

GAYTON JUNIOR SCHOOL
Minutes of Full Governors Board Meeting
held on Wednesday 6th December from 6.33pm-8.32pm

Present: **J Chapman** **R Singh** **M Bailey** **J Hill**
 D Costema **S Mahal** **R Burnett**

FG2/1 Apologies for absence and consent

Action

LA welcomed all to the meeting and offered apologies from J Lamie, A Cokayne, C Warren and R Gill, all of which were accepted.

FG2/2 Declaration of Pecuniary or Business Interest

There were no interests declared by any governor regarding any item on the agenda.

FG2/3 Inspection Data Summary Report Training (led by Chris Tilley, SSIO)

The governing board welcomed Chris Tilley, Senior School Improvement Officer to the meeting to talk the governors through the new Ofsted Data Dashboard.

CT offered to send the slides out following the meeting, and talked through the colour coding related to the data. CT referred the Governors to the following sources of information to assist with understanding the data:

- Guidance for the inspection data summary report; areas to investigate
- Primary accountability in school
- Guidance for the Data Summary Report
- Secure access portal

CT talked through data related specifically to junior schools. CT stated that the school's data is considered as being of high standard, and would not be considered a coasting school. CT talked through the school's data and gave a presentation, explaining how to understand the new layout of data, and how the data compares to national benchmarks. CT invited emails from Governors regarding any questions they may have related to the data, and addressed these.

DT joined the meeting at 6.41pm.

CT addressed the governors regarding academisation, advising that Derby City Council has a clear stance that schools should not academise. CT gave an example of a school which had been in special measures and moved to good under a federated model and without having to academise.

CT advised that, at one time, the DfE released guidance that all schools should academise, and added that many still hold this belief; CT advised of the governments change in stance. CT advised that schools can still be forced to academise, should they fail an Ofsted Inspection. If this is not the case, the governors can decide whether academising would be in the best interests of the school.

CT advised of politics surrounding academisation and the history of academisation including the different models such as the 'mates MAT' model, where head teachers and governors with good existing relationships have formed MATs. CT advised of other models, where high net worth individuals and entrepreneurs have formed MATs, or how a successful secondary school can set up a MAT of schools all over the country.

CT advised that the DfE favoured model is a CEO led MAT. CT advised that one person is then held to account for a large group of schools under this type of model, which makes it logistically easier for the DfE to monitor. CT gave examples of schools who have academised and the hierarchy that exists under this model; CT elaborated on schemes of delegation, and gave examples of earned autonomy that schools can have such as the freedom to have a governing board, head teacher, staffing arrangements and uniform.

CT referred to future funding options, and the current situation where local authorities have had their funding stripped back, and funds are being given to MATs and Teaching School Alliances.

CT advised that the process for Ofsted will not change for schools that have academised with one exception, Ofsted will now inspect MATs who have had warning letters about failing schools. CT advised careful thought about who schools align with, as underperforming schools in a MAT can affect the MAT as a whole.

CT referred to the four Gunning Principles of consultation and advised the school to follow these closely to ensure legal compliance within any consultation.

CT advised that any MAT will topslice funding from the school budget, which prompted a discussion regarding the funding that is paid to Derby City Council.

The Governors discussed the funds that are taken by Derby City Council, and the increase in sold services and withdrawal of services.

DC advised CT of the additional services that have to be paid for from the SEN budget such as the Educational Psychologist, and JC stated that the council does not offer transparency in its funding of the school.

The Governors thanked CT for his input and he left the meeting at 7.45pm.

FG2/4 Appointment of Chair

S Mahal nominated herself as chair of governors, to which all governors voted unanimously in favour.

FG2/5 Appointment of Vice Chair

R Burnett nominated herself as vice-chair of Governors, to which all governors unanimously voted in favour.

FG2/6 Review of Membership

SM welcomed Jane Witherow to the meeting and asked JW to introduce herself. JW advised that she works as manager at Derby Direct, and gave an account of the experience she can bring to the Governing Board, including Finance, management of staff and change management. All governors introduced themselves to JW.

JC advised that she is aware of one parent who may be interested in standing as a parent governor, all governors agreed that the board requires governors with experience and financial expertise. JC advised that the election for Parent Governor is in progress, and this agenda item should be rolled forward to the next meeting.

LA confirmed that she had written to Mr Z Iqbal informing that, should he not attend this meeting, he would be removed as a governor for non-attendance. LA confirmed ZI has now been removed as a Governor, having not attended a meeting for a period of six months.

The governors suggested looking again at reconstitution; LA agreed to investigate.

LA

FG2/7 Minutes and matters arising from the last meeting – 13th September 2017

SM referred to the minutes of the last meeting, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, all governors agreed they had read the minutes.

JC circulated a draft document setting out the objectives for the Governing Board. SM suggested that the text regarding 'academisation of the school in the future' should be changed to 'possible academisation of the school in the future'.

JC agreed to reword and recirculate. With this one change, the Governors agreed that they were happy with the objectives and JH confirmed she would upload the amended version to the website.

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the chair.

FG2/8 Minutes and Matters arising from committee meetings

SM referred to the minutes of the recent committee meetings, which were circulated prior to the meeting and all agreed the minutes as an accurate record of the meetings.

FG2/9 Terms of Reference for the Full Governing Board and Code of Conduct

SM referred to the document which was circulated prior to the meeting, setting out the remit for the Full Governing Board. The Governors confirmed they had read the document and had no suggested changes.

The Governors agreed to adopt the NGA Model Code of Conduct 2017, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. SM signed the document on behalf of the Governing Board.

FG2/10 Head Teacher's Report

Q- The Governors asked if there had been a response from the Pupil Referral Unit with regard to the child who had had his in-year fair access application to join the school declined?

JC confirmed she had sent a document explaining the reasons why the school could not accept the child and had since received no further correspondence.

JC encouraged Governors to perform visits to the school, RB confirmed she had performed a recent visit.

LH asked RS to visit to perform a health and safety walk-through, RS agreed to call the school the next day to arrange a date. RS

JH confirmed she planned to contact J Lamie to arrange a date for a Pupil Premium visit. JH

DC confirmed she planned to contact R Gill to arrange a date for an SEN visit. DC

Q- SM asked if there were any safeguarding issues that Governors should be aware of? JC responded that on child has been moved to a 'child in need' status.

FG2/12 Financial Audit Sign-off

LH advised that the finance audit was scheduled for next week, and that the Premises, Health & Safety and Finance Committee had looked at the document she had prepared in detail at their meeting last week. SM confirmed that the committee had studied the document in detail and were happy to approve it.

The Governors ratified the document in preparation for next week's audit.

LH advised that she had everything prepared for the audit and the Governors thanked LH and JH for their hard work.

FG2/13 NGA Questions

The item was rolled forward to the next meeting.

FG2/14 Key Impacts

SM explained that key impacts would be a standing agenda item for each meeting to help the Governing Board assess its impact and progress. The Governors agreed that the raised awareness of data from Chris Tilley's training, the finance audit sign off and the discussion held under FG2/11 were the key impacts of the meeting.

FG2/15 Correspondence

JC and LA confirmed that there had been no correspondence received.

FG2/16 Determination of Confidentiality of Business

Items discussed under FG2/10 and 11 were determined to be confidential.

FG2/17 Suggested Items for a Future Agenda

Parent Governor Election

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 21st March 2018

Items for Action

FG2/6 LA to investigate the process for reconstitution LA

FG2/10 Governor visits to be organised. RS
DC
JH