

MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY – FOUNDRY LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

MONDAY 11th JULY 2016

Governors present:	Sean Taylor [ST]	Marie Spencer [MS]
	Liz Smith [LS- arr'd 6.30]	David Higlett [DH – arr'd 6.30]
	Kathryn Lugg [KL]	Emma Wareham [EW]
	Paul Candy [PC]	Cathy Baggott [CB]
	Claire Fyvie-Rae [CFR]	Tony Croft [TC]

Associate Governors:

Others:	Helen Aldred [HA]	Jack Davis [JD]
---------	-------------------	-----------------

Clerk:	Elisabeth Ruggles
--------	-------------------

01. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Neil Maddock and Andrew Tindall, who said the following in his email:

‘Sorry, I suffer from not being part of the mobile internet connectees and added to a busy Thursday evening was unable to reply until now. I realise that it now appears too late, but, no, I cannot make Monday 11th as Joshua has an awards ceremony at his Boy's Brigade company.

I understand that things get busy towards the end of term and year, but the date (although we did change it to the Thursday) was set back in September and I would have expected that other things be booked in around that, given that any absence on our parts mean that it shows up on public records.

Please can my apologies and the reason be noted for such records?’

No apologies had been received from Robbie Turkington.

02. GOVERNOR RECRUITMENT

CFR has resigned. She was thanked for all her hard work during her time as governor. AW has also left the Governing Body. A Trust governor, Kate Bulpit, has been recruited and will join the first meeting of the next academic year. The School Finance Team has been in touch as some of them are interested in becoming a school governor and so application forms have been sent to them.

03. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST and AGREEMENT OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

Signed
Chair of Governors
Dated

04. MATTERS ARISING

None.

05. RESOURCES COMMITTEE

There was a question about the involvement of governors to do with the Whistleblowing Policy. There is no need for a link governor as long as the Chair is aware of any issues.

A budget meeting was held in June with Jo Cassey from SCC. The deficit budget was discussed at length at the last meeting. There is still confusion on the FSM spend. It appears that the free school meals for midday supervisors, which went on for a year longer than was the intention, cost in the region of £10,000.

The costings for staffing are now accurate.

SEN funding: EHC plans are in place for some children and here again there is some discrepancy in funded hours. The first twelve hours of the plan is funded by Foundry Lane, so if only a few hours of support are deemed necessary, then the school covers the full amount.

If a child needs full-time support this is also often the case as well The EHC plan needs to recognise the help that such children need. Of the 345 hours of support the children need, only 119 hours of those are funded.

Jo Cassey is hoping to help Foundry Lane maximise its funding potential. The school has to write a 3-year funding plan, for which the template was received today. The school also has to submit a monthly report on how to reduce the deficit. Reductions amounting to £23,000 have already been made.

Jo Cassey has suggested some possibilities for additional funding:

- 1) The schools' hardship fund, up to a maximum of £20,000. Kate Bulpit has experience of looking at grant applications.
- 2) To maximise the income generated from lettings

Governors were concerned that there might be an implication for SEN provision in the school, but it is hoped that this can be avoided. The LSAs have been allocated to year groups now and not within classes and it is hoped that this will have a financial impact.

When reviewing the budget, ongoing repairs and renovations are required. Some re-carpeting will be done in the holidays. The cost will come out of the capital finance of £9,000 with the left over amount to be spent on ICT.

The Admissions Policy will change from September 2016. An appeal for a YrR place was unsuccessful as the child cannot be supported in school. There is new legislation deferring the start of school until Yr1 if a child is summer-born. The first appeal for this has been heard. It is unclear whether the child involved will go into YrR or Yr1.

The ongoing personnel issue is being dealt with.

Signed
Chair of Governors
Dated

06. TEACHING & LEARNING COMMITTEE

PC was thanked for typing up the Minutes.

There are no more levels in Maths, but attainment has risen at both KS1 and KS2. Expectations have also risen. Training has been fed back to staff; all subjects need to be re-visited at regular intervals and tracking looked at.

Hannah Lush spoke about ICT. Resources are a problem as laptops are not being looked after properly.

[DH and LS arrived 6.30]

LS spoke about e-safety. CFR has given the school a letter, which will be adapted and used by FL.

Two governors raised the question of outdoor learning which is looked at in each meeting, whereas English and Maths is discussed once a year. It was decided that the updates could be reduced to once per term (instead of half termly). It used to be discussed in Resources, but this aspect is now included in the other committee.

07. PARTNERSHIPS

Trust: There was a meeting a few weeks ago. The Trust Co-Ordinator role is working very well, with work being done on the charity status and bank accounts having been set up.

The Polygon School has now joined the Trust and there has already been a positive first outcome of this. Team training, which teachers from Foundry Lane were able to attend free of charge, has been held on aggressive pupils.

The link with WEA – a Trust partner - was discussed. They are planning parent training which they want to run and for which they are looking at funding. They want to run an arts and crafts course as well as a course on the English education system for parents who are new to this country. This will be very useful for some parents. MS said she would be very interested in learning more on how this would be delivered.

The first trust staff inset day has been planned for 31st October at Regents Park. All staff members will look at trust matters.

Several schools in the Trust are in challenging financial situations at the moment so there is a good opportunity to support each other.

08. HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

Number on roll: there are 4 places available in the school. There was an appeal for a place in Yr4 which the school lost, so there were 31 children in one class. However another child then left, taking the number back down to 30. There was also a discussion on a place for a SEN child. The school made a strong case that it would not be able to support that child and it is now being placed elsewhere.

Signed
Chair of Governors
Dated

In September it is likely that there will not be 90 children starting in YrR. This is frustrating, but it is too late to go back to the Admissions team and ask for those on the waiting list to be admitted as they will probably have been placed elsewhere.

Staffing is all about looking at the budget deficit and will also be included in the budget recovery plan. The leadership role has been reviewed. All teachers are back to teaching with one day allocated for their leadership role. HA is teaching 2 days per week. CB will be Inclusions Manager from September and teach one day per week.

The Year Leader role cannot be sustained next year. It was a rolling role, but it is disappointing that it cannot be offered. The school needs to find a way to pay for this role from the budget otherwise it will lose its best teachers as they leave to develop their career.

All class teachers are in place for next year. The challenge the school faces is that there are a lot of good experienced teachers, who are at the top end of the pay scale, which cannot be sustained. There are a couple of NQTs. There have been lots of changes for non teaching staff and KL was thanked for her hard work with the new contracts – the minimum wage is now in place.

There are big changes for the midday supervisors. Retention has been an issue, so there have been lots of meetings so ensure commitment. There are no sports coaches any more so the midday supervisors need to be skilled up to take this on. Ways of managing the site more efficiently have been looked at. Yr1 originally had lunch in their classroom, but this required 6 members of staff. Now all children who have hot meals in Yr1 will eat in the canteen. Their timings might need a bit of adjusting as it took a while to get them all there.

CFR asked whether sports leaders from Regents Park could take on some role at lunch time. Although the lunch period is very short, it is worth looking at. Several children are being support 1:1 at lunch-time.

There have been some reductions in the LSA team since the budget. Those who leave are not being replaced. The LSAs are now no longer class based or used 1:1, but now work in a team, so they can be used in different environments. Parents still have concerns and CB and ST have met with some parents, who would like to know the key worker for their child.

Tiger Club is still going strong. There are more than 50 children for some sessions. Staffing and funding is being looked at to increase the space and therefore capacity still further.

SIP – Monitoring and coaching is being undertaken in line with the plan. Appraisal reviews are underway and all targets are linked to IEPs. The quality of writing is being looked at. The tests this year show an improvement on last year, so even though they are still below the national level, they are moving in the right direction. The assessment of writing is based on ideas, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Assessment this year was very interesting – information came out in dribs and drabs and it has been really scrutinised. Moderation was done by the STA, who moderated the LA team moderating the school. All judgements were agreed. At KS2 another team did the moderating and agreed all but one of the judgements. They were all impressed by the knowledge the teachers had of the children they taught.

Signed
Chair of Governors
Dated

The challenge for higher attaining pupils is very difficult as there is nothing to gauge it against. In school work for Yr6 has been given to make sure the challenge is there.

Use of data has continued to predict likely test outcomes. There has been lots of specific monitoring, particularly in Maths and Science.

Attendance: the Isle of Wight judgement on penalty notices has had an impact on attendance. There has been a marked increase in the number of parents taking children out of school for holidays. Now a penalty notice is sent out only if attendance is already below 95% and 5 days are taken without permission. Schools need to look at how to go forward with this.

OFSTED Action Plan: All the key issues are included in the SIP.

The Friends have done an excellent job this year and have raised £4,000. The fete this year saw more than 1,000 people visit the school. The funds raised are increasingly important. TC would write a letter of thanks to them.

The parent-partnership is very strong this year. The support Jackie Dowell gives to parents is very effective.

[CFR left meeting at 7.06]

DH asked if the reduction in LSA funding will have an effect on pupil premium funding. This needs to be looked at. The SEN needs have to be met first and then pupil premium comes after that. The attainment of pupil premium children needs to be looked at closely.

09. OFSTED

There were no levels at KS2, but a range of expectations had to be met. The nationally expected level at the end of Yr6 was a 4B (under the old system) and it was expected that 75-80% of all pupils would meet this. Levels nationally have fallen.

The results at Foundry Lane are exceptionally good. The difference between the school and the national result is in the right hand column. The figure in brackets is what is realistically expected. (Two children arrived in the middle of the Yr6 with no English and it is hoped to get their results removed from the records).

The scores are standardised so comparisons can be made year on year. A score of 100 shows that expectations have been met. Scores can range from 80 (worst) to 120 (best). Average scores are 105.4, so the school has achieved considerably above the national level. The more able children also compare favourably.

MS said that the tests were very challenging. Teachers have to be very careful when speaking to other schools about the results as some have had very poor results this year. TC is to write a letter of congratulations to the children.

10. STAFFING UPDATE INC. TEACHER'S DISPUTE

The school was closed last Tuesday – all members of the NUT struck. They did tell the school in advance, but the school had to close completely as 95% of all teachers did not come in.

Signed
Chair of Governors
Dated

The Friends Committee were quite positive and so were parents. They understood why – that the action was on behalf of the children.

The Heads Conference wrote a 3 page letter on the tests. ST did not send this out as it was very political. The ‘Echo’ has now printed the letter, but given it a positive spin.

11. DATES 2016/17

Included in pack. They are recommendations at the moment. Dates will be looked at at the first full GB meeting.

12. SAFEGUARDING INC PREVENT

KL/HA gave training of approximately half an hour.

13. TRAINING

A new programme will be published in October.

14. CHAIR

Massive congratulations and well done to ST on the results this year. KL and HA were also thanked on their work. They have all had to cope with big challenges in the year, which were overcome with hard work and sensible thinking. TC hoped this would continue for many more years to come.

TC apologized for his absences at meetings during the year and announced that he will be resigning as both a governor and the Chair. He was thanked for his support and hard work over the years.

CFR was again thanked for all her work.

15. AOB

KL also thanked the leadership team and all the teachers in the school. TC was also thanked by governors and he would be sorely missed. ER also thanked for clerking.

Congratulations also to TC – getting married on Saturday.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.12.

Date of next meeting: 11th October 2016

Signed
Chair of Governors
Dated