



Minutes of the Full Governing Body of Simon Marks Jewish Primary School

Held on Monday 25th June 2020

Present:

Howard Pallis
Lauren Buck
Austen Garth
Jonathan Freedland
Zachary Jacobs
Gulcan Asdoyuran
Liat Rosenthal
Roni Tabick
Rachel Burns

Chair of Governors
Foundation Governor
Foundation Governor
Foundation Governor
Staff Governor
Headteacher
Parent Governor
Parent Governor
Associate member

In Attendance:

Robin DasGupta
Mike Clayden

Deputy Headteacher
Consultant

Clerk:

Jane Smith

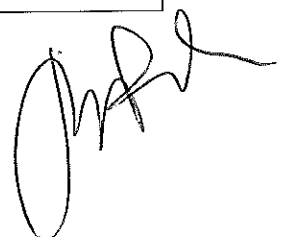
Hackney Learning Trust

This meeting was held virtually due to exceptional circumstances (coronavirus pandemic)

Part 1: Non-confidential business

1	Welcomes and introductions The Chair welcomed governors to the meeting.
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2	<p>Acknowledgement and Agreement that the meeting will exceptionally proceed virtually due to Coronavirus pandemic, in line with current official guidance</p> <p>Governors acknowledged and agreed that the meeting will exceptionally proceed virtually due to the Coronavirus pandemic.</p>
3	<p>Governors not in attendance</p> <p>There were no apologies for absence.</p> <p>Maurice Glasman was not in attendance.</p>
4	<p>Declarations of interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest relating to agenda items.</p>
5	<p>Governing Body membership</p> <p>Review of the membership of the Governing Body and Link Governor roles was deferred.</p> <p>There are three Foundation Governor vacancies on the Governing Body.</p> <p>The Chair said he had approached a number of people and that he felt that parents were the best source as PAJES had not put anyone forward.</p> <p>Mr Austen suggested that waiting until the skills audit is complete to identify any gaps would allow recruitment to be more targeted and effective.</p>
6	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2020.</p> <p>Governors considered the minutes of the previous meeting within the meeting pack.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Full Governing Body held on 13th February 2020 be agreed as an accurate record.</p>
7	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes of 13th February 2020</p> <p>The Chair raised governor training and encouraged governors to take part in available training as soon as it is possible.</p> <p>Ms Buck reminded governors that she had circulated a spreadsheet and asked them to update it with any training undertaken between September 2019 and July 2020.</p> <p>Ms Buck said she had also circulated a skills audit which consisted of a series of questions which she asked governors to answer and return to her. She would then compile the skills audit which would show gaps in the skills and experience on the Governing Body and inform the recruitment process. The skills audit, together with the training record, would also highlight gaps in training.</p>



Headteacher's Verbal Report

The Headteacher highlighted the following:

- Governors have been receiving a weekly or fortnightly updating report
- The school's coronavirus risk assessment had been shared with governors and the local authority. The local authority had identified some minor updates which are in hand.
- On 1st June, Early Years, Years 1 and 6 returned to classrooms marked out for social distancing. Children were in school for two days a week so all children had the opportunity to have some time in school. The children were very happy to return to school.
- The risk assessment has been updated and on 25th June, Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 started to come to school.
- Lunchtime seating had been a challenge but with the fine weather, some children have been able to have a picnic lunch outside. The school has staggered start and finish times, and staggered break and lunchtimes. Children wash their hands as soon as they arrive in school and staff sanitise surfaces and equipment regularly. It is optional whether staff wear masks though most do not.
- Some parents had been reluctant to send their children in at first but confidence has grown and now around 90% of children are attending.
- Hard copies of work have been sent home, supplemented by work on Zoom and Dojo, which had been a big task. Children are able to participate in Zoom calls and to ask questions via Dojo. Mr Jacobs has held a virtual assembly and this will be expanded.
- Full time provision in school has been available for children with SEND from the start although not all families have taken up the offer. Vulnerable children including those known to Social Care, have had full-time places, although some have declined the offer.
- Safeguarding: The school has had weekly contact with every child and has been able to see children on Zoom. One child who was a Child in Need (CIN) now has a Child Protection Plan as a result of Covid. Two children in foster care have been in school every day which has been beneficial for them.

Governor question: What is the difference between CIN and Child Protection Plan? What happens if the school cannot contact a family? Has the initial problem with FSM vouchers been resolved?

Response: A lot of agencies are involved in a monitoring role with CIN. A Child Protection Plan is more formal and legally backed with statutory obligations, for example, in relation to housing, and recommendations have to happen, for example, if the recommendation is that a three year old has to come to school, then a place has to be provided. Feedback from the school has to be more regular. All children have been contacted though not always as frequently as would be liked. Some families have gone abroad, especially to eastern Europe. The initial problem with FSM vouchers has been resolved. Families will receive £90 FSM vouchers for the summer holiday which may be broken down and distributed as £15 vouchers.

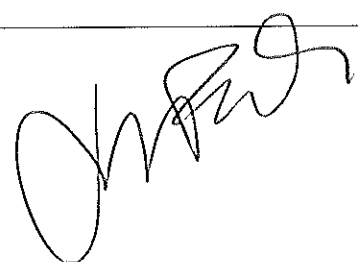
- Gaps in learning is difficult to ascertain until the children return to school but there will a lot of catching up to do in September with some targeted intense intervention necessary in some cases.

Governor question: What is the position with baseline testing in September and SATs next year?

Response: There are no SATS this year but SATs are likely to happen next year, subject to guidance being issued. The children at Simon Marks will be ready. Internal assessments are being done which is inevitably revealing gaps in learning with whole topics missed.

- Many children do not have access to a laptop or if there is one laptop in the household, parents or the oldest children dominate. Some families cannot afford the internet. The school has found that hard copies of work are most effective.

9	<p>Budget 2020/21 Approval</p> <p>The Minutes of the Finance, Staffing and Premises Committee 2nd June 2020, the Closure of Accounts 2019-20 and Budget 2020-21 and Budget Strategy report, the Charging Policy and roll projections report had been circulated to governors prior to this meeting.</p> <p>Mr Clayden referred to the long presentation he had given at the Finance, Staffing and Premises Committee and he said that the key documents to be considered and approved by the Governing Body are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The closure of accounts and control assurance statement for 2019-20 • The budget and budget strategy for 2020-2021 • The revised budget deficit recovery plan • The charging policy <p>Mr Clayden highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the end of 2019-20 financial year, the school had a small revenue deficit of £8,974 and a capital balance of £48,080. This compares with the mid-year budget projections of a revenue surplus of £27,983 and a capital balance of £53,163. • The principal factors that created this change were the lower school roll than projected, serious maintenance and repair problems and initiatives introduced during the year to strengthen the school's long term financial position. • Low school rolls have a significant detrimental financial impact on the school and increase the level of financial support required from the school Trust. In September 17 or 18 children are predicted to join Reception. • The budget is expected to vary and will be reviewed in October 2020. There will be some gains, for example, increased SEND funding and some additional costs, for example the SLA with HLT and catering costs. • There had been a good meeting with Caterlink. The catering staff have been furloughed and the school is being charged for the remaining 20% of salaries. Caterlink are in the process of preparing a 3 year contract. • The teacher's pay rise will be weighted towards the lower grades of the profession and the school has fewer staff at that level. <p>It was</p> <p>RESOLVED to approve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The closure of accounts and control assurance statement for 2019-20 • The budget and budget strategy for 2020-2021 • The revised budget deficit recovery plan • The charging policy
10	<p>Staffing (<i>Impact of Coronavirus and Risks</i>):</p> <p>All staff are in school and teaching, apart from one person who is shielding. This person wants to return and the Headteacher will be meeting her to prepare an individual risk assessment identifying the precautions that need to be in place.</p>



11	<p>Premises (<i>Impact of Coronavirus and Risks</i>)</p> <p>As reported above, the local authority has reviewed the school's risk assessment.</p> <p>Governors noted that the local authority does not seem to be receiving any pre-warning of changes in Government Covid guidelines, which makes planning difficult.</p>
12	<p>Reports from Committees, Working Parties and Link Governors (if any)</p> <p>See Finance, Staffing and Premises Committee Minutes and reports discussed at item 9.</p>
13	<p>Policies</p> <p>The Charging Policy was approved at item 9.</p>
14	<p>AOB</p> <p>The Headteacher said she is concerned about what will happen to some families when the furloughing support stops, particularly in relation to food and access to other support. The Chair said he would be writing to governors and the school to set up a hardship fund to provide food and essentials families.</p>
15	<p>Proposed Dates of Future Governing Body Meetings 2020/21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 22nd September 2020 6.00pm • Tuesday 9th February 2021 6.00 pm • Tuesday 22nd June 2021 6.00 pm



Handwritten signature and date: 7/10/20

