



**FULL GOVERNING BODY MEETING
OF SIMON MARKS JEWISH PRIMARY SCHOOL
held on Tuesday 26 September 2023 at 6.00 PM.**

In school and online

MINUTES

Members

Howard Pallis (Chair) Chair
Maurice Glasman (MG)
Gulcan Asdoyuran (Headteacher)
Jonathan Freedland (JF)
Austen Garth (AG)
Lauren Buck (LB)
Zachary Jacobs (ZJ)
Liat Rosenthal (LR) (Vice Chair)
Roni Tabick (RT)
Dina Fainberg (DF)
Eve Pearl (EP)
Rael Gamsu (RG)
Rachel Burns (RB)
Robin DasGupta (RDG)
Mike Blair Clayden (MBC)

Local Authority Governor
Foundation Governor
Headteacher
Foundation Governor
Foundation Governor
Foundation Governor
Staff Governor
Parent Governor
Parent Governor
Foundation Governor
Foundation Governor
Foundation Governor
Associate Governor
Associate Governor
Associate Governor

Attendance

present
present
apologies
present via videolink
present
present via videolink
present via videolink
present via videolink
present via videolink
present
present
present via videolink

PART 1: Non-Confidential business

No.	Item / suggested questions
1.	<p>Full Governing Body Business</p> <p>Election of Chair</p> <p>The Headteacher nominated and LB seconded Howard Pallis. There were no other candidates and he was elected unanimously.</p> <p>Election of Vice Chair</p>

	<p>It was decided to postpone this to the next meeting.</p> <p>The chair invited governors to nominate suitable candidates to join the board, especially from the parents.</p> <p>Committees and Committee membership</p> <p>This will be reviewed once new governors are recruited.</p> <p>Appointment of link governors</p> <p>This will be reviewed and confirmed by the end of November.</p> <p>Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)</p> <p>The Clerk will circulate the latest version.</p> <p>Skills Audit</p> <p>This will take place once new governors have been recruited.</p>
<p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p>	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <p>The chair welcomed those present.</p> <p>Receive and consider apologies from governors not in attendance</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from JF.</p> <p>Minutes of the previous meeting</p> <p>To agree the minutes of the FGB meeting held on 13 June 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes were amended to read: To agree the minutes of the FGB meeting held on 7 February 2023 and of the special meeting held on 24 May 2023. <p>The minutes as amended were agreed.</p> <p>Action Items and Matters outstanding</p> <p>The Chair will meet the governors whose terms of office are ending shortly to discuss whether they wish to serve for another term.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Headteacher's Report</p> <p>A letter was received from the Council's Acting Director of Education congratulating the school on its results. These were above both the Hackney average and national average.</p> <p>The only area which requires more work is Key Stage1 (KS1) Phonics. The school will also focus on the more able children developing greater depth. 90% of all children have recovered from the effects of the pandemic and are developing in line with expectations.</p>

As of today there are 115 children on roll, three of whom are in the ARP (Alternative Resource Provision). Three are due to start in the main school and one in the ARP. A couple more are interested. A number are considering joining the nursery in January.

35% of pupils have SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). 11 have EHCP (Education and Health Care Plans) including three in the ARP.

There are another three applications for EHCP pending. RDG is appealing against refusals to grant some. One child has £11,000 worth of funding attached to their EHCP and another has £6,000 worth.

There are 16 community languages spoken in the school at present. Bulgarian and Czech are now represented.

The Headteacher has not yet started observing lessons. However, the wall displays in the classrooms are indicative of the work that is being done.

The Succah has been erected today. Work on Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah is taking place currently.

There have been extra choir rehearsals for Years 3 and 4 provided by Hackney Music Provision. It is hoped they will sing a Hanukah song at the event organised by the Council. This will be indoors and take place on a Thursday, which will make it easier for staff than if it were held at the weekend.

Rabbi Goldmeyer is working with an organisation called SEED. This organises workshops for Succoth and other subjects and is open to parents as well as children.

Safeguarding

All new staff have received safeguarding training as part of their induction. Designated Safeguarding Leads have been appointed.

Two children are on the child protection register and another may be added. There is one child in need.

There are three looked after children on roll. One divides their time between Northamptonshire and Hackney and was lost for about two months. They are dual registered at two schools but it is possible that they will settle in London and be at the school permanently.

Key stage 2 children have mindfulness lessons and Years 5 and 6 have mindfulness sessions as well. The children are also taking part in laughter therapy.

The sensory room is used particularly by autistic children who find the sounds and colours calming.

Question: Where is the sensory room?

Answer: It is part of the ARP unit.

No RAAC has been found in the building in any of the regular surveys that have been conducted.

The Mayor of London is giving £2.65 per meal to cover the costs of free school meals. The actual cost is £3.35. Hackney Council will reimburse the school for the 70p difference.

Question: Are there any Ukrainian children at the school?

Answer: There was one but they have moved out of London.

Question: Could the children in the ARP be a way of recruiting their siblings to join the main school?

Answer: Yes. There is one starting at the ARP tomorrow has a sibling who will join the school. Parents will be encouraged to send their children to the school if they have siblings in the ARP.

	<p>Simon Marks has made a £40,000 donation to the school. It will be used for equipment in the play area. Quotations for this are being sought.</p>
6.	<p>Actions and impact against areas of improvement/ New school development plan</p> <p>The school development plan will be referred to the Teaching and Learning Committee. This will be needed for the audit.</p>
7.	<p>Budget</p> <p>The Resources Committee will examine the budget before half term. There is some money for contingencies.</p> <p>Currently there are five fewer children on roll than was expected at the time the budget was set. <u>Question: Does the increased number in the nursery help?</u> Answer: No, the figure of 115 includes the nursery and the budget was based on the assumption that there would be 120 children at the school.</p> <p>Next year there should be a reduction in energy costs. The school has a contract with Hackney Council, which has already bought energy at high cost, and cannot exit the contract this year.</p> <p>In the past parents have applied for free school meals and this has led to assessments for pupil premium eligibility. Now that there is no need to apply for free school meals there should be another means of assessing deprivation.</p>
8.	<p>Chair of Governors' verbal report</p> <p>Pikuach started an inspection but it was not completed and the school is awaiting a date for a new visit.</p> <p>Some companies are submitting tenders to update the electricity and gas systems in the school. The trust will need to pay 10% of the cost.</p>
9.	<p>Committee feedback- T+L- Rachel Burns</p> <p>EP will visit the school as link governor for SEND and the ARP between Succoth and Hanukah.</p>
10	<p>SEND and ARP update , Inclusion and diversity</p> <p>There is still some snagging work to be done on the ARP building.</p> <p>There are currently three pupils in the ARP with one due to join tomorrow. There may be another joining in this calendar year and two more in January. There is also a pupil who may transfer from the main school. The maximum capacity is 12.</p> <p>The grand opening will be on 8 November. There will be a reception for Peter Ohrenstein paid for by the trust. It is hoped that Simon Marks will attend, and it would be good if governors were present.</p>

	<p>The governors acknowledged the huge amount of work that the Headteacher and ZJ had put in to bring this project to fruition and the many problems and challenges which they had overcome to ensure the ARP opened on time. The Headteacher expressed the hope that in time there may be scope for further specialist provision.</p>
11	<p>Staffing and teacher professional development and impact</p> <p>The school is fully staffed.</p>
12	<p>Marketing and Publicity update</p> <p>A committee meeting will be convened in November.</p>
13	<p>Change of next full GB date from 6th February to 20th Feb (just after half term)</p> <p>The Clerk has asked for the date to be changed as he has another meeting on 6 February. The Headteacher said she would check if 20 February was available and after the meeting confirmed that it was. The Clerk is grateful to the governors for their flexibility.</p>
14	<p>Consideration of key policies</p> <p>Pay Policy</p> <p>This is a Hackney Council Policy and so the governors have little if any scope to amend it, but it was noted.</p> <p>There is also a Hackney Council Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy. It will be circulated in a format without annotations for the Teaching and Learning Committee to consider.</p>
15.	<p>Any Other Business for Consideration</p> <p>There was no other business.</p>

PART 2: Confidential business

There was no confidential business.

The meeting ended at 6.50 PM.