

Minutes of the Meeting of The Devonshire Hill Nursery and Primary School Full Governing Body

Date: Monday 13 July 2020
Time: 6pm
Venue: Virtual Meeting

Present:	*Steven Lock	Chair of Governors
	Steven Feldman	Co-opted Governor
	Julie D'Abreu	Headteacher
	Penny Woolley	Co-opted Governor
	Michael Cutting	Co-opted Governor
	Sean Egan	Co-opted Governor
	Vacancy	Co-opted Governor
	Vacancy	Co-opted Governor
	Vacancy	Co-opted Governor
	Giuseppe Sollazzo	LA Governor
	*Dahir Tifo	Parent Governor
	Sarah Male	Parent Governor
	Shaheen Ferdous	Staff Governor

Also Present: Corinne David Clerk
 Gary Wong SBM
 *Denotes absence

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 The Vice-Chair to welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence were received and noted from Steven Lock.
- 1.3 The Clerk noted that the meeting was quorate with 7 Governors present.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, PECUNIARY INTEREST OR OTHERWISE IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interests made in respect of any of the agenda items.

3. PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS FULL GOVERNING BODY MEETING

- 3.1 The GB noted that the SBM had made some amendments to the set of minutes from the Full Governing Body meeting held on Wednesday 24 June 2020.

ACTION Clerk to circulate the amended final set of minutes to the GB.

3.2 Matter arising

The SBM informed the GB that the deadline to allocate surplus was 31 December 2020. Due to the exceptional circumstances (Covid -19) the School were reviewing proposals to allocate some of the surplus to support pupils when they come back in September. By means of an additional TA in year groups 1 through to 6 and some physical resources to use in class, for the autumn term. The additional cost would be £42k. Due to the needs of the children the school felt this was a good use of resources to enable the pupils to catch up with their learning and the curriculum; noted that the DfE had announced that statutory testing would be undertaken in 2021.

3.2.1 **Q: Will the School go into deficit due to an additional £42k spent within the autumn term?**

A: The final approved budget had a projected surplus carry forward of £169k, which is over the 8% threshold allowed by the LA. Using £42k would bring the School below the 8% claw back figure. The carry forward needs to be spent to support the education development and needs of the children that are coming back to DHNPS in September.

- 3.2.2 Governors asked for an interactive version of the budget to allow Governors to understand how different spending pressures affect the overall budget.

ACTION SBM to upload an interactive budget spreadsheet onto the Governors G-Drive.

- 3.2.3 The GB noted that they were very supportive of the proposal; children were facing a deficit in learning that was of no fault of their own. There were no signs from Government that they were changing expectations for next year. The children have a challenge facing them next year. Due to historical good management, the School have a series of solutions. Resources is a concern in regards to in-year income against in-year outgoings; possibly need to rethink some of the spending plans as £42k is a significant change of focus. Within the 3 year projections, the third year was projected a carry forward of £70k, assuming the forecasts are correct, a further £40k now could reduce the surplus to £30k The finance projections assume the school roll will continue with a similar number of pupils, however in previous meetings there were concerns with the Nursery numbers, declining numbers of PP and staff changes. Noted that the GB and SLT need to be able to run the School in a sustainable way.

- 3.2.4 Noted that the budgets are tight and future funding streams / levels are unknown. The GB and School may have to face very difficult decisions in future years. Noted that if there was ever a need to spend the money to support and allow the catch up of children then it was now. Further noted that the GB was keen to support the School; the reconfigure of the playground was nice to have but the educational support of the children was a priority. The School allocated £42k on field improvements.

- 3.2.5 Each TA costs the School £100 per day. Noted if the School wanted to recruit good TA's; recruitment would have to be undertaken ASAP.

ACTION SBM to submit a costed proposal to the GB on Friday 17 July for final approval.

- 3.3 The minutes of the Full Governing Body meeting held on Friday 3 July 2020 were **AGREED** and **RATIFIED** as a correct record. A set of each minutes was electronically signed by the Chair / Vice Chair and emailed to the School for file.

At 6:20pm the Headteacher entered the meeting and apologised for being late.

4. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES (item 4 taken as item 5)

- 4.1 Penny Woolly provided the Committee with a verbal report from the Curriculum Committee held on 10 July. The highlights were:

- a) Reports on children's progress from the autumn term to spring term were received.
- b) Data has been submitted to FFT and the LA to allow for comparison and benchmarking.
- c) An overview of the home-schooling arrangements was received. Children in the older year groups were accessing google classroom more than younger children.
- d) The Committee discussed possible reasons for this, including lack of resources, lack of internet access and priority of older siblings.
- e) The Committee discussed the reopening of the School in September. There will be class group bubbles; staggered start, finish and lunch times.

- f) The School will be mapping teaching and learning for September. AHT will be going into classes to provide additional support.
- g) The curriculum will be adapted for the first half term to focus on care skills, pastoral care and mental health and wellbeing.
- h) There is an anticipation that there will be a high number of disclosures once the children come back to School. Haringey Council have allocated a Social Worker to each NLC to support with the case work increases.
- i) For those children with no English or EAL, they will possibly be at a disadvantage when they return to School in September as they would have missed out on 2 terms of English modelling.
- j) PP children have been accessing the online learning platform significantly less than other children.

4.2 Q: Do you know why some children are not accessing google classroom?

A: Some children have used google classrooms and have really embraced the work, other have not There are a number of reasons for this; parental willingness to engage, a lack of resources (no internet or computers) or a lack of skills to use the platform. We contacted families to find out what the issues were. The School had loaned out 30+ iPad, however some families were uncomfortable to sign the agreement as if broke the iPad they couldn't afford to replace it. The School only moved over to google classroom in September 2019, but didn't use it until lockdown. There was no time to prepare and train parents to using the software. Some parents won't understand it, some children were telling their parents that they were doing the work and they weren't. In September the School will find out if loaning out the iPads worked. In some families the older children were dominating the resources. Communication and parental engagement have always a challenge; some parents do not check their mail.

4.3 Q: Is this a regular problem that parents do not check their emails?

A: Yes, most parents are registered on parent mail; we also have letters printed and sent out and on notice boards. Some families either don't check or can't read the letters. Those parents that are tech savvy, email is a really good form of communication. Language can be a barrier.

4.4 Q: Does communication go out in main community languages?

A: The website has a language translate facility. When there is an important information the School uses the Turkish teachers to provide translation support. In September we will find out what the barriers were for children not accessing google classroom.

ACTION In September School to find out what were the barriers to access the online learning.

4.5 In normal circumstances parents like to physically come into school and have support. The office supports families with a lot of form filling and other things. Noted that it is important for staff members to be visible but sometimes things get lost in translation. Governors noted that within the NHS there are voluntary translators' roles and suggested the school could build up a DHNPS voluntary base for DHNPS.

4.6 Q: How many languages are spoken in the School?

A: about 25 languages are spoken.

5. HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT (item 5 taken as item 4)

5.1 GW provided a summary to Governors. The highlights were:

- a) The new DfE guidance has been received. The School is reviewing the Risk Assessment in line with the new DfE guidance.
- b) Any amendments to the RA have been submitted to the unions, Haringey and HEP; all have been happy with the information.
- c) Annual reviews have been undertaken.
- d) Pupil numbers attending school have been increasing with 100 children in on Friday 10 July. The School has used family bubbles as a control measure to prevent cross contamination.
- e) On line learning has been continuing using google classroom. 30 iPad have been loaned out.
- f) The FSM voucher scheme will continue through the summer holiday.
- g) The School is working on attendance data for the summer term.
- h) The School is continuing to work on the RA for September. Start, finish and lunch times will be staggered. The school has a large foot print which makes it manageable.

5.2 On Thursday 16 July, the SBM and Headteacher will be participating in a LA meeting focusing on the RA. The School has written to parents today about coming back in September; unless there is a further lock down all children will be expected back. Teachers will continue to upload activities on to google classroom. The School is mapping out the curriculum for September; there will be a focus on core skills and English. Information will be put onto the website this week.

5.3 **Q: what is the plan if there is a second lock down?**

A: The action plan will be amended for September, the guidance from Government will be followed. The School will be looking at class bubbles except for reception which will be a year group bubble, as the children have free flow in reception. The largest challenge will be lunchtime service which will require careful time tabling

5.4 **Q: Will the children have lunch in their classroom?**

A: The children currently do this at the moment. We are not keen on keeping the children in classroom all day long. May consider a rota system where children can have lunch in different locations and spaces. Problem with having lunch in the classroom will be moving the children onto the hot meals offer, and food being dropped in the classroom.

5.5 **Q: Has the School considered a gazebo for outdoor dining?**

A: The issue would be moving the hot food around the school and keeping it warm.

5.6 Attendance will be compulsory from September. If parents are anxious to send their children in, they would be falling into a sanction approach. The School undertakes a lot of work with the families before issuing sanctions. If a child does come to school then there has to be evidence for the reason. If there is not, the Pastoral team will work with the families. If a family states they are shielding, evidence will need to be provided. The School will wait for further guidance from the LA on this matter. An EWO will be attending DHNPS once a term.

6. AOB/ DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6.1 Link Governors

ACTION The Clerk to send the link Governor list to the school.

6.2 Policy Review

Governors suggested that the Equality Policy 2016 was reviewed given recent world events.

ACTION Steven Feldman to format the Equality Policy 2016 into a google document to allow all Governors to review and make comment over the holidays, for review in September.

6.3 The School managed to secured 2 laptops for children on CP.

6.4 On Friday the Headteacher attended the HEP Headteacher's conference, where David Lammy MP provided a talk on BAME and black lives matters. Within the discussion he predicted unrest and riots in August within Tottenham. Headteacher's have raised concerns with both HEP and Haringey that this has been said publicly. Governors enquired about the evidence supported this claim. Noted that there are tensions within the community, but hoping there will be no unrest. Haringey has done a lot around community involvement. If happen there is unrest over the summer then the School won't be in to support any families.

ACTION Headteacher and Chair of Governors to write to David Lammy expressing their concern regarding the prediction over unrest and riots in Tottenham.

The Vice-Chair thanked everyone for attending. Part 1 of the meeting finished at 7.40pm. Shaheen Ferdous leaves the meeting.

Sign: Date:
Steven Feldman, Vice-Chair of Governors.