

Flushing Church of England Primary School

Full Governing Body Meeting 4.00pm Thursday 7 February 2019

MINUTES

Present: M French (Head), R Hurrell (Chair), H Dodd, S Treneer, A Eva, L Hygate, P Tregaskes, A Stevenson, K Hughes, L Beverley-Jones, D Cunningham (Penryn College), C Saunders Martin (Clerk)

- 1 AS opened the meeting, which commenced at 4.10pm, with a prayer.
- 2 **Apologies** S Mullins sent her apologies. The new governor was welcomed and everyone introduced themselves.
- 3 **Pecuniary interests**

No new interests were declared and the new governor was given a form to complete.

4 **Induction/training for new governors**

This was briefly mentioned and the Clerk offered to assist and suggested that a mentor be appointed; AE volunteered for this. Areas of special responsibility will be dealt with at a future meeting.

Additional item

Dave Cunningham joined the meeting to discuss the MAT. His comments were prefaced by a quick update from the Head. Marie Hunter has left her position as CEO of the MAT and DC will be moving on to a MAT job in the Midlands, meaning that there are two key changes in the leadership structure. A different leadership model is now being proposed, namely internal CEO and this needs to be considered to ascertain if the governors are still in favour of joining the MAT.

DC updated governors and identified some of the difficulties including Mawnan's PFI contract and the legal aspect concerning the Trefusis Estate. The former situation is likely to be resolved around Easter. Penryn College has questioned the wisdom of appointing a CEO in view of the large funding needed to support this. The CEO therefore now needs to come from within so that will mean that it will be undertaken by one of the four current heads; this raises potential conflicts for that post-holder. Additionally, schools which may have joined the MAT, to achieve an optimum number of pupils at around 2,000, have now moved elsewhere, which is a potential problem in terms of generating income to support the MAT.

There were no questions but a discussion followed. Concern was expressed about Marie Hunter, and DC, not being involved in the future and it was generally felt that joining Kerneneth MAT was now different to the original concept. The Penryn Partnership will continue and, now that the hoped-for financial savings through the MAT are questionable, the governors need to balance what benefits will be gained from joining the MAT, as opposed to just staying in the Penryn Partnership. One governor asked about services that the LA had previously provided and received an assurance that SLAs would continue and would therefore allow these services to continue. Educational school improvement with the other schools would continue in some form.

Another query concerned finances. £232,000 has already been spent on the MAT, although 80% is from Penryn. Flushing owes £10,880 but DC said that he expected that this will be written off if the MAT does not proceed. The legal fees have been paid out of the £25,000 but

remaining funding cannot be used to cover the £10,880. DC was thanked for his advice and information; he left the meeting at 17.00.

A general discussion followed looking at the pros and cons of continuing with the MAT. The next trustees' meeting was on 2 April and all of the schools were being asked to discuss the change from an external to internal CEO/leadership structure and then decide whether to commit to the development of the new structure with a final decision by July 1st to convert or not convert. The governors decided to vote on this but *it was also made clear that it was essential that that decision remained strictly confidential until all the other schools had made their decision.*

The question was whether the governors wanted to opt out now or participate in the trial and leave that final decision until the beginning of July. It was decided to have a secret ballot but *the result was to be kept highly confidential* (minuted under confidential items).

5 **Items for AOB** There were none.

6 **Minutes of last meeting** These were approved by all.

7 **Matters arising**

Under item 6, new equipment, from the PE grant had to be agreed with the Trefusis Estate so there may be conditions attached but it is hoped that it will be approved.

8 **Budget monitoring report**

This was available at the meeting and briefly discussed. The amount of £10,880 had already been dealt with. No other questions were raised.

9 **MAT update** See above

10 **School Improvement Partner report**

A detailed report had been circulated; no questions were raised.

11 **Pavilion provision**

There are financial considerations of putting this into place. The income is not huge and there is rent to pay, some of which may come from the PE grant, plus the cost of a teacher. 4-6 children are likely to attend. Dolphin class must be reduced in size and this will have a cost. A business plan which is workable and sustainable will be a requirement of the LA. It was accepted that it would take time to be sustainable. It is unlikely to offer 8am-5pm care although some parents may prefer this, but it would require a child minder to support the provision. The next step is to discuss this with the likely users to see what people want.

12 **SIAMS**

The values were looked at, as was the strapline 'Nurturing to Flourish in God's World'. A discussion followed concerning the use of the word 'God', notwithstanding the fact that Flushing is a Church school. It was decided to change the strapline to 'Nurturing to Flourish in Our World'.

There is one underpinning story, The Good Samaritan - embracing different values and cultures which is about nurturing and flourishing. Another governor liked the idea of linking a story with the sea, because of Flushing's link with the sea but after a brief discussion it was decided to keep The Good Samaritan.

KH left the meeting at 18.20.

13 Numeracy

Information on this had previously been emailed to governors. 'PD' stands for pupil difference and this was explained by MF. This should be of interest at any inspection.

14 London Residential

This requires permission from the governors to proceed. MF explained the risks now that this is not being run through a company. The only real problem appears to be lost accommodation. One governor asked if there was any kind of insurance that would cover this. MF said that this could be explored but the main concern was finding new accommodation at short notice. MF needs to research this.

AS left the meeting at 18.30

The governors were asked if MF should arrange the trip or if it should be done by a travel company, at a higher cost; they decided upon the former after seeking an assurance that it would not involve too much work for him.

15 Standing items: Health and Safety and Safeguarding

Outstanding building work: Three builders have promised to give quotes and two are being chased.

Safeguarding report. This had previously been emailed and no questions were raised.

16 Governor inclusion/training

PT had recently done part 2 of the basic training for new governors and commented that this was very good. She felt that there were useful tips about visits in relation to inspections and she will forward this information to other governors. HD also attended training recently and the Diocese is supporting LH on a *Leadership in Governance* course from 2 March to 22 June as well as *Values in Education* training next September.

17 The Friends of Flushing School

There was nothing to report.

18 AOB There was none.

19 Confidential

See separate minutes.

20 Dates of next meeting

The next meetings are: 21 March 2019, 9 May 2019 and 11 July 2019.

The meeting closed at 6.40pm.

These minutes are a true reflection of the meeting held:

Signed..... Dated.....

Flushing Church of England Primary School

**Full Governing Body Meeting
4.00pm Thursday 7 February 2019**

MINUTES

- 4 A Ballot was taken to see what governors wanted to do about joining the MAT now that the original proposition had changed and more information had become available. Each governor was provided with a plain piece of paper and plain envelope and they were asked to indicate 'OUT' or 'IN' before sealing their vote and handing it to the Clerk. The envelopes were shuffled, opened and collated from the ten governors present.

The result of the secret ballot was unanimous; all voted not to be part of the MAT and to leave now. MF said that one positive thing to have happened through the process was the close working with Mawnan School and Mylor School. Another governor commented on the opportunity to keep the unique aspect of the school as it is rather than having it subsumed into a MAT.

These minutes are a true reflection of the meeting held:

Signed..... Dated.....