

**SACKS MORASHA PRIMARY SCHOOL  
LOCAL GOVERNING BODY MEETING MINUTES**

10<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 7pm on Zoom

**PRESENT**

Mark Nicolaides (from 7.20pm)	Chair	Elisa Angel	
Simone Gershon	Acting Chair	Scott Aaron	
Chaja Green		Luci Joseph	
Hayley Gross	HT	Daniel Dahan	
Elliot Goodman	Finance Gov	Rabbi Lawrence	
Irene Mansfield (from 7.15pm)		Tamar Rockman	Staff Gov
		Dean Jayson	Link Trustee
		Kirsten Jowett	CEO JCAT

Mel Lawson	Clerk	<b>Absent</b>	
		Justin Kett	DHT/Head JS

The meeting started at 7.10pm.

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

SG, acting Chair, welcomed all Governors present. She thanked Sarah Woodward for her term as staff governor and welcomed Tamar Rockman as the new staff governor.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Governors were reminded that they should declare any conflict of interest relating to items on the agenda and to return outstanding annual Register of Interest forms. No conflicts of interest were declared.

**3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

Minutes of meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were approved.

**4. HT UPDATE ON**

- a) Pupil attendance – a few children did not engage with remote learning, reasons for which included being new members of the school community. Two year 6 children did not engage, and one was referred to Barnet who spoke to the parents.
- b) Staffing/absence – no issues regarding staff. However some staff are pregnant and are unable to return to school if their pregnancy exceeds 28 weeks.
- c) Risk assessment – this was not commented on.
- d) Remote learning / in school provision – HG referred to her remote learning self-evaluation document circulated before the meeting. Parents were happy with arrangements and staff felt protected. TAs were in school with key worker children and teachers at home except for Fridays when teachers and TA’s swapped locations. Narrowing the gap – children have settled back to school well and assessments are being performed where possible. Medium term plans have been written for catching up and an assessment timetable prepared.

- e) Update on SIP priorities - this was not commented on.

#### Questions

- Governors asked where Year 6 children are moving on to and were told all have places and most are happy with them – see agenda item 7.
- Governors asked how Reception and Year 1 children are and were told they were focusing on play for now, but as the Reception provision had been excellent they had not lost their ability to concentrate.
- Governors asked about return of vulnerable children to normal school and were told some needed to learn to share space again. Some children have been found to have regressed. Wellbeing is being addressed by the SENCo (who has returned from maternity leave) and by an art therapist. One child has returned on half days.
- The staff survey was positive, and two teachers are being mentored as aspiring leaders. HG introduced the new staff governor, Tamar Rockman, who is a year 2 teacher.
- One governor said she thought the balance of education and wellbeing at home had been done well and asked what was now being done to fill the gaps. HG said there were cohort interventions according to need, a 1:1 action plan for supporting children, retrieval practice in history and geography and a checklist produced for each year group.
- Governors asked about homework which had been stopped during lockdown; they thought it helped parents understand where their child was up to. HG said only reading homework had been given.
- Governors asked about resumption of after school clubs, but HG said it was difficult to decide as some schools have already had to close bubbles.
- Governors asked about the timing of the next parents evening and were told it would be end April / beginning May after assessments had been completed.
- Governors asked if the summer term would be more academic than fun this year and were told a good balance had been planned.
- Wellbeing issues – governors asked who children could talk to and were told there is now an art therapist on staff using the wellbeing room, and the SENCo and SLT are available. HG reported that some children had had CAMHS referrals.
- The Governors thanked HG and her team for the excellent results they have achieved in difficult circumstances, including not just the outcomes for pupil results and well-being, but also the very high levels of parent and staff satisfaction.

#### 5. JCAT CENTRAL UPDATE

- KJ share her report on screen and informed governors that the Trustee board competencies were being strengthened and if governors had any ideas for new Trustees to please pass them on.
- A governance audit is being carried out to identify gaps to inform a CPD programme in the Summer Term.

Alan Capper stood down as Chair of Trustees in December and Michael Goldstein is the current Chair. Chairs of Governors have met and will meet monthly. All Heads, CEO and SIP have met with an external facilitator to help with moving forward and a report will be received soon.

- There is a follow up Strategy meeting tomorrow and all governors and staff teams will get a chance to discuss strategy next term – dates in April to be confirmed.
- There will be a monthly report of actions against the Carter review.

Governors asked how the Carter review had progressed since the last LGB meeting. KJ reported that the Trustee board had been reviewed and support provided for Chairs of Governors and for HT/CEO/SIP as described. The strategy meeting will address comms and meetings after Pesach will include all governors. DJ added that not as much progress had been made as they would have liked but they now have a clearer view of how to move forward and engage all stakeholders.

## 6. BUDGET 2020-21

KJ shared on screen the finance reporting pack circulated to governors prior to the meeting.

- There is a finance meeting with the school on Tuesday to share the latest figures.
- The figures show the school is £52K in deficit but this has already come down by 20K.
- There have been 6 maternity leaves in the last year with another to come.
- Miriam Hill is rolling out an actual spend to date for all budget lines against which a potential spend can be decided.
- MN mentioned a query about central charges which DJ said would be discussed offline.
- HG reported she was being careful with spending due to the high maternity leave and is keeping on her cheapest member of staff to cover. She currently has no middle management. Staff parking has been cut and staff are sharing the permits available until 2022. She has cut CPD and has not been sharing resources between schools.
- KJ responded by saying resources could be shared between JCAT schools, CPD is being planned by SIP, a multilevel package of CPD is being rolled out in September with the changes to training for NQT, middle and senior management.
- Governors expressed concern that lack of spending would affect children's education. HG thought Reception needed investment, but PTA have paid for some iPads, other tech has been sourced, they have a lot of maths resources, they don't know what they don't have yet, but it is not affecting learning.
- KJ said she was planning on trimming the budget to help with this and MN and EG could feed back her plans.
- One governor asked if there was a strategy to get out of the deficit position. HG said she could not cut anything else and KJ said that small schools across the county are all in a deficit position.
- HG said she had never been in this position before; staff have stayed, there has been a small stable SLT and there are relatively more kodesh teachers. KJ said it was expensive when staffing was stable, but the result is high quality education. The problem for this school has been the high level of maternity.
- One governor asked about VC's and about cost savings promised on joining the MAT. KJ said she was reviewing all JCAT contracts and would report on savings soon. She could not comment on VC and MN said financial discussions were being held on multiple fronts with the school Trust and United Synagogue.

**7. ADMISSIONS 2021-22**

CG reported a record-breaking year resulting in a planned expanded Reception class of 32 including 24 siblings and a staff member. A full-time teacher plus a kodesh teacher cover the required staffing ratio. 8 new families will be joining the school.

- Following the new admissions policy, a lottery was held for new applications. Offers will be made on 16<sup>th</sup> April. Next year will also be a high sibling year. CG thanked LJ for her marketing and PR work. LJ said that the reputation of the school was key in her efforts. CG said as a result she was still getting enquiries about school places. Asked what the roll was likely to be in September CG predicted 208 but could get to 210. The school cannot be filled up as there is insufficient GAG to cover extra children.
- HG reported that Year 6 children have been offered the following places: 22- JFS; 1 – Yavneh College; 2- Hasmonean; 4 – Non Jewish State Schools; One pupil didn't apply for a state school place and wants a more specialised school. Some pupils have been offered a place at private schools. Of the four children offered places at non Jewish state schools only one child wanted JFS, the rest are going to private schools.
- SG reported a meeting with Reception and Year 1, teachers, parents and governors which parents found a very positive experience. They were made to feel welcome as were new families to the school who were contacted by EA.

**8. AOB**

- One governor asked if meeting information could be sent to private emails but KJ suggested instead that a governors WhatsApp group be set up for meeting reminders.
- SG thanked HG and her team for home schooling, both educational and wellbeing. HG said the culture of positivity made her job easier, creating a community, with huge support from parents.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm

Date: .....

Signature: .....

/ Chair /