

Minutes of the Full Governing Body Meeting
Friday 23rd March 2024 at 7.45am
In-person meeting

Governors present: Reem Al Rasheed, Anne Canning, Mark Chapman (*Chair*), Helen da Silva, Jo Davey (*Co-headteacher*), Tessa Hauswedell, Rachel Howarth, Lorraine Hudson, Zoe Judge (*Co-headteacher*), Ian Macaulay

Staff present: Darrel Barsby, Emily Brooks, Nofer Fari, Florence Herrero, Stewart Hesse, Kirsty Holder, Louise Prodromou, David Robson

Also present: Sam Murray (*Clerk*)

1. Apologies were received and accepted from Jo Arrowsmith and Antonia Shortall

2. Declaration of interests

There were no meeting specific declarations of interest made by anyone present. Governors were reminded to ensure their entry in the register of business interests was kept up to date.

3. Director of Operations' report

Governors had received a copy of the written report of the Director of Operations. Link governors had met with LP to consider and discuss the content in more detail. LP highlighted the following from the report:

Outturn 2023-24 budget – The figures look better than projected at the end of quarter 3. A lot of work has been done to ensure the current position is as accurate as possible in the run up to budget closure.

Budget setting 2024-25 – The process is well underway. Figures are based on assumptions and advice from the DfE and the local authority in terms of funding income and staff pay. Currently a deficit budget is anticipated but there is still movement. Link governors will meet throughout the budget setting process to consider and stress test the proposed figures prior to presentation to the next FGB meeting.

Buildings and compliance – The report sets out work recently completed to ensure compliance with statutory checks and testing and work planned for the summer 2024 period. Quotes for asbestos inspections are currently being sought. The LA is also regularly carrying out asbestos inspections.

Staffing and HR – Teacher recruitment using TES and HEP is working well. Some recruitment for support staff roles on hold currently. Sickness and return to work procedures are currently being reviewed. Link governors will explore the absence data including any local benchmarking figures with LP.

In response to a governor question about cover for teaching staff absence, CoHeads explained how the school cover absence and how departmental colleagues work with cover and supply staff to reduce the impact on students.

Lettings – The policy has been reviewed and only minor changes have been made to ensure it is up to date. Lettings prices will increase from April 2024 in line with inflation.

Governors **agreed** the policy and the price increases.

3.1 Schools Financial Value Standard

Link governors had considered the draft SFVS 2024 prepared by LP and recommend approval by the FGB prior to submission to the LA. Governors **agreed** the SFVS as presented.

4. DfE Schools Rebuilding Programme (SRP)

Governors received a briefing paper outlining what is currently known regarding the rebuilding programme. The project lead from the DfE has been into school to meet CoHeads. CoHeads are hopeful that the school will meet the threshold for a whole school rebuild.

The DfE will carry out a detailed condition survey and will lead the project, working with the local authority.

Governors discussed the possibility of adding funds to the rebuild and issues around communication and the community and how the school can be involved at the planning and ideas stage.

The Strategic Estates Committee will have a role in feeding back to the FGB on progress, discussions and any recommendations. The governing board is very positive about the project.

5. Additional Resourced Provision (ARP)

Governors received a briefing paper outlining a proposal from the local authority that Fortismere manage an ARP on the school site. This would be a unit for high functioning autistic spectrum condition students.

The report sets out some context to Haringey's strategic approach to SEND provision in the borough. In other ARPS students access the main school for 50-80% of their timetable. CoHeads believe this could be a positive step for the school but there is still a lot to consider before reaching a conclusion.

Governors discussed in detail the proposal and the potential positives and negatives for the school at this time. Governors **agreed** that a small group of governors would work with the CoHeads to explore the issues in more detail prior to receiving a detailed proposal at the next FGB for consideration and decision.

Action: FGB to receive a proposal at the next meeting

6. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 5th February 2024 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

6.1 Matters arising

Curriculum link governors (IM, AC) had met with SH to discuss changes to the science curriculum and any feedback from parents.

7. Date of next meeting: 20th May 2024 at 6pm

Part One Meeting closed