

Minutes from St Matthews Primary School Full Governing Body,

10th May 2023

Present: Rosa Motterhead (Co-Chair); Debora Lucarelli-Stockwell; Tony Davies (Headteacher); Annabelle Lewis; Aditi Vedi; Andrew Grieve; Neil Perry; Christopher Jagger; Katie Hehir; Kate Spencer-Allen

Apologies: Linda Jones and Ricardo Herbane.

Absent: Paul Waaldeman

Declaration of Interests: None

Minutes of the Full Governing Body Meeting of 22nd March 2023

Matters arising: Rosa has received new governor safeguarding training dates and Tony will circulate (6pm on 21 or 28 June 2023). Governors to check if they can attend. Governors asked if it was possible to get financial compensation for the problems with the Sonar assessment system. Tony will look into this.

Minutes were agreed.

Action: Confirmation of safeguarding training for governors date

Chair says there have been 8 parent governor nominations.

Head Teacher's Report:

SONAR assessment update. Tony says SONAR has been affected by glitches since an update, so the school may explore a different system.

Tony wants to go through which Link Governor visits have taken place.

School has been affected by two further strike days that led to partial closures. 3 more strike days before the end of the academic year. More unions are balloting for further strike action.

The PTA has raised £8000 from the Colour Run. The PTA will fund phonics scheme and has further ideas for fundraising.

Attendance is lower than usual (94.4), but higher than Cambridgeshire (94.1%) and national average (93.9%).

No exclusions were made since the last FGB meeting. The Y6 girls football almost won the competition.

Resources for Learning

- a) Draft minutes of Resource committee 4 May 2023 and Discussions re proposed Budget for 2023-2024

Minutes are to be circulated. Chris gave a summary of the committee meeting. £70000 in-year surplus aimed for next year to tackle the deficit. 4 year budget shows a return to breaking even. There are 4 years to pay back the deficit. School is trying to steer a middle

path. Additional cuts can be made if necessary. Aim to do things efficiently. Ray Byford said school can adjust the budget if necessary depending on needs.

Governors asked what the risks were to the budget being kept to. A significant one was the need of additional 1:1 support for a child that is unfunded initially. A second significant risk was a repeat of what had happened to lead to the initial deficit in the last financial year, i.e. significant increases in salaries over and above what was expected with no corresponding increase in funding (alongside other significant cost increases such as energy) If there is an increase in salaries over and above what is budgeted without additional funding, this will have budget implications and the budget will potentially need to be changed in light of this.

A governor said that nurse specialists are available to support children with medical needs. Charities can be approached for grants to support medical needs, such as diabetes. The governor said that she would look into whether schools could still access this.

Rosa asked if teachers felt concerned by the budget cuts. Support for children with EHCPs was discussed. 2 new reception children will potentially need 1:1 support to meet their needs but do not have funding at this point. An application for an EHCP takes at least 9 months. School will have to review staffing requirements as needed.

Teachers have been released for interventions due to Covid funding. This will not be able to continue.

The budget was unanimously approved by governors. Tony said the deficit budget licence needs to be submitted which is complex to complete and will be completed following consultation with local authority.

Raising Standards: updates RE SDP

Tony presented the RAG-rated SDP. As we met recently, there are not a lot of further updates. Staff meeting schedule to be changed (behaviour management to 8 June). Subject leaders are doing book looks and assessment data reviews as part of their self-evaluation for next year. In relation to next year's SDP, the management restructure could affect leaders moving to different roles and so in turn affect plans for the staff meeting schedule. A governor asked if subject self-evaluations are occurring on time. Tony said they were running to schedule. Rosa asked how the oracy project is going. Oracy champions have been affected by ill-health. The action plan will continue into next year.

Neil left at 7:08pm.

Action: Neil will write a report about SEND and PP link governor visit to TLOC committee.

Governance

a) Link Governor Visits

Chris has carried out a literacy visit. Aditi has to do safeguarding and behaviour one with Liz. Ricardo to do LAC. Deborah to do second science visit in June. John to do Early Years visit. Andrew and Chris have undertaken finance visits, but Andrew will do a finance spot check.

Action: governors to complete link visits where necessary.

Election of governors: 8 nominees for 2 vacancies. The voting process will be electronic. 26 parents do not have email addresses listed. Voting on 15 – 17 May. Rosa said if we need further governor candidates we can interview candidates to be co-opted. Staff governor vacancy as well.

Future Meetings

TLOC date: Monday 3 July at 6pm

Next FGB will be 13 July at 6pm (post meeting note: now rescheduled for 12th July).