

**ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022  
 Time: 5.45pm  
 Venue: Gorseley Bank Primary School  
 Clerk: Clare Vogt  
 Present: J Lawson (Chair), G Ashworth, F Bell, J Maguire, S Mellor, N Mitchell,  
 L Woolley

Item	Action	Initials
1.1.	Date of the GO&S meeting in November to be sent to the Chair.	Clerk
2.1	Kids' Club Update to be included in agenda for ACM1.	Clerk
3.1	Maths visit to be conducted early in the Autumn Term.	SM
3.2	Visit to be arranged in September for Phonics/Early Reading.	SM/ZS
3.3	Safeguarding visit to be arranged in the Autumn Term.	JL
4.1	End of year communication from Governors to parents to be drafted and issued in September.	NM
5.1	Final Parental Engagement Strategy to be shared at ACM1.	JM/Clerk

Agenda – Part 1			
Category	Item	Notes	Action
Governance Arrangements	Apologies	Apologies were received and <u>approved</u> from S Hatfield (SH). Z Shah (ZH) was absent from the meeting.	
	AOB items	The Chair accepted the following item as AOB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cheshire East Directors' Report</li> </ul>	
	Register of interests	The Clerk advised that the Register of Interests has been updated with details from Georgie Ashworth (GA)	
	Part 1 Minutes	The Part 1 minutes of the meeting on 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2022 were <u>approved</u> as a true and accurate record.  <u>Matters arising</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ J Maguire (JM) shared the staffing structure for September 2022 on screen. Faith Bell will continue as Assistant Head for Inclusion and Helena Thompson as Assistant Head for Pupil Outcomes. The structure will include 4 TLRs and 17 fte class teachers.</li> </ul>	

			<p>The Chair asked:</p> <p><b>Q: How does that compare with other organisations of similar size?</b></p> <p>A: LW said this is the same structure for all primaries currently in the Trust and for the new school opening in Manchester. Sarah Taylor from Finance provides benchmarking figures which show that staffing for Gorsey Bank (GB) is t an appropriate level.</p> <p><b>Q: Where does the SENDco fit into this structure and how will they report to Governors?</b></p> <p>A: LW advised that the SENDco is a teacher without full time class teacher responsibilities. They may attend Academy Committee (AC) meetings next year for relevant agenda items. F Bell (FB) line manages this person and can report any areas of concern to the AC. The SENDco plays a vital role in attending pupil progress meetings, highlighting any issues.</p> <p>The structure was noted by Governors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The Chair apologised for not completing the action to attend the Governance, Oversight &amp; Standards Committee (GO&amp;S). The Clerk advised that this would be rescheduled for November and S Mellor offered to present as Vice-Chair on behalf of the AC if the Chair was unavailable.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action 1.1: Date of the GO&amp;S meeting in November to be sent to the Chair.</b></p>	Clerk
		Membership Update	<p>Governors heard that there was a potential new governor for the AC from Inspiring Governance. This person was a professor who had moved from Hong Kong to live locally. They were due to tour the school this Friday and the Chair and Vice-Chairs were welcome to join the meeting. The Trust handled appointments centrally but final approval to join the AC lay with the Head and Chair.</p> <p>N Mitchell (NM) mentioned having had an exploratory discussion with a GB parent who was a Deputy Head at a Tameside school. Governors agreed to keep this person in abeyance until a decision was made on the current applicant.</p>	

		Trust Board Update	<p>The Trust Board reports from March and May were noted by Governors.</p> <p><b>Q: NM enquired how is the Trust coping with expansion plans which will lead to considerable change?</b></p> <p>A: LW explained that a recent Government white paper stipulates that all schools should join multi-academy trusts (MATs) by 2030. Smaller MATs are being asked to combine with larger MATs. The Executive Team is keen to grow the Trust but without compromising the education of the pupils and students already in a Laurus school. Several schools and MATs have approached the Trust, and options are being currently explored with the key focus on schools where a difference can be made. Anyone joining will need to be strategically aligned in vision and values to the Trust. A regional hub model with schools no more than 30 minutes distance from the centre is planned. The Trust Development Plan has been updated to increase the current 8,000 pupil capacity to 15,000. There is likely to be rapid acceleration of the Government’s aim over the next 2 years. The Trust is looking to build out from 4 existing authorities but may consider opportunity areas such as Rochdale and Oldham.</p> <p>Governors asked about linking with Wilmslow High, noting that 75% pupils from GB move on there. The AC felt that increased collaboration with the school would be beneficial whatever decisions were reached on its MAT status. This could take the form of a teacher from GB joining their committee or vice versa. LW will raise the AC’s comments at the Executive Team meeting tomorrow.</p>
		Link Governor Roles & Responsibilities	No reviews required.

2	School Performance & Accountability	School Development Priorities & Focus	<p>Key points made by JM were:</p> <p><u>School Development Plan (SDP)</u> The SDP, which runs to 2023, was being updated for September.</p> <p>Governors discussed whether meetings held pre-Covid to discuss wellbeing with staff were beneficial. It was noted that annual health and wellbeing and staff surveys were undertaken by the Trust and that the AC could have oversight of the survey responses rather than an extra after school meeting for staff. An additional proposal was to arrange a focus group meeting with a cross-section of staff, after a Link Governor visit.</p> <p><u>Pupil Outcomes</u> Statutory Assessment Results for 2022 were shared on screen. The school was very pleased with the results, given the issues at KS1 with delay of speech and language development due to Covid. An in-depth analysis of the results will be undertaken and presented at ACM1 next year, including boy/girl split. KS2 progress measures would be assessed too, and all results measured against KPIs.</p> <p>Whilst national comparisons were still awaited for KS1, Governors noted a very high phonics score but that the Writing at Expected Standard score had been affected by lockdown.</p> <p>The school had a slight decrease in pupils attaining the higher standard in reading and papers were being reviewed, particularly for borderline cases. Some irregularities in marking had been found and those results will be appealed.</p> <p>The Chair commented that overall these were an outstanding set of results, given the challenges posed by the pandemic. JM said teachers and children had worked exceptionally hard and had been very well supported by parents. A lot of work had been put into achieving the high Writing score to make up for time lost during lockdown, as this was difficult to teach remotely.</p> <p>Governors were invited to attend LW's formal Executive Head Visits to analyse data in depth with JM, taking place between 11:00-3:30pm on 27.09.22, 16.01.23, 24.04.23 and</p>
---	-------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	--

			<p>17.07.23. It was agreed that a designated Governor would join for the last hour to scrutinise the information, with NM undertaking the visit on 27.09.22 and the Chair covering 16.01.23.</p> <p><b>Q: The Chair asked if the school would celebrate the achievements of every child whatever their results?</b></p> <p>A: JM said that the school had done this. Alongside the raw scores, parents were provided with teacher assessment and comment. No pupil or parents had indicated any concerns at this stage.</p> <p>Results will be shared with all staff this week and be the focus of an inset day in September.</p> <p>Governors commended all staff for their part in achieving such excellent results.</p> <p><u>Kids' Club Update</u></p> <p>The school was continuing half-termly reviews of provision and had asked for preferences for next year. 325 after school sessions were held weekly with just under 200 breakfast club sessions.</p> <p>Place requests were currently for 144 children but capacity was less than this. It was not possible to expand due to the difficulty in obtaining qualified staff and lack of space.</p> <p>Parents may not receive the full pattern requested but the school will highlight after-school club opportunities. The school will also look at offering alternative less popular days to families of children with higher needs who may just need respite anytime.</p> <p>Governors observed that a comment would be placed in the annual report from the AC to parents concerning its continued overview of provision and capacity.</p> <p>Governors were agreed that everything possible was being done to accommodate demand but there was restricted capacity. Review of this item would continue.</p> <p><b><u>Action 2.1: Kids' Club Update to be included in agenda for ACM1.</u></b></p> <p><u>Attendance Update</u></p> <p>Governors were pleased to note that attendance had risen and that holidays in term-time were less prevalent. They heard that staff and pupil absence from Covid had</p>
--	--	--	---

			recently increased.	
		Set and Ensure Delivery of School Curricula (incl. Religious Education & Relationships, Sex Education)	Governors noted JM's confirmation that the school was teaching the curriculum.	
		School Self-Evaluation	<u>Gorseley Evaluation Document (GED)</u> Governors noted the GED and that this will be updated in the Autumn Term after publication of national data and pupil survey results.	
		Behaviour & Safeguarding	The report was received and noted.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Governor Monitoring</b>	Records of Visit	<p><u>Art</u> The ROV from GA was noted.</p> <p><u>Humanities</u> NM had conducted an RE &amp; Geography visit and was impressed with teacher enthusiasm, planning and dissemination of subject matter. The forums for subject lead and Trust support were also admirable. NM will return to the school to spend time in class as this had not been possible.</p> <p><u>STEM</u> S Mellor (SM) had undertaken a STEM visit and was happy with observations. SM felt that Maths should be dealt with outside STEM and it was agreed that a separate visit would be arranged for this.</p> <p><b>Action 3.1: Maths visit to be conducted early in the Autumn Term.</b></p> <p><b>Action 3.2: Visit to be arranged in September for Phonics/Early Reading.</b></p> <p><b>Action 3.3: Safeguarding visit to be arranged in the Autumn Term.</b></p> <p>Other outstanding visits to be arranged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Science/Computing (SH)</li> <li>○ Inclusion (SH)</li> <li>○ EAL (JL)</li> </ul> <p>SM &amp; ZS were thanked by the Chair for overseeing SATS. SM confirmed that due process was correctly followed.</p>	<p>SM</p> <p>ZS/SM</p> <p>JL</p>
		Policy Reviews	None.	

		Finance Update	<p>Governors reviewed the latest published Management Accounts from March and noted the excellent fund raising from the PTA. JM confirmed that 10k will be used on redevelopment of the garden. In allocating remaining funds, SM suggested that it would be useful to ask the PTA whether there was anything they felt was needed.</p> <p>A note will be added to the annual report from Governors, giving thanks and appreciation to the PTA for their hard work in supporting the school and providing valuable funds.</p> <p><b>Action 3.4: End of year communication from Governors to parents to be drafted and issued in September.</b></p> <p><b>Q: Governors asked what is being done about succession planning for the PTA?</b>  <b>A:</b> The Chair is keen to ensure succession and there are currently a number of people leading different events.</p>	NM
		Health & Safety	Noted	
		Check Website Compliance (publication of all statutory reports)	<p><a href="https://www.gorseybank.org.uk/governance/">https://www.gorseybank.org.uk/governance/</a>  <a href="https://www.gorseybank.org.uk/statutory-reports/">https://www.gorseybank.org.uk/statutory-reports/</a></p> <p>Governors noted that the website was compliant in these areas.</p> <p>Sports Premium will be updated this term. SEND and Pupil Premium to be updated in the Autumn Term.</p>	
		Governor Self-Review of Impact	Governors provided feedback on what can be added to the report.	
4	Governor Development	Training	Governors noted the link to the NGA Safeguarding Model which they were asked to complete by ACM1 and advise the Clerk for training records to be updated.	

5	Community Engagement	Stakeholder Engagement (Staff/Parents/Pupils/ Governors)	<p><u>Draft Parental Engagement Strategy</u> JM showed the strategy on screen, advising that this had been drafted in response to the annual parent survey. It was currently a work-in-progress which will be ready for September. The strategy addressed points raised by parents, such as a preference from some for longer end of year pupil reports.</p> <p><b>Action: 5.1: Final Parental Engagement Strategy to be shared at ACM1.</b></p>	JM/ Clerk
	AOB		<p><u>Cheshire East Directors' Report</u> Governors noted the report which provided a good overview of governance processes in Cheshire East.</p> <p>There being no other business to discuss, this part of the meeting closed at 19.08pm.</p>	
	Meeting Dates:	<p>ACM1: Tuesday 11.10.22 ACM2: Monday 05.12.22 ACM3: Monday 20.03.23 ACM4: Monday 10.07.23</p>	All meetings will start at 5:45pm	

#### Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes

•	Governors will issue an end-of-year communication to parents in September
•	Governor visits undertaken for Arts, Humanities and STEM were discussed
•	Kids' Club provision and capacity was scrutinised
•	The Staffing Structure for September 2023 was reviewed