



**JEWISH COMMUNITY ACADEMY TRUST
SACKS MORASHA PRIMARY SCHOOL
LOCAL GOVERNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
29th November 2022, 7.30 pm in person**

PRESENT

Zoe Silverman	Chair		
Oli Goldman		Chaja Green	
Dena Shmuel		Elisa Angel (arrived 8:15)	
Rachel Barbanel	Headteacher		
Justin Kett			APOLOGIES
Gareth Jones	CEO JCAT	Elliot Goodman	
Scott Aaron		Tamar Rockman	
Mandy Lawrence		Rabbi Lawrence	
Meir Adler			
Ele Olsen		In attendance:	
Luci Joseph		Sophie Trott	Clerk
Simone Gershon			

The meeting started at 8.00pm

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from EG, TR and Rabbi Lawrence.

2. DVAR TORAH

A Dvar Torah was given by JK and appreciated by all.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Zoe Silverman was unanimously elected chair. Both Simone Gershon and Chaja Green were nominated Vice Chair (Chaja Green in her absence), and unanimously voted to be joint Vice Chairs.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the last meeting were approved, with one amendment:

In AOB, part 5, 'Missioner' should read 'Mishna'

5. STRATEGY AND LEADERSHIP

- a. Change of Governors – Danielle Stone is new. Hed Amitai is no longer a governor.
- b. Declarations of interests - No conflicts of interest relating to items on the agenda were declared.
- c. Governors' training – SA reported that everyone bar one person has completed their safeguarding training, and that person is in the process of getting that done.

ACTION: EO to make a new Google Matrix and take off the old governors.

6. Education and Leadership

- d. Safeguarding SA's termly visit has taken place. Everything was OK. Will circulate his report. Additionally, he is meeting next week with other JCAT schools. There are no major issues to report.

Action: SA to circulate the safeguarding report.

- e. FSM, PP, SEN: There are currently 4 children on PP, which is worth about £1500 per child, and is to be spent on interventions. Not every child has been surveyed for PP, which follows the same criteria as FSM (certain benefits, low income). It's hard to identify these children because the school needs parent/carer DOB and NI to run the check, and there is some stigma to self-identifying. These children were identified by checking 20 families. SA suggested checking with Jewish Schools Trust. HT said that people who don't pay their VCs aren't necessarily PP. GJ mentioned that the school must put on the website how they've spent PP funding by the 31st of December after the funding has been received.

SEN: Mrs Hersh's update has been circulated. Evidenced based interventions are now up and running. The school is using Nessy, a spelling and reading intervention, for 16 children in years 3, 4, and 5. There are licences for up to 30 children. It's based on structured 20-minute sessions on the iPad 4 times per week. The programme can be expanded for use by children who are 'working towards'.

The school is trialling a touch-typing intervention and looking at a writing intervention. They are in the process of buying Clicker 8, which is a writing aid for children who have difficulty writing. This programme enables children to access the curriculum using and pictorial aids and a word bank – the child can write, dictate and use predictive text with the programme.

Q: Is there also support for handwriting? The HT responded that this programme is for children who are not going to learn to write, so they need to be able to touch type because they do not have the motor skills. The HT also noted that the evidence-based interventions have assessments are built into the programmes and are tailored to the child.

Q: Are parents supportive of these interventions? The HT responded that they were, and that this approach is better than a more randomised approach that a teacher might use.

The school has new 'Pen Portraits' which are 1-page profiles for every child on the SEND register. These are kept in the classroom (in a discreet place), so that every adult that works with that child knows what strategies can help them.

The school has had recent SEND insets on executive function and autism training.

There is a new child with an EHCP in reception, and the school has found someone great to work with them.

4 children are registered to begin with Legadel, an early intervention special needs charity which provides professional support (OT, Speech and language, English/Maths) and goes up to year 2. They provide a therapist for one hour a week, plus a key worker four times a week. This is funded partially by the school, Legadel, and parents, with parents contributing £115 per week for 10-week blocks. This is high quality therapy, but the cost prevents some families from using the service. It was noted that Legadel is for children without a diagnosis who are not in the system yet, and not for children with an EHCP.

Q: is this intervention seen as an alternative to getting a diagnosis? The HT responded that it is not.

There was some discussion about whether private diagnoses are accepted by schools such as JFS, or whether it was important to be in the CAMHS system. It was generally felt that if CAMHS is going to be a pathway for a child, it is better to apply sooner because of the lengthy waiting lists, so that by the time the child is in secondary they are already in the system.

- f. Pupil Performance: Outcomes had been circulated by HT. The school is ahead at National and partner averages for KS1 and KS2.
 Q: What is Hillel doing with maths? GJ – a Maths Mastery programme. HT: it's a programme you can buy. DS knows the programme and thinks it is not interesting. She will be discussing maths with all JCAT maths leads.
 Q: Can we publish the 21/22 SATS? HT – yes.
 There was some discussion about progress moving up and down through the year, but these figures are based on a single form entry, which means that each child is a significant unit, so slippage may sometimes be due to one child.
 Q: Affluence is a key driver on doing well in school. Where are we in terms of our affluence? HT – benchmarking analysis is possible from the DFE.
 It was noted that there is a big improvement for Y1 through the year.
 Q: What is the HT's objective? HT – The numbers are nice to look at, but they're real children and as a school we look at it on a micro level. It's also cohort dependent. We track all the children's progress, and the HT is delighted with the statistics.
 GJ reflected that the results are very good.
- g. Attendance and exclusions: there was nothing to report. The HT reflected that should there be a lot of absence toward the end of term, they should look at the term dates in future.
- h. Punctuality and discipline: LJ and SG were very impressed when they went on their behaviour walk, which was thorough. They reported that the teachers were effectively using the behaviour systems, their own charts, and dojos. The children were highly engaged and very well behaved, in contrast to a similar walk a few years ago. Even the children in reception were able to explain the rocket, the colour, and how you felt when you were on a certain colour. It was felt to be a positive outcome. There is motivation to get higher up the rocket. The system was clear which meant that behaviour was managed without too much chat, and children understand what is expected of them. The teachers seemed comfortable using the system.
 Q: Do young children feel very deflated when they are at the bottom? HT – Yes, but it is short-lived, and they are motivated to get back up again.
- i. Pikuach: JK reported that the school has got outstanding from their recent Pikuach inspection. This is particularly gratifying as the school has not had an inspection for some years. It was a positive process. The highlight was the way the children spoke about the school unprompted. The school did not prepare the children for this, but they did select children who were able to speak. The school was also spoken very highly of at a recent JFS parent's evening – 21 children from the school went to JFS last year.
 Q: What about an alumni programme? – JK talked about a Yom Iyun connection with JFS, to link seamlessly in a manner that is appropriate for the school (e.g. an opportunity to sample Jewish studies at JFS). Since the school had wanted to be a feeder school for JFS, but it wasn't possible because of JFS being located in Brent, it would be of mutual benefit to do something like this together. The inspection was very impressed with the ethos of the school, and the whole SLT being onboard – that the ethos is threaded through everything. It was reflected that the school is seen as an example to other schools in this regard, and this hasn't always been the case.
OFSTED: there is nothing to report on OFSTED currently. The next OFSTED will be a graded visit – 2 inspectors over 2 days. There will be an OFSTED ready session to do in January.
- j. Staffing: The school is looking for a year 5 teacher for maternity cover for Mrs Levy. In year 2, Mrs Baron has returned. Mr Phillips is leaving. There were a couple of recruitment interviews this week.
- k. Admissions:

- The revised admissions policy had been circulated prior to the meeting. The meeting voted unanimously in agreement of the updated form.
 - MA had to leave after the vote at 9:20pm.
 - There was a good turnout at the open day.
 - Related to prospective parents, the HT reported that she had many enquiries about after school provision, and she is hopeful that there will be a number of places for an after-school club from September. This will be organised by an external provider, and they will handle the bookings. The school may have to subsidise this until there is enough take up.
 - The United Synagogue has been informed the school will be doing its own admissions form, in line with other schools. The meeting felt that although this means that parents have to fill out a lot of forms, if they're serious about getting into the school they'll apply.
 - Advertising on social media has had some good engagement, which has helped with the admissions. The communications are very admissions focussed. The school is keen to build on the links with Mill Hill East shul. Members of Mill Hill East shul assume that Kinloss families get priority. The school doesn't prioritise in that way. It's a lottery, but more people apply from Kinloss than from Mill Hill East. The meeting felt that it was important to forge these links whilst not giving anyone false hope that they will get in. To that end they are looking at things like choir visits to the shul.
- l. SIP and Self – evaluation form: No comments on the SIP. It was observed that the HT's self-evaluation was modest. The HT will update these documents annually or when there is new staff/assessment data. Going forward GJ suggested that it is worth reviewing SEF and SIP once a term.

7. TEACHING AND LEARNING

- ML reported she has had a quiet term. There are over 40 children in the Megillah club, which is taking place in lunchtimes, it being too complicated to do after school. She has been enjoying watching the playground and reported an issue with the girls being included in football. One girl commented that she had been included in the football (implying that they weren't usually). Year 3 enjoyed the lunch. After year 3 they're not so sure.
- EA is focussing on maths this term, but is currently taking a step back, and looking for a replacement.

8. FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

- m. Expenditure and Delivery of annual budgets There is currently no finance officer.
- n. VCS – these were not covered this meeting.
- o. Premises: Phase 2 is going ahead. There's a delay with the steelwork. As a result, the upstairs classroom is being converted so it can be used in the meantime.
Q: Is the work still on track to finish on what date? The date can be predicted once the steelwork is in, but other than the steelwork they are not significantly behind.
- p. IT: This was not reported on.
- q. Website: The whole site is being revamped. There was some discussion about using Clare, because of response times, but currently this arrangement is working. The new JCAT site went live on 15th November. If a school wants to put their website under the JCAT banner, that will cost in the region of £900. However, the school wants to keep its own site. The HT reported that the current site is compliant, but not totally up to date. The minutes are available; the news pages are as up to date as they can be. JK has a spreadsheet on what needs to be done on the site, and this is being worked through.

9. JCAT CENTRAL UPDATE

Last week there were interviews for a new CEO but because of candidate drop out, GJ is remaining in post until a new permanent CEO is appointed, and the process is ongoing.

March is the date for knowing whether JFS will be progressing into JCAT.

Regarding finance and pay rises, GJ commented that budgets will be under pressure with teacher pay rises, which means that schools will go into deficit, and there will need to be some restructuring.

HT commented that the staffing body has already been slimmed down to pre-empt the budget deficit and be sustainable. As a result, people are feeling under pressure.

Q: Could United Synagogue supply additional funding? The answer was that this is unlikely.

Q: What would happen if the school went into deficit? JCAT would pick that up, but the idea is not to go into deficit.

10. AOB

- JK highlighted that over the past 2 years the school has been working with PAJES, Wellbeing In Schools Award. The wellbeing room is being used for many things, but not wellbeing. Once phase 2 is finished, he hopes it can go back to being the wellbeing room.

Impact of the LGC on the school -

- Updated CRP and admissions
- Inclusivity and diversity policy
- The Behaviour model is implemented
- Phase 2 is underway
- Data monitoring is in place
- Addressed SEND provision which is now improved with new systems.
- JK circulated early closing times to all governors

Chair thanked everyone present.

Meeting ended at 22.15pm

ACTIONS

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION	BY WHOM	BY WHEN
5. c	Make a new Google Matrix and take off the old governors.	EO	Next meeting
6. d	Circulate the safeguarding report	SA	ASAP