

Public Minutes of the Local Governing Board of Ravenscroft Primary School

Date: Thursday 29th November 2018

Time: 19.00pm

Venue: Ravenscroft School, Carson Road, London E16 4BG

Present:	Anush Begoyan Jakira Rowshan Natalia Karpukhina Louise Baker Simon Bond	Co-opted Representative (Chair) Co-opted Representative Parent Representative Staff Representative Head Teacher
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In attendance:	Jagdeep Ghatoare Janice Faldo	Chief Finance Officer (for 86b) Clerk
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81. **Welcome / Introductions / Apologies for absence / Quorum**

Governors and attendees were welcomed to the meeting. Apologies were received and condoned from Graham Folkes, Patricia Regis, Veronica Nosiri and Elizabeth O'Connell. Governors noted that the meeting was quorate.

ACTION

- Louise Baker will determine the membership intentions of Veronica Nosiri and if a change of day for the meeting would assist her in attending.

82. **Declaration of interests, pecuniary or otherwise in respect of items on the agenda**

There were no declarations of interest on any item of the agenda.

83. **Public minutes of the previous federated local governing board meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2018 were **AGREED** as an accurate record and signed by the Chair with no matters arising.

84. **Constitution**

Governors noted the election of Miss Elizabeth O'Connell and Ms Natalia Karpukhina as Parent Representatives for four years.

85. **Trust Board and Committees**

Any matters of note from the Trust board will be received at the next meeting due to the absence of Patricia Regis who is a member of the Trust Board. The CFO advised that the Finance Audit and Risk Management Committee had met this week and received a presentation of the draft audited accounts which will be signed off at the next Trust meeting on 12th December. Committee also discussed new improved finance systems that may need to be considered.

86. **Main business**

a. Head Teacher Report

Governors considered the report of the Head Teacher and the following points were highlighted:-

- A Year 4 teacher has resigned and been granted early release from his contract. Since the start of this half term the class has been taught by an Assistant Head Teacher who is well known to the pupils and parents due to supporting them since the beginning of the year. As from the spring term, they will be taught by a returning teacher until the end of the academic year.

- A Peer Review has taken place today carried out by two Head Teachers from the Trust and the Head of School Improvement. They carried out learning walks in all year groups and spoke with pupils. The initial feedback is positive which will be shared with staff. Another Peer Review will take place next term.
- As the CEO of the Trust feels strongly that schools should offer more homework, it is the school's intention to make a more consistent provision in all year groups further to consultation with teachers. Homework has been inconsistent over the years at Ravenscroft and staff are aware that it can be difficult for pupils to do work at home depending on their home life.
- A change to the start to the school day is proposed where pupils are able to go straight to their class from 8.50am where they will be able to engage in educational activities prior to the usual 9am start.

Question arising from the Head Teacher's report:-

Q. Was there any difference in the pupils' performance when they had no homework?

A. The data shows no difference.

Q. Would it be possible to provide a room after school for pupils to do homework?

A. A homework club could potentially be provided in the future, however this would be staffed and defeats the object of independent learning.

Q. How is chess developing in the school?

A. A teacher from 'Chess in Schools' comes in to work with Years 1, 2 and 3 and it has been very successful. Pupils have been able to watch Grand Masters play each other at venues in London.

There being no further questions governors thanked the Head Teacher for his concise and informative report.

b. Finance Update

Governors received a budget monitoring report for Period 2 and the following points were highlighted:-

- The budget is generally on track.
- Staffing costs are below budget.
- Currently forecasted that more money will be spent on agency staffing, mainly Teaching Assistants.
- Buildings and Maintenance is anticipated higher than expected due to additional works that will be carried out i.e. partitioning of classrooms and redevelopment of the outside reception area to make it more accessible for pupils and support learning.

Q. What is the role of governors now that the school is part of a MAT?

A. Governors have no legal responsibility over the budget but are still part of the decision making process on how the budget is spent. These decisions are made in liaison with the Head Teacher and mindful of the school priorities. The budget is then recommended to the Trust Board. The budget is put together in July with an estimated end figure for the academic year 1st September to 31st August.

Q. Why is the school still using a high percentage of agency staff?

A. The school has made the decision due to the high numbers of pupils requiring support. The Teaching Assistants have proved to be a valuable source; they are mainly graduates and bring a wealth of knowledge in areas such as theatre, film and music and has proved to be inspiring for the pupils. If a pupil who receives higher needs funding leaves the school the funding is stopped, having agency staff allows for a reduction in staff without having to look at staffing restructure.

There being no further questions governors thanked the CFO his report.

c. School Development Plan

There being no questions, governors noted and approved the School Development Plan 2018-2019.

d. Impact of Pupil Premium

Governors considered the Pupil Premium Report for 2017/18 which is similar to the previous year. The funding has primarily be spent of teachers in Year 5 and 6 and senior leaders, however more money is spent than is received through the funding.

87. Standing Items

a. Governor Visits and training

No visits or training has been undertaken since the last meeting. New Parent Representatives will be attending Induction courses.

b. Policies

Governors noted the revised Complaints Policy and the Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy that had been ratified by the Trust Board.

c. Safeguarding/Single Central Record

The Chair inspected the Single Central Record for this term and found all to be in order.

88. Agenda Items for the Next Meeting

- Parent Representative Attendance at Meetings Update

89. Any Other Urgent Business

There was no urgent business that needed to be discussed.

90. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

Governors noted that the following meeting dates for the remainder of the academic year.

Spring Term

Thursday 31st January 2019 at 7pm

Thursday 14th March 2019 at 7pm

Summer Term

Thursday 9th May 2019 at 7pm

Thursday 19th July 2019 – Governors' Awards Day

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8pm.

Signed: . A signed copy of the minutes is held by the school.

Anush Begoyan
Chair of Governors

