

## SMJPS Full Governing Body Minutes

**12 July 2017, 7:30pm at Sacks Morasha**

**Present:** Howard Joseph, Jason Marantz, Justin Kett, Hayley Gross, Sasha Frieze, Leonie Sher, Simone Gershon, Miriam Kaye, Laura Barnett, Naomi Samuels, Nic Abery, Annabel Ries, Chavi Abeles

**Apologies:** Isaac Hajioff, Leonard Klahr, Irene Mansfield

**1. Simone Gershon** delivered a meaningful Dvar Torah about Sacks Morasha.

**2. Declarations of interest:** Nothing to declare

### **3. Meeting norms**

An exercise was undertaken to build team.

The governors discussed positive ways to lead the meeting, collaborate and listen to each other properly and respect the professionals/volunteers on the GB, putting the interests of the school at the centre.

The group agreed to have 3 positive norms in its meetings:

- **Be kind**, the way we speak to each other, and when to keep quiet and keep the conversation positive, remembering each of our roles
- **Be brave**, to be able to ask good questions and challenge, ask for clarification etc, help other governors to 'behave in the right way' in a neutral manner (underpinned by no 1)
- **Be here**, be 'present' in the conversation, without phones etc, and be here as governors (not parents/staff with specific interest)

It was agreed that meetings would begin by observing these norms.

### **4. Data – see MK's sheet (in lieu of HT's report)**

Each KS2 child in our school was counted at 3.2% (each child in a smaller school is more noticeable from a data accounting point of view).

We're also affected relatively highly by mobility of children – that will only resolve itself by current Y3. School does have the data for children from Reception, taking out the newcomers.

In response to a question about what lies behind the 'Working Below' numbers? The cohort started behind because of changes of teacher, so they've actually made a lot of progress.

KS1 has been externally moderated but this did not go well, and in fact the school received an apology from Barnet because they carried out a poor moderation exercise of SMJPS data, so MK and HG's subsequent assessments were over cautious to mark carefully.

What are we putting in place to support KS1? Radically overhauling, eg introducing intensive teaching of handwriting (intervention and lessons), introducing a Talk for Writing programme for

literacy. Teachers are being asked to refine their skills and subject knowledge in CPD time, and are engaging smaller teaching groups at certain times of day.

The school has had great success in Maths – due to some targeted training provided to staff,

We need to be clear when presenting the data re: what the targets are and how they were met.

We met our targets excellently, but HG pointed out that we pushed the SLT and the students very hard to get those results and other things may have suffered.

There was a suggestion that parents would benefit from hearing a simple narrative about the school's academic successes and the key drivers.

## **5. Governor learning walk reports**

**a) LS's July report.** MK and LS pointed out the need to consider the context (eg. very hot day, a supply teacher, etc) but also need to be realistic and reflect on that reality.

Need to understand how indicative this snapshot was of the general behaviour. MK was clear that in general, behaviour is positive at SMJPS though there are pockets of classes at certain times of day when children do not behave as they should. HG: small playground is part of the problem, behaviour is worse in the afternoon, probably because children have not been able to run around. Behaviour is audibly better after they've played in the park.

**ACTION: For future, reports should be sent to learning walk 'host' or SLT first, for discussion and agreement, before they are circulated to GB.**

Question about the behaviour initiatives – what is still in place? Dojos are still in place in every class. Red/yellow cards are no longer used. A new programme was started, but it is not as yet embedded. SMART system needs to be re-embedded. Only very small level of serious misbehaviour overall.

Especially need to consider the **playground**, which directly affects behaviour, though school is doing everything they can to mitigate it.

JM suggests that LS does another learning walk next term.

## **b) H&S premises review**

HG is dealing with the action points. Will be dealing with storage, safety of wires, secure access for non-teaching rooms, widening rear access gates. The back door should also be reviewed.

LK will support HG with other areas that are necessary.

A cycle of building maintenance and review is being established.

CA pointed out that anything physical to the building needs to be approved by the Trust, as owners of the building

In general, JM thanks everyone for doing their learning walks. He, SG and AR will draw up new plan for next academic year.

## **6. MAT development update – feedback from HG and JM**

This item was held in part two of the meeting.

## **7. Governor's strategic plan for 17-18 academic year**

The strategic priorities set for the year ahead were agreed.:

- Academisation and the establishment of a multi academy trust
- investigate the dynamic of how parents interact with school
- preparation for OFSTED which is approaching

## **8. Election of chair for 17-18**

SG conveyed our gratitude to JM and elected him as Chair for 17-18, although concern was expressed because he has other roles, and offered our support to ease his workload further.

JM is comfortable carrying on at the moment, though doesn't have the free time he used to. His primary concern is ensuring that HG is supported in her role as chair. Should JM be unavailable the Vice Chairs would provide support.

JM would like to keep MAT work on, but wants someone to take Safeguarding from him. NS has offered to take on Safeguarding.

## **9. Meeting dates (amended)**

25<sup>th</sup> October

24<sup>th</sup> January

20<sup>th</sup> March

25<sup>th</sup> April

11<sup>th</sup> July

## **AOB:**

Announcement about the building is imminent.

IH is standing down as Treasurer. We thank him for all his work.

Today was LB's last meeting and the GB thanked her for all her work.

**Approved by Jason Marantz, Chair**

**25.10.17**

***(signed copy held in School office)***