



THE GOVERNING BODY OF SACKS MORASHA JEWISH PRIMARY SCHOOL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE SCHOOL ON

TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER 2018

MEMBERSHIP

LA GOVERNORS

*Irene Mansfield

STAFF GOVERNOR

*Sarah Woodward

FOUNDATION GOVERNORS

*Mark Nicolaides (Chairman)

*Simone Gershon

*Naomi Samuels

Leonard Klahr

*Annabel Ries

*Leonie Sher

PARENT GOVERNORS

*Ben Morris

*Elliott Goodman

*Scott Aaron

HEADTEACHER

*Hayley Gross (Headteacher)

*denotes member present

In Attendance

Justin Kett (Deputy Head)

Miriam Kaye (Deputy Head)

Madhu Nambiar (Relief Clerk)

Part I

18/72 WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

18/73 ACCEPTANCE/NON-ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted on behalf of Leonard Klahr.

18/74 **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no pecuniary interests declared by Governors in the current agenda.

18/75 **MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING HELD ON 17 JULY 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2018, copies of which had been circulated prior to the meeting, were **CONFIRMED**.

18/76 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising not covering in the meeting.

18/77 **MORIAH**

Governors and the Headteacher reviewed the arrangements around the Headteacher spending some of her initial period at Moriah based on the 'Report on Two Schools' which had been circulated with the agenda.

Arising for the ensuing discussions:

- Governors asked about the benefit to the School.
The Headteacher provided a reminder about the money the School is paid from the MAT fund for her time. She went on to add that she was picking up some good practices from the other two schools and her leadership skills were being developed by working with Kirsten Jowett. Comparison of issues and positive elements at the other schools, provided a fresh perspective in relation to the School.
- There was a concern about how parents at the School viewed the situation as there had been some incorrect information spreading among them which had filtered back to Governors.

It was agreed that the communications about the status quo needed to be sensitively and honestly handled by all School staff.

The School staff left the meeting.

MOTION OF CONFIDENTIALITY

RESOLVED that, because of its nature, the business to be transacted be treated as confidential and not for publication.

The staff returned to the meeting and were advised of the Governing Board decision.

The Governors explained their decision and that the assistant heads may get uplift for their roles but these matters would be discussed at a subsequent meeting.

18/78 SCHOOL EVALUATION FORM AND SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Headteacher provided a verbal report as follows:

- The action plan had been put into practice and had been modelled on the Ofsted criteria to make it easier to reflect the planning for an Ofsted visit.
- The Headteacher noted that the SEF was a working document that she kept updated and which helped her keep priorities fresh.
- New staff were settling in well and the staff had generally established a good working rapport.
- Book scrutinies were being done weekly.
- A new pay policy had been drafted and would be circulated to the Governors for comment.
- The Child Protection Policy draft had been sent to the Safeguarding Officer at the LA and the Headteacher was due to meet with the officer to discuss this and be updated of any other safeguarding developments.
- The staff were planning to hold an epilepsy awareness raising day to help children learn how to show kindness and understanding to fellow pupils with the condition.
- This would also be used as an opportunity to teach children basic first aid.
- The Happiness Committee set up to support the health and wellbeing of staff, were meeting termly and it appeared to be going well.

Governors asked what the priorities would be if Ofsted announced a visit in the coming weeks and how were these being managed. The Headteacher replied that their immediate concern was Early Years which included teaching at greater depth, writing and the facilities in the playground. The leadership were analysing data, scrutinising reviews and teaching plans to manage the issues.

The Governors asked to be kept updated about the developments and the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher agreed to draw up a question and answer document to clarify all the issues and proposed actions towards Ofsted preparation.

ACTION: Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher

The Governors thanked the Headteacher for her report.

18/79 KODESH

The Governors thanked the caretaker for setting up the arrangements for the Sukkot.

The Governors heard that there continued to be concerns around the teaching of the Kodesh curriculum following the departure of staff and particularly for the reception class.

It was noted that other Jewish schools were experiencing similar problems and an update to the situation would be presented to the Governors after half term.

ACTION: Headteacher

18/80 **GOVERNING BODY – ALLOCATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Chairman circulated the proposed Key Responsibilities chart and the outline of the reporting cycle.

Governors were requested to send the Chairman feedback by email.

18/81 **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairman proposed that matters relating to the Headteacher's absence from the School was put forward for discussion with parents.

A separate forum would be planned to discuss the MAT.

The Governors agreed there needed to be a pro-active communications plan which would include a parent survey with possibly an incentive to encourage wider feedback.

A working committee would draw up a draft survey and the results could form the basis for an improvement plan.

ACTION: Chairman, Ben Morris, Simone Gershon, Scott Aaron

18/82 **BEHAVIOUR**

The School Behaviour Policy 2017, copies of which had been previously circulated, was received and noted.

The Headteacher requested that Governors review the policy which contained some revisions from last year and send her feedback.

ACTION: All Governors

Governors asked if cyber bullying had been covered and were informed that the sections on safeguarding would deal with issues arising from the use of the internet.

The Headteacher was questioned about how the policy impacted the parent's role and she explained how parents were involved in all stages of the processes before and if, any formal sanction was required.

Governors were pleased to hear on enquiry, that the Headteacher was only aware of two exclusions in the history of the School.

18/83 **JCAT UPDATE**

The Chairman provided an update on the discussions with Stone King solicitors. He added that there were no anticipated changes to the School and control of the budget would remain with the School.

The Governors briefly discussed the financial impact associated with the MAT and the Chairman noted a close scrutiny would be applied to all finance related matters which might affect the School.

18/84 **JEWISH SCHOOL AWARDS**

The email regarding nominations for the awards, copies of which had been previously circulated, was received and noted.

AR asked Governors for bullet points to say why they qualify for awards and a submission to the panel would be drafted for consideration by the Governors by AR and LS.

ACTION: Annabel Ries and Leonie Sher

18/84 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

(i) Meeting Dates

The Leadership were asked to set the term dates for 2019 – 20 which would be approved at the next meeting before being circulated to the parents.

(ii) Safeguarding

Governors were asked to ensure that all safeguarding and Prevent training was up to date.

(iii) Parent Evening

The dates put forward for the prospective parent evening meetings were 20 and 28 November. These will be advertised in the local newspaper and other key places. The Headteacher mentioned that they had already been contacted with families interested in places at the School.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting came to a close at this point.

[Signed copy held in School office]