



**CHESTNUTS PRIMARY SCHOOL
GOVERNING BODY**
Minutes of Full Governing Body Meeting held on
Thursday 3rd December 2020 via Zoom

Local Authority Governors (1)	Expiry of Term	Foundation/ Trust Governors (2)	Expiry of Term
Maureen Duncan	14/09/21	Hugh Merritt (Chair)	15/09/23
		Vacancy	
Parent Governors (4)		Staff Governors (2)	
Christian Lund	4/7/23	Mavis Scott	4/7/23
Angeline Conaghan	4/7/23		
Kalvi Nadarajah	13/12/21	Katie Horwood, Headteacher (ex <i>officio</i>)	
Vacancy			
Co-opted Governors (5)			
Kaley Foran	02/12/24		
Hannah D'Aguiar	19/09/22		
Becky Martin	14/12/21		
Hannah Marr	04/07/23		
Clare Matthai	02/12/24		
Also Present: Carole Newton, Sharon Bolton – Clerk Rhoda Mohammed (Observer)			
<i>** denotes apology tendered</i>			

Part 1

1. Welcome and Apologies

- a. The Chair welcome governors to the meeting.
- b. There were no apologies.

2. Election of Vice Chair

Karen Foley was nominated as Vice Chair.

3. Declarations of Interests

There were no Declarations of Interests.

4. Approve new co-opted members (Kaley and Clare)

- a. The Governors approved the appointment of Kaley Foran and Clare Matthai as Co-opted Governors.



- b. This is Becky Martin's last meeting. Governors thanked her for her support and contribution and wished a safe delivery.
- c. Richard Pierce's terms of office has ended and he is not seeking re-election as a Parent Governor. A Parent Governor election is needed in the new term.
- d. There is one Trust Governor vacancy.

5. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

6. Matters arising

- a. Item 3n
No tutorials have been organised for parents as no children working from home yet.
- b. Item 3s
Approximately 180 children take up the childcare offer on a Friday.
- c. There is a lot of staff absence in KS1. It is very difficult to cover members of staff who are isolating for various reasons.

7. Committee reports (inc. approve ToRs)

- a. Standards
 - i. Demand for the SEND team is significant. Mavis has had positive feedback from the staff concerning SEN provision. The increase in workload for the team is significant and is acknowledged.
 - ii. There is a good overview of how Maths is being taught and the areas of weaknesses that are being addressed.
 - iii. Angeline and Hugh visited the school on Monday and met with the Head and Miss Potter, the Curriculum Lead.
The staff really appreciate the additional structure.
 - iv. There are many examples of good practice around the school but sharing good practice is hampered by COVID-19 restrictions.
 - v. Ques: Was anything raised about the use of IT?
Ans: Yes, prior knowledge was addressed. The students are more



willing to do homework because it is online.

b. Finance

- i. Elliot produced a good month by month tracking document.
- ii. The school applied for a deficit loan of £350k. Without it the school run will run out of cash. The application has been returned with recommendations for additional information. It is not known how long it will take for a decision to be made.
- iii. **Ques:** What is the biggest driver in relation to the lack of funds?
Ans: The lack of lettings is the biggest driver. That is the basis on which the application was made as the school normally has a surplus. Moving forward the school must be vigilant in relation to budgeting as the school is likely to receive less funding next year. The school is not adequately funded and is not funded to maintain the current staffing structure.
- iv. Boroughwide meeting – School’s forum update
Haringey Schools are managing their finances fairly well in comparison to schools in other London boroughs. There is additional support for School Business Managers to assist with innovative ways of navigating the current financial instability.
- v. **Ques:** Should we have a monthly finance tracker?
Ans: Elliot already does that.
Action: This will be shared with the finance committee. It was noted that SEN is one area where a clearer idea of how the SEN funding is used and how much and when it is received.

8. LINK Governor

Angeline reported that there will be meeting with Carol re BAME achievement tomorrow. Hannah and Lydia will also attend.

9. HT report.

Below are the highlights:

- a. This week the school saw the first 2 children who are self-isolating.
- b. Attendance has been very good.
- c. The children’s mental health has been prioritised since the beginning of term.



- d. The early closing on Fridays continue and the she staggered start is working but there is one complaint from a resident.
- e. KS1 staff absence has been very high.
- f. There is blended learning for children who are self-isolated.
- g. 30 new chrome books have been acquired for staff and pupils in case of bubbles being compromised.
- h. 15 new laptops have been repurposed for the most disadvantaged families who do not have access to a machine at home.
- i. Lydia has been attending all the safeguarding meetings.
 - i. **Ques:** In relation to safeguarding, are there any emerging patterns or trends?
Ans: Cases with domestic abuse including children being abusive to parents have been presented.
- j. **Ques:** Will there be any remote learning taking place?
Ans: if a bubble goes home, the teacher will provide the remote learning. There might also be smaller google meets throughout the day.
- k. **Ques:** In the case a teacher is at home but the children are in school. What happens?
Ans: The Teacher will teach from home and other staff will support for additional activities. It is a fine balance for staff especially when they have children at home. The staff are working really well as a team.
- l. The governors acknowledged the tenacity of the staff in very difficult circumstances.
- m. School Street – the community has been amazing. Etherley Road is closed at the beginning and end of the school day. It feels much safer for staff and children travelling to and from school.
Traffic management around the school is a priority. The school is working with TFL to move the Bus Stop from in front of the school and closer to Etherley Road.

Action: The plans will be discussed in further detail at the next meeting.



- n. A consultation is underway to rename Black Boy Lane as La Rose Lane.
- o. Ques: What is happening with the testing regime?
KS1 SATS is not statutory this year. There will be teacher assessments.
KS 2 SPAG will not take place this year. KS2 data will not be used for the usual league tables.
- p. There is growing interest for Reception places. There have been Q & A online sessions and 15 minute look around the school for people who attended the virtual sessions.
- q. Ques: How many of the children have SEN?
Ans: Only two parents has stated so far.
Mavis has received two email from prospective parents.
The school needs to ensure that it can meet the needs of SEN children in light of the financial constraints.

10. Safeguarding Policy

- a. The policy is based on the model policy from Haringey.
Action: All Governors should read KCSIE – Keeping Children Safe in Education.
 - i. **Ques:** Does the policy mention Mental Health specifically?
Ans: Lydia is trained in child Mental Health. The school also works with Trailblazer.
 - ii. **Ques:** Is Lydia the only person who has completed MHFA?
There is counselling for staff as part of the insurance policy. The LA have been helpful in relation to support for staff. The Education Psychology Service is also supporting staff with access to Mental Health services.

11. Chair's items

- a. Hugh asked Governors to think about taking on the role of Chair.
There is a training workshop for potential chairs at HEP. Governors were encouraged to attend if they are interested.
- b. It was suggested Hugh assign key tasks to individual governors to spread to the responsibility.
- c. There will be a strategy session – 4th January 2021 2pm – 4pm



d. The Head thanked the governors for their support.

Meeting ended at 7:52pm

Signed by Chair/Vice Chair

Date