

St Catherine's Church of England School



Moorland Road
Launceston
Cornwall
PL15 7HX

Central Office Tel: 01566 772198
E-Mail: governance@andaras.org
Executive Head Teacher – L Hussey
Head of School – P Warner
Chair of Governors – J Wonnacott

20/05/2021

Minutes

Local Governing Board; St Catherine's Church of England School Thursday 20th May 2021 at 1.30pm remotely via zoom

1. Join Meeting

All participants had video and audio.

2. Welcome and Apologies

Present: James Wonnacott (Chair), Margaret Young, Brendan Maguire, Cally Ellacott, Pippa Warner, Louise Hussey

Apologies: Libby Phillpotts

In Attendance: Toni Martin (Governance Officer)

3. Governor Appointment

Cally Ellacott volunteered to be a parent governor. As there are no other volunteers at this time, CE was appointed as a Board appointed parent governor. CE is to contact the school secretary regarding completion of DBS and book on a governor induction course. CE has already completed the SSS online safeguarding for governors and prevent training. CE and LH are to arrange for a tour of the school and an update on the current situation later this term.

4. Declarations of Interest Relevant to this Agenda

None.

5. Confirm Minutes of LGB last meeting 11th March and matters arising

Below are actions required to be complete by the main meeting on 8th July but updates are as follows:

- **Chair's meeting with CEO pushed back to week starting 22nd March.** *Completed, Chair will update governors at the main meeting.*
- **Chair meeting with LH.** *Completed, the Chair is very pleased with how the recovery is being tackled.*
- **Pupil conferencing week starting 15th March (MY)** *See item 9.*
- **Consult on S157 safeguarding return (MY)** *Complete. See item 7.*
- **Data protection & recovery plan (BM) – note the Academy Improvement Officer report at end of term** *Still to be done, BM will meet with LH in early June after the GDPR audit. See item 6.*

LGB agreed the minutes and a copy will be provided for Chair to sign when normality resumes.

6. Current Situation Update/Recovery Plan/Data

Chair provided with an update on recovery during a monitoring visit. LH updated governors on the numerous interventions and specific provision that is in place to help the children catch up

to where they should be. She updated on the current position with recovery funding. Apparently Ofsted inspections are resuming as normal from September and this is a cause for concern as it will require the children to be pushed when perhaps emotionally they are not yet ready for that. It was noted that although the children were initially keen to be back in school, but it is becoming clear that the children's resilience, independence and confidence as learners has been greatly affected by the pandemic. Of greater note though is the emotional needs and mental health of the children which is causing real concern. It is important to note that strain that this puts on the staff who see this in the children. The governors discussed the issues with social media and trends developing with children's mental health issues that is very concerning.

The Director of Schools from the Diocese of Truro visited the school recently to advise on the SIAMS inspection. It was a positive visit but LH noted that the school vision needs to be adapted so it is understandable by the children and they can state their vision easily. **How do we ensure that a child knows what the word 'vision' means let alone what the vision is?** The children understand the concepts behind the vision statement but need to be able to express it themselves, so this will be worked on.

Governors challenged and discussed in great detail the transition from year 6 to secondary school. It was noted that to date there is very little support offered from Launceston college in this matter and there is concern for the confidence and wellbeing of the children transitioning this year. LH was asked to be forceful in this matter when liaising with Launceston college to ensure that something is provided for our year 6 children.

LH noted the planned future monitoring visits and that reports will be shared with governors. She also noted that school places for September are full.

The Chair expressed thanks on behalf of the governors to the staff for going above and beyond over this time.

7. Safeguarding

S157 return complete and MY was consulted on this. LH explained the S157 to CE. Every November the safeguarding governor (MY) completes an internal audit with LH. MY will complete a SCR check prior to end of term.

8. Data Protection & Online Safety

GDPR audit is due. A new on-line safety policy is in place. Care is being taken due to the amount of time that children spend on line. TM noted that cyber threats where hackers are holding organisations to ransom with a threat of exposing their personal data into the public domain is increasingly becoming a serious threat. The DfE are now mandating that all schools need to have Cyber Essentials accreditation and are likely to need Cyber insurance; this is very important but costs will be incurred for 3rd party audit and for any measures that need to be put in place.

9. Pupil Conferencing

MY confirmed that the pupil conferencing was a wonderful experience; there were 2 children present from each year group. The answers to the questions were delightful, and the children appeared to be happy and pleased to be learning in school. MY confirmed that there is some anxiety with regard to moving to secondary school.

10. Recruiting and Chair/Vice Chair

Governors discussed recruiting of new governors and identified a couple of people that will be approached. The requirement for a Chair succession plan was noted and this will be discussed

off line. *After note: BM has agreed to take over from JW as Chair. JW will remain as a Foundation governor and has offered to be Vice Chair to support BM unless there is another volunteer.*

11. Any Other Business

LH noted a few changes at the school due to new gates and parking necessity. LH has liaised with the council for required changes and noted a few issues with a few neighbours, parking and access. **The school is the same size so what has changed recently to make this worse?** LH explained the various contributing factors.

12. DONM

Date of next meeting is Thursday 8th July 2021 at 1.30pm. It will be decided a few days before whether it is in person at school or via zoom.

The Chair will meet with LH on 8th or 9th June prior to his next meeting with the MAT CEO.

Meeting closed at 2.40pm

TJH Martin
ADMAT Governance Officer

Distribution List:

J. Wonnacott – Chair/Foundation Governor
M. Young – Foundation Governor
B. Maguire – Vice Chair/Foundation governor
L. Phillpotts – Staff Governor
C. Ellacott – Parent Governor
L. Hussey – St Catherine’s Head Teacher
P. Warner – Head of School
W. Hermon – CEO
Trust Board