



GILLESPIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

MINUTES FROM

FULL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING HELD ON

Wednesday 3rd March 2021 online at 6pm

Attendees:

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| Claire Bolderson (CB) Chair of the Governors & Co-opted Governor | |
| Mark Owen (MO) – Head teacher | Dan Hamilton (DH) – Co-opted Governor |
| Sarah Bergin (SB) - Staff Governor | Louise Russell (LR) – Associate Member |
| Mandy Leatham (MG) - Parent Governor | Katrina Moses (KM) – Deputy Head (Observer) |
| Ashley Smith (AS) Vice -Chair & Co-opted Governor | Sajni Patani (SP)- Co-opted Governor |
| Rejinder Bangar (RB) - Parent Governor | Jodie Reed (JR) - Parent Governor |
| Tess Lundy – Clerk ISL Governor Services | Bhavini Doyle (BD) - Parent Governor |

| Item no. | Item | Action |
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| 1. | <p>WELCOME</p> <p>The Chair welcomed all Governors and formally introduced the two new Parent Governors Mandy Leatham (ML) and Bhavini (Bini) Doyle (BD).</p> <p>The Chair congratulated Jodie Reed on her re-election as Parent Governor for another four year term and formally thanked out going Governors Mickel Ghebreyohannes (not present) and Louise Russell for their terms of service.</p> | |
| 2. | <p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - Wednesday 2nd December 2020</p> <p>Minutes accepted as correct and ratified. Signed copy of minutes to be uploaded to Govhub.</p> | CB, TL |

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| 3. | <p>APOLOGIES/CONSENT FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies received from Cllr Debono</p> | |
| 4. | <p>HEADS REPORT The full heads report can be found on Govhub hub via the link HERE <u>Falling Roll</u> The school is not as full as it usually is. School rolls across the Borough are down in general. Gillespie’s roll has not reduced significantly, but the pandemic has affected parents’ decisions to move children between schools so some gaps have remained unfilled. The Head acknowledged it will be important to get the school roll back up for the new school year in September.</p> <p>The school is setting up a twitter account to share news about Gillespie more broadly and make connections beyond the immediate school community. The platform will be used to promote the school and nursery provision.</p> <p>A governor questioned whether Twitter was the best platform from which to reach out to prospective parents. They pointed out that local community word of mouth is very powerful, when it comes to applications for places. Instagram and Facebook could also be more suitable as many parents use those, and they’re also where the school could make contacts with local businesses, charities, and children’s centres.</p> <p>Governors also raised concerns about “trolling” and other negative behaviour on Twitter and asked who would be responsible for running the account. It will be managed by the Senior Admin Officer under the supervision of the Head Teacher.</p> <p>Governors discussed the need to think about Twitter as part of a wider Social Media strategy. BD has experience in this area and will liaise further with the HT.</p> <p><u>Remote Learning</u> Most families engaged well with online learning during the lockdown. The parent survey had revealed that the majority thought online provision was good and they particularly appreciated the live lessons.</p> <p>A Parent Governor described the home learning provision from the school as excellent. The teaching has been well thought out and interactive. Feedback has been consistent and well measured. The Governor thanked the entire staff team for their hard work.</p> <p>Governors asked what obstacles there were to learning, in those few cases where children were not engaging fully. The HT responded that there was no one cause. Most often, circumstances at home including the working hours of parents, had an impact on the amount of time children devoted to their school work.</p> <p>The head advised Governors that once the children are re-settled, the school will survey them to find out what they liked and didn’t like about home learning.</p> <p>A Governor asked that children also be consulted on some of the health and safety measures currently in place in school. It was thought that Year 6 and the School Council in particular would make valuable contributions.</p> | BD, MO |
| 5. | <p><u>Plans for School Re-Opening</u></p> <p>The school will reapply all successful protocols in place from September 2020 to re-open on March 8th. The measures had worked well. No classes or bubbles had been sent home between September and Christmas last year. Staff have been consulted on</p> | |

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| | <p>additional measures and are now wearing masks in communal areas and when moving around the school. There will be no physical meetings between adults in school for the rest of this term. All meetings will take place virtually.</p> <p>Catch up</p> <p>The school will continue with the catch-up timetable implemented in the autumn term. This will start in the second week after the children return.</p> <p>The first week will be used to settle in all children. During this time, teachers will make informal assessments of where individual children are in their learning. It may be that some children who did not need catch-up support before will need it now, while others may be doing better than previously expected and therefore need less by way of intervention</p> <p>KM explained that it was important to ease the children back into the curriculum and to avoid unnecessary stresses. Formal testing therefore will not take place until well into the summer term.</p> <p>A governor asked whether there would be any national or local standards against which to assess Gillespie children. KA said that in the absence of SATS there will not be. Children will be assessed against Age Related Expectations. Past SATs results will also provide a form of benchmarking.</p> <p>The HT said he was aware of media speculation about exactly what catch-up provision will look like i.e. weekend sessions, extended days etc. The school's priority is to give the children fantastic learning opportunities. Catch-up is a long term project, and the amount of work to be done can not be underestimated. This will not be a quick intervention but will require long term investment in the children's learning</p> | |
| <p>6.</p> | <p>UPDATED RISK ASSESSMENT</p> <p><u>Highlights</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All formal meetings to continue to be conducted online until summer term' 21, when this will be reviewed. • Staff to wear masks during any 1-1 staff, small group discussions, incidental meetings in communal areas. This does not apply to staff exempt from wearing masks for medical reasons • In line with the latest DFE safety guidelines (Feb 2021), All staff to wear masks in communal areas, corridors and in the lunchtime halls. • Masks not to be worn when teaching children – • The school will trial a new system for collection of children at the end of school day to help maintain social distancing of adults. Staff manning the Playground gates will proactively unite children with parents in the street. • Parents are not allowed in the playground and will be encouraged as far as possible to wait behind the railings outside leaving the path clear. The road outside the school is closed to traffic from 3.15-4.00pm, both Reception and Nursery class are dropped off and collected from separate EYFS gate. <p>Parents of children in Yrs. 5 and 6 who live near the school will be encouraged to promote independence by allowing the children to walk to school alone to reduce people traffic.</p> <p>Whilst school trips are suspended, '<i>Forest School</i>', will continue as the journey there is taken on foot in the fresh air</p> | |


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| | <p>The school will encourage families to carry out regular home testing. Lateral flow test kits can be ordered online or collected from testing centres. Information on obtaining testing kits will be shared with families via the school newsletter.</p> <p>The majority of school staff are using the self-testing kits twice weekly at home. All test results so far have been negative.</p> <p>The Safeguarding Governor asked for this engagement with the testing regime to be added into the risk assessment. The Head agreed</p> <p>Governors have reviewed and signed off the updated Risk Assessment which can be found HERE</p> | MO |
| 7. | <p>REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES</p> <p><u>Finance Committee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has managed to recover £12.5K SEN funding from the LA in acknowledgement of its significant SEN responsibilities. This means, with the carry forward from last year, there will not be a deficit. • The annual SFVS * is due for submission to the borough by May. The document had been scrutinised at the recent Finance Committee meeting and a note added acknowledging increased spending on teaching agency staff. This had been particularly high this year due to Covid creating extra costs around staff shielding. <p>The next finance committee meeting is on March 23rd. Governors can see full details of the report from the finance committee on Govhub HERE</p> <p>* The SFVS has been reviewed and approved by the Governors accordingly.</p> <p><u>Safeguarding Committee</u></p> <p>The Safeguarding Governor reported that despite the big increase in online learning, there had been no online safety incidents reported this year. (There was one isolated incident last year). He commended the HT for the detailed information in the Annual Safeguarding Report. .</p> <p>* The Safeguarding report (update) has been reviewed and approved by the Governors accordingly.</p> <p><u>Relationships and Sex Education Policy *</u></p> <p>The school held an online consultation with parents which was very well attended and answered parents' queries.</p> <p>Islington had provided a model policy. The Chair of Governors and Safeguarding Governor had worked on this with the HT. Governors felt a summary at the front of the policy was a useful addition.</p> <p>* The Relationships and Sex Education Policy has been reviewed and approved by the Governors accordingly.</p> <p><u>Learning Committee</u></p> <p>The meetings will resume in the summer term</p> | |

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| | JR, will prioritise ideas for future discussion. The formal assessments being undertaken later in the term will be discussed at one such meeting. | |
| 8 | <p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>A Governor mentioned the fact that the school is now in a Low Traffic Network (LTN). Parents returning to school for the first time since Christmas need to be reminded not to drive down Gillespie Road from the Arsenal end as it will result in a £60 fine. It was requested this be shared in a Newsletter.</p> <p>Details of induction training for our two new Parent Governors, have been sent to them directly.</p> <p>The chair thanked Louise Russell, a Parent Governor for over eight years and wished her well in her new role as a secondary school Governor.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the head and the entire school team for their continued hard work.</p> | |
| 10 | <p>FUTURE MEETING DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS</p> <p>The SUMMER TERM FGB meeting will take place on Wednesday 9th June 2021 at 6.00pm</p> | |

PART TWO – CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

If there are items to be discussed under Part 2, please put the items below on a new sheet.

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| 11. | CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS | |
| | None | |

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| | <p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING:</p> <p>Wednesday 9th June 2021 at 6.00pm</p> | |
| <p>There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 19.22pm.</p> <p>Tess Lundy Clerk to Governors Islington Governor Services, Islington Council</p> |  CHAIR: _____ DATE: __14.07.2021_____ | |



**GILLESPIE PRIMARY SCHOOL
ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING OF
3RD MARCH 2021**

| ITEM | ACTION | BY |
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| 2. | Chair to sign ratified minutes for 2 nd December 2020 and return to Tess at cialk2808@yahoo.co.uk for filing and upload to Govhub. | CB / TL Action completed |
| 4. | MO and BD to liaise over social media strategy to raise the profile of the school. MO to consult older children and School Council on Covid-related provisions in school and gather their ideas for improvements / changes to current protocols. | MO , BD MO |
| 6. | MO to add details of twice weekly staff lateral flow testing to risk assessment | MO <u>Action completed</u> |
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