

Flushing Church of England Primary School Governing Body Meeting

Tuesday 11th May 2021, at 6pm, Zoom Conference.

MINUTES

In attendance:

Mark French, Bob Hurrell, Alison Eva, Leslie Hygate, Helen Dodd, Stacey Mullins, Sue Treneer, Polly Tregaskes, Helen Dodd & Lisa Beverley-Jones; Hayley Tucker (clerking)

Meeting started at 18:02

1) Apologies

Andrew Stevenson

2) Prayer

The meeting was started with a prayer from Leslie Hygate

3) Pecuniary interest (verbal declaration)

No changes

4) Minutes from the previous meetings (FGB)

All agreed they were a true and accurate record.

5) Matters arising from the previous minutes

All covered by items on the agenda already

6) Head teacher's report (information)

Awaiting Government guidance from 17 May and 21 June to see what the Covid Roadmap has planned for us but it looks likely that we will stay in the bubbles until the end of term.

The End of Term events will depend on what restrictions are in place at the time.

The London Residential is still possible and the YHA have confirmed that if there are any changes to the planned dates due to covid cases/ restrictions etc, that we can reschedule or have a full refund. If we did have to delay beyond this term, the current Year 6 would have not been, so we are keen to go ahead if safe to do so. We have asked parents how they feel about the pupils going and only 1 family has come back to say no.

Obstacles will be what will be available to do; Parliament may be a no which could affect our travel subsidy, but we have allowed for a write off in the budget if necessary. We are trying to book tickets for Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat which is the only suitable show on offer during the time we have booked.

Staffing – Mary Arthur has been appointed as the Seals Teacher to replace Mark next year. She is Sue Treneer's daughter, so the candidates were kept anonymous for shortlisting. Three candidates were invited to interview, one pulled out due to a job offer but Mary was the best fit for the school (RH added that it was a rare instance where all of the panel agreed unanimously).

MF prepared a staffing model which is based around the planned apprentices coming on board (which have had the go ahead so we are another step closer).

Gavin Williamson has advised schools that they can do a 'try before you buy' for 18 months on any academisation; thus far if you can keep standards up then you are unlikely to be pushed towards that direction; therefore, we need to ensure that we get pupils back on track following lockdowns and continue to move forwards with additional support. We will be undertaking assessments at the normal SATs time to uncover any weak areas.

The planned M & E works have to be completed during term-time, but we will ensure that they are completed on a room-by-room basis. MF is awaiting dates.

LH added that it had been a very positive return, and all seems to be going well within school.

Areas are emerging which have slipped during home-learning are presentation, maths and concentration as well as maths, which is a national issue after this lockdown. PP Pupils are worse-off and research shows that regardless of how the teaching was delivered (i.e., in home-learning packs, with pre-recorded lessons, or live online lessons), it made no difference to the slipping of these pupils.

7) Finance

a) Budget monitoring report (information)

The Carry forward figure is set to increase, both from money coming in, and from money that was budgeted to be paid, not needing to be paid out.

It is vital that the contingency fund is around £50k to ensure we are covered should numbers drop. Year 4 is currently a bulk year but if that dropped back down to a normal size for the cohort, it would impact the budget hugely. However, we can consider that currently it is a healthy but necessary fund.

2021-22 Budget (to approve) attached Staffing & Resources have deliberately been budgeted very cautiously. If the Governors approve the budget as it stands, they will be authorising the contracts for LS & AM to be made permanent. LH proposed that this should be the case and it was seconded by HD with all in favour.

All Governors were happy to authorise the budget as it stands.

8) INSET days 2021-22 (to approve)

The Inset days for the academic year 2021-2022 include an additional day to compensate for the celebration of the Queens Jubilee, as this bank holiday falls within the School Holidays.

One day needs to be allocated to a maths day with the Partnerships schools with this date TBC, but pending that date, MF suggested the other 5 be:

- Mon 6 September 2021
- Tues 4 Jan 2022
- Fri 8 April 2022
- Mon 25 & Tues 26 July 2022

All agreed the above dates and the additional one will be confirmed by MF ASAP.

9) SIP report (information)

Mark Lees is the new SIP for both Flushing & Mylor and we are hoping he will make 3 further visits over the next few terms (1 with MF, 2 with different members of staff). He reported that he enjoyed his first visit with us and we were glad that he was able to make some observations of the pupils from doorways/distances. He has given us challenges and areas to work on but they mostly centre around recovery work. All in all, it was very positive. He commented that he got a very good feel of the school from the website.

10) Standing items-

Health and Safety (maintenance)

Covered in the upcoming Building & Maintenance work.

Safeguarding (annual declaration) attached

This year is a bit different as it has taken lockdown and Covid into account where training and CPD has been mostly delivered online.

Visitors to school can now increase again, with Governors in school most days.

HD & LH both commented on what a positive atmosphere there is in the school and that the pupils seem to be recovering well.

11) Succession (update)

No meeting has as yet taken place but RH has discussed the possibility of academisation with Katie Fitzsimmons from the Diocese – she has suggested a zoom meeting for the Governors to be able to ask her questions which will hopefully be scheduled shortly. HD suggested we have nothing to lose by exploring this

option and discussing the avenues available – it will give them an idea of which direction to go, whether that be a MAT, an Exec Head or a Head Teacher.

All agreed at this point that they were keen to retain Flushing Schools unique individuality, independence and the valuable connections with our partner schools, and that if we do decide to go down the MAT route, that it must be the right relationship to commit to.

MF suggested that although they need to explore the available options, that they keep in mind the three areas of the school above that they consider important to retain, and, that Mark Lees is happy to help guide us through whatever option they decide is the right way to proceed.

LBJ & SM both stated that these values were important to them as parents too, and that they must be kept at the core of the school.

12) Confidential

None

13) Date of next meeting

15th July 6pm on Zoom