

Minutes of extraordinary meeting, DKH Full Governing Body

Held on: 15th January 2014

Present: Martin Finn (Chair)
Sue Farrington (Vice-chair)
Zahid Malik (Children, Families and Community; parent gov)
Isabelle Sporidis (parent governor)
Peter Bibby (LA governor; SEN)
Jenny Turner (parent gov; data czar; these minutes)
Jonathan Morris (LA gov)
Alison Reupke (Resources; parent gov)
Wayne Cooper (acting HT)
Eileen Wray (deputy HT)
Claire Dubarbier (staff gov)
Yvonne Golds (parent gov)
Marion Cranmer (staff gov)
Amanda Freshwater (staff gov)
Gillian Reeve (community gov)
Patrick Pierre-Powell (community gov)

Apologies: Michael Situ running late.

Therese Reinheimer-Jones: apology sent by text during meeting, therefore question of its acceptance needs to go to the next GB meeting.

1-3 Apologies/Matters Arising/Declarations of Interest/Any Other Business: Apologies as above. No matters arising. No declarations. No AOB.

4 Linda Ewers's departure

(Confidential item)

5. Amendments to budget

5.1 AR: Recent changes, including WC's immediate staffing wishlist, necessitate increase in expenditure of £70k between now and end of financial year (see Resources minutes for details). School can afford it out of carry-over.
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

5.2 Acting Headteacher pay increase (EW) AR: Robert Ashdown, the school bursar, has been briefed.

PART II

Cassie Buchanan (HT, Charles Dickens Primary School) Madeleine Danaher (Southwark School Improvement Adviser), Dame Sylvia Morris (consultant and former Head Teacher, Cathedral Primary School) arrive and are introduced.

Presentation of autumn 2013 data

WC stressed that the problem in autumn-term data is mainly unevenness and inconsistency, but did not go into any details. Autumn data traditionally depressing at DKH. Moving forward – as they say – this is now our baseline. We very much need some good data so will accelerate collection to half-termly.

Writing: initial hypothesis is that teachers mark it too cautiously. WC and external advisers to moderate. WC continues as Literacy leader with CDB and Imogen Barraclough deputising.

7. External advisers explain roles in DKH accelerated improvement plan

SM will support and advise WC on HR and finance and can run school for odd days to allow him to complete Self Evaluation Form.

CB to support and advise WC on teaching, learning and assessment – has already suggested new systems and formats, SMARTer than DKH's previous.

Partnership with Charles Dickens will not subsume DKH organisation or identity.

Understand concerns that school keep its DKHness, not turn into school for SATS monkeys. We agree and that the school should build on its own strengths, eg Modern Foreign Languages.

MD: LA review was correct and accurate at time of inspection. Conclusion was that this is not and never has been a failing school but is a school with issues that need to be addressed. Behaviour for learning problems not endemic – episodic and only where teaching is inadequate. As link adviser, has and will broker support where needed, and will run half-termly progress review meetings (first of which was Friday 10/1/14). Also training needs for govts, e.g. RAISE Online, Ofsted and HT recruitment process.

7.1 Appointment of GAG, Governors' Achievement Group, to join half-termly LA review meetings and report back to wider GB: JT, SF, ZM, YG.

8 New HT recruitment

MD distributed handout with timeline of process: we have until end of spring term, eight weeks, to appoint for September 2014. TES Prime service, though expensive, recommended by SM and MD.

8.1

GB agreed HT recruitment committee to include at least one member of school staff. Staff govts to discuss and let the rest of the GB know who this is asap. Also possibility of co-opting further staff member with HR experience to GB.

ZM, SF, MF appointed to HT Recruitment Committee with IS in reserve and staff representative pending, as above. Will meet Wednesday 22 January.

Staff govts to agree staff-gov rep for this committee asap.

8.2

PB notes that in previous HT recruitment processes, full GB has been present at interviews and we should do this again. "It's the most important decision the GB ever makes." MD disagrees: panel too big to comply with Equal Opportunities procedure. No vote taken but several other govts in agreement with PB.

HT Recruitment Committee (see above) to clarify and report back.

Next FGB meeting: 17/3/14

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS