

Gladesmore Community School Governing Body

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23rd March 2022 at 6pm

Parent Governors (2)		Co-opted Governors (7)	
* Suhel Musa (SMA)	8-12-24	*Tony Hartney (THY)	
^Wendy Burrell (WBL)	17-10-22	* Donna Grant (DGT)	08.07.22
		* Alexander Sweet (AST)	08.07.22
Local Authority Governor (1)		* Annabel Schaafsma (ASA),	10-12-23
* Maureen Black (MBK)	07-02-26	Michael Brown (MBN)	08.07.22
		* Elaine Brown (EBN)	08-12-24
Staff Governor (1)		^ Victor Olisa (VOA)	08-12-24
*Tasaddaq Ashraf (TAF)	16-6-24		
Headteacher Governor			
	Ex-Officio		

Others Present	
Jan Smosarski (JSL) – Clerk Goldwater Ojokor (GOR) – Headteacher Designate Pauline Jones (PJL) - Designated Safeguarding Lead Tina Fagohungbe (TFE) - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Tachaan Marshall (TML), Safeguarding Officer Engin Djemali (EDI) Deputy Headteacher	Alex Sweet (Chair) in the Chair Quorum = 6 governors * Denotes governors present ^ Denotes approved absence

Part 1

NB: This meeting was held via Google Meet.

	<i>The following documents were circulated to all governors prior to the meeting:</i> <i>Meeting agenda, Minutes of meetings held on 26th January 2022, 2nd February 2022, 17 March 2022, Curriculum Intent Policy and Curriculum Pledge Statement</i>	
1	Attendance	
1.1.1	<u>Consideration of apologies</u> – apologies for absence were accepted from VOA and WBL.	
1.1.2	MBN has not attended a meeting since October 2021 nor has he sent apologies for absence. THY AGREED to contact MBN regarding attendance to see whether he	<u>THY</u>

	intends to continue as a governor for the remainder of the year.	
1.2	Declarations of Interest	
1.2.1	There were no declarations of interest on any item on this agenda	
1.3	<u>Membership</u>	
1.3.1	MBK's has been appointed by the LA to serve for a further four years	
1.3.2	There are no other vacancies on the governing body.	
1.4	Training Update	
1.4.1	MBK has attended training on admission appeals and will attend the second part of the Safeguarding Training next week.	
2	Minutes of the previous meetings.	
2.1	<u>Minutes of the 26th January 2022</u> The minutes were AGREED as a true record.	
2.2	<u>Minutes of the 2nd February 2022</u> The minutes were AGREED as a true record.	
2.3	<u>Minutes of the 17th February</u> The minutes were AGREED as a true record.	
2.4	<u>Matters Arising from the minutes not on this agenda</u>	
2.4.1	There were no matters arising from any of the three sets of minutes.	
3	Theme – Safeguarding Report from the DSL and Safeguarding Team	
3.1	PJS introduced the team and reported that recent training had focused on disclosures and how they are handled. She and the team outlined ways they work to support pupils and families and to illustrate this shared a number of case studies with governors. These identified a range of different issues covered by safeguarding and pupil welfare and demonstrated the huge breadth of the work of the team. These range from supporting pupils at risk from exclusion to working with children who have suffered some form of abuse.	
3.2	Records of concerns and actions are stored on a system called CPOMS and this allows authorised staff to access records quickly and is a secure monitoring system.	

3.3	The Safeguarding Team has a wealth of experience, which they can bring to their roles. These include social work, police work and experience of alternative education provision. The team are supported by a team of counsellors and a mental health lead.	
3.4	Team members attend statutory meetings with other professionals, support families experiencing difficulties in a range of situations e.g. housing, mental health, SEND. They make home visits and maintain regular contact with families and carers. They also support Looked After Children.	
3.5	Annual safeguarding training for all staff is firmly in place with a mid year refresher session to ensure that everyone is kept up to date. All staff are required to read the Keeping Children Safe document.	
3.6	Keeping Children Safe – the document is regularly updated; governors read the annual update. Changes in September 2021 included <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ further information on child criminal and sexual exploitation ○ guidance on responding to peer-on-peer abuse, including sexual harassment ○ additional guidance on online safety, including remote education ○ a new section on responding to low-level concerns and allegations. 	
3.7	AST asked whether the alternative provision provided by the school included any off-site provision. GOR confirmed that there were some pupils that were on the Gladesmore roll and on a specialist roll elsewhere. These strategies were used if a pupil was at risk of permanent exclusion and, to date, had been successful. Gladesmore has not permanently excluded a pupil for more than 20 years. Alternative provision allowed opportunities for an adapted curriculum to meet individual needs. This provision could be more vocational than academic and by engaging the individual meant pupils were more likely to attend on a regular basis. More schools in Haringey have moved towards adopting a similar approach.	
3.8	SMA asked whether staff were supported in what was a taxing and emotional role. PJS replied that support was available and advice was available either within school or by accessing outside agencies.	
3.9	AST asked whether governors could be confident that they could not find themselves in a similar situation as the Child Q school. At this point SMA declared an interest in the Pupil Q case. THY explained that there are very clear procedures as to what to do if police come into school and wished to speak with a child. In such an instance they would be denied access to a pupil until parent /carer consent had been received. The child would then only be interviewed with either the parent or an agreed appropriate adult in attendance. Under no circumstances would the school allow a child to be interviewed on their own. THY explained that he had found the Police to be appreciative of these procedures.	<u>All</u>
3.10	There is a safer schools police officer based at Gladesmore. This officer works with pupils and supervises children's safety out on the street at the start and end of the day.	

	<p>This has been extremely beneficial and pupils have built up a relationship with the officer. Governors briefly discussed with the staff present whether it was appropriate for this officer to be fully equipped with the normal day to day equipment he would have on the street. They concluded that pupils were not intimidated by the officer's equipment and in fact this was a discussion point, with children often asking the officer about the equipment he carried. They recognized that the benefits of having such an officer working with the school was very beneficial and appreciated the valuable work</p>	
3.11	<p>EBN asked how the waiting list for counselling services was managed and whether there was any alternative provision for less serious needs. GOR replied that the school has 5 counsellors and that demand for their services had greatly increased since lockdown. Children are not seen in order of referral but in order of need, this results in some children being fast tracked and some waiting longer. PJS added that staff regularly check in with children on the waiting list to reassure them and make sure that children don't feel forgotten. THY conceded that whilst referrals are made to CAMHS demands are so great that waiting times can be lengthy sometimes up to 18 months. This is a national rather than a local issue as the demand has increased following the pandemic.</p>	
3.12	<p>AST thanked the Safeguarding Team for their presentation. <i>PJS, TML, TFE and EDI left the meeting.</i></p>	
4.	<p>Chair's Report and Correspondence</p>	
4.1	<p>AST welcomed GOR to the meeting and on behalf of all governors congratulated him on his successful application and interview for the role of Headteacher. He will take up post when THY retires at the end of this academic year.</p>	
4.2	<p>A small group of governors will meet with GOR, THY and other senior leaders to work closely on ensuring a smooth and successful handover. GOR AGREED to lead a presentation at the next full governing body meeting on the preparations being made for the next inspection.</p>	<u>GOR</u>
4.3	<p>AST reported that Woodside and Hornsey Girls have both recently been inspected. Results are still confidential so could not be reported. Both schools received contact the day before the inspection, which was carried out by 2/3 inspectors over two days. Woodside reported that governors had no control over when they would meet with inspectors and that inspectors kept changing the times of their appointment. The focus was very much around 'where is the school now' and attendance, behaviour, SEND, EAL were very much a focus of assessing governors' knowledge of the school.</p>	
5	<p>School Report</p>	
5.1	<p><u>COVID Update</u> – generally numbers have been low this term with some fluctuations, there has been a slight increase in cases this week, but school has been able to operate without implementing an outbreak plan. The Easter holiday will begin in a week's time creating a break in contacts which may be helpful.</p>	

5.2	The mood in school is very buoyant following the appointment of GOR as Headteacher. The news was very well received by staff and students and has boosted morale and the longer-term outlook.	
6	Site Finance and Personnel Report from the 3rd February 2022	
6.1	ASA reported that the school continues to be in a strong financial position although the surplus has declined due to the planned expenditure on projects such as the additional playground canopies and extension to the value life playground areas, which were needed to help provide better provision for the children during the pandemic arrangements. These projects bring considerable long term benefits.	
6.2	The committee made the following decisions on behalf of the governing body: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To sign off the return for the third quarter • To APPROVE the SFVS return in principle • To AGREE the Charging Policy • To AGREE the Charge Card Policy The full governing body RATIFIED the decisions made by the committee.	
7	Update and Ratification of Policies	
7.1	<u>Representative Curriculum Pledge</u> – the policy was AGREED by the governing body	
7.2	<u>Curriculum Intent</u> - the policy was AGREED by the governing body	
8	AOB	
8.1	Governors Day will be on the 17 th June. New governors are urged to attend, as this is a very informative day.	

Chair _____ Date: _____

