is a concern that people would not feel safe mentioning anything that was not quite right. JT felt that perhaps a junior member of staff might feel uncomfortable, but other members of staff would be fine. AW said that members of staff speak to him or JD said they go to their phase leaders. The Whistle Blowing Policy says that the Chair of Governors can also be approached.

#### 15. TRAINING

The SCC ‘Inspire’ booklet will be left in Janet’s room for governors to look at.

#### 16. CHAIR

The Chair thanked Maureen for all her hard work on behalf of the Governing Body. He hoped she would have a nice retirement.

#### 17. AOB

JD wondered whether tea and cake could be brought back to meetings.

AT will speak to AW about sport.

JC asked whether the bike shed was still for sale - it is not.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.15

Date of next meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Signed  
Chair of Governors  
Dated