

Rhodes Avenue Primary School

Governing Body

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th March 2016 at 6.30 pm.

<p>Parent Governors *Helen Walsh [HW] (20-12-17) *Dominic Rowland [DR](31-8-16) *Katy Jackson [KJ] (20-12-17) *Rebecca Goldberg [RB] (20-1-19) *Kay Carter [KC] (25-6-19)</p> <p>Also Present Jan Smosarski, [JS] Clerk; Maria Panayiotou, [MP], DH/T;</p>	<p>Co-opted Governors ^Lucia Glynn [LG](15-1-18) ^Mike Greenwood [MG](15-1-18) *Alison Vaughan [AV](15-1-18) <u>Chair</u> Vacancy *Dianne Bluemink [DB] (15-1-18) Emel Ali [EA] (15-1-18) *Samantha Perkins (25-1-20)</p> <p>LA Governors ^Claire Weir [CW](26-11-19)</p>	<p>Staff Governors *Shane Claridge [SC](31-8-17)</p> <p>Headteacher Governor *Adrian Hall [AH] (H/T)</p> <p>*denotes governor present ^denotes apology received and approved</p>
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Alison Vaughan (Chair) in the Chair

Quorum =7 governors

Part 1

1 Welcome

- 1.1 New Ofsted Requirements – Heather De Silva briefed governors on the new requirements. Governors received copies of her presentation and model questions that governors might consider asking on their future visits.
- 1.2 AV welcomed governors to the meeting,

2 Apologies for absence

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were accepted from CW, LG and MG. Governors decided to send flowers to Lucia who has to miss meetings at the moment due to personal circumstances.

3 Membership

- 3.1 SC to update the website adding SP to the governor list.
- 3.2 The new information relating to governors has not yet been added to the website as there are some problems getting all the information on. It may be necessary to add a new page to the website. **SC will address these issues.**

Action: SC

- 3.3 There is one co-opted vacancy. AV reported that there has been no success in finding a suitable person to date. **It was agreed that a sign would be posted in the library advertising the vacancy.**

Action: KJ

4 Late items and order of business

- 4.1 There were no late items

5 Declarations of Interest

- 5.1 There were no new declarations of interest.

6 Minutes of the 26th January 2016

6.1 The minutes were agreed as a true record.

7 Matters arising from the minutes not on this agenda

7.1 Minute 7.2 – there are still pen portraits to be submitted. **Governors who have not yet submitted their portraits are asked yet again to complete them and submit to SC.**

7.2 Minute 8.4 – New guidance has been received from the DfE regarding Complaints Policies. **Governors AGREED** to adopt the DfE model for persistent complaints.

7.3 Minute 8.5 – AH and AV attended a meeting led by Tim Coulson on Multi- Trust Academies. AV reported that schools that are graded as RI or designated as 'coasting' can be forced to become academies. Schools graded as outstanding or good cannot be forced but may choose to become academies. There is definite pressure to become part of a Multi Trust Academy group with larger schools being encouraged to join with smaller schools, possibly due to prospective funding cuts. **AH will email out the power point presentation.**

Action AH

Schools that are part of such trusts retain their governing bodies but in some systems governors have greatly reduced powers. Some systems would continue to have their own Headteacher but there would be one overarching Headteacher who would have greater power. It is possible that all schools will eventually be forced to become academies. If this does happen governors expressed a view that Rhodes Avenue should be a stand-alone academy. The school could then link with other schools in a looser association. DB reported that the message from the Spring Briefing was that large successful schools should link with smaller schools. However this can be outside the Multi Academy Trust (MAT) framework.

8 Chair's Report

8.1 From September 2016 all governors will need to have an enhanced DBS. New governors appointed after April 16 must apply for a DBS within 21 days. The costs for this will be charged to the school. **It was agreed to set up a surgery on June 15th, Governors Day for governors who need to apply for an enhanced DBS to bring in their forms and paperwork and complete the process.**

Action: AH

8.2 Clerking – **AV to contact Clerks at Alexandra Park and Heartlands to see if they have any availability to take over the clerking role in September.**

Action: AV / AH

8.3 Performance management - AV reported that a mid year review of the Headteacher's targets had been held.

9 Headteacher's Report (written) – see minute book.

9.1 The report was circulated to all governors prior to the meeting. AH took governors through his report.

9.2 Behaviour Policy – changes to the policy have been shared with parents and are now being implemented. Reactions from parents have been very positive to date.

9.3 Changes to the internal door security systems were completed today.

9.4 The flooring in KS1 and Learning Village has been repaired but there are already signs of 'bubbling' – the problem may be related to the screed that was used.

- 9.5 SDP – AH updated governors on progress made in the SDP – see minute book
- 9.6 AH reported that there had been a prank Ofsted phone call. This has also happened in other schools locally. Procedures are now in place for office staff should there be a similar incident in the future.

10 Assessment –

- 10.1 DR reported that he had met with AH and scrutinized available data. There is still a lack of clarity from the DfE as to how assessment will work now that levels are not being used. It will be essential to be ready to implement new procedures as soon as schools are notified about how to proceed.

11 SEND

- 11.1 Maria had circulated her report prior to the meeting.
- 11.2 In response to a question from AV Maria reported that she had been informed that the school could directly employ an Education Psychologist (EP) however an independent EP could not provide the reports required for statutory assessment / EHC Plan. In that case the EP had to work for Haringey. As the request had been made in an attempt to speed up such an assessment this was disappointing. However Maria will look at the current caseload for the Haringey EP and consideration will be given to directly employing an EP who could work with children not being assessed for an EHC Plan.
- 11.3 Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) Maria reported that an SLT would be coming into school on the 11th March. The school would have the SLT working with them for half of the summer term. The previous SLT had left at the end of the summer term. DR queried why there had been no SLT provision for more than a term. Maria replied that a new SLT had taken up post in the autumn but had gone of on long-term sick leave after only a short time.
- 11.4 The Art teacher will be leading some art therapy sessions for specific pupils. This will be part of her .6 post. AH flagged up that it may be necessary to reduce some of the counseling currently on offer as funding cuts start to affect provision within the school. Having a qualified Art Therapist on the staff will help to alleviate this cut.

12 Committee Reports

- 12.1 **Resources Committee.** – meeting Friday 10th March 2016
 - 12.1.1 AV asked how the work of the Pay Committee was proceeding and what measures were being used to ensure that the scrutiny was rigorous. AV replied that this year had been unusual because AH had taken up post in September and he had not set the targets for the previous year. AH described the process he had used which had been very thorough. DB added that the committee had requested to see an anonymised file to help the committee understand how judgments were made about targets having been made and the impact this had on pay and progression.
- 12.2 **Premises and Health and Safety** – meeting Friday 10th March 2016
- 12.3 **Curriculum Committee** – not met minutes of last meeting to be circulated.
- 12.4 **Communications Committee** – Minutes circulated to all governors along with the comments received on Parents Evening. These had generally been very positive.
- 12.5 **ICT Governor** – SC reported he had met with KJ to discuss e-safety. He would like the opportunity to give a presentation on e-safety to governors on Governors Day.
- 12.6 **Inclusion Governor** – HW has not met with MP this half term.
- 12.7 **Safeguarding Governor** – see 12.5.

12.8 **Link Governor** – in LG's absence governors are requested to send details of training attended and visits made to the school to DB.

13 Policies

13.1 Collective Act of Worship – circulated for information and **APPROVED** by the governing body.

13.2 Updated Lettings Policy – to be discussed at Premises and Health & Safety Committee meeting

14 SEF/ SDP

14.1 Covered in Headteacher's Report

15 Governors Visits

15.1 AV reported that she had been on a Learning Walk of the school. Pupils had been engaged and focused in their learning. She had been particularly interested in the Maths setting being used in Y2 and had observed the children being taught the same topic at four different levels. She stressed the need for governors to understand the stresses teachers are working under with all the uncertainty about the new tests and the changes being made to assessment.

16 Governor Training

New Ofsted Requirements – all governors

Following Heather's session governors requested training on how the PREVENT strategy is being implemented in school. Materials for teachers are available on the Education Against hate website. **Emel will lead training for governors at the next full governing body meeting. (6.30 start)**

Action: Emel

17 Items for future agendas

Governors Day – June 15th 2016

18 Dates of future meetings

Tuesday 3rd May 2016 at 6.30pm

Tuesday 28th June 2016 at 7pm

Chair -----Date-----