

Minutes of the Full Governing Body meeting of Ivydale School, held via videoconference on Tuesday 30th March 2021 at 6:00pm

Present

Alasdair Buckle (AB)
Helen Ingham (**Head**)
Catherine Mahony (CM)
Bartley Shaw (BS)
Kimberley Starke (KS)
Rosh Wijayarathna (RW)

Lynne Gravatt (LG) (**Chair**)
Peter Lilford (PL) (**Vice Chair**)
Faye Rounding (FR)
Jessica Skinns (JS)
Anna Townsend (AT)

Also Present

Nicole Galea – Clerk

<u>PART 1 Governor Business</u>	
1	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>LG thanked Governors for attending the meeting, held virtually via Zoom due to the continuing Coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>LG reported that all Governors were present and the meeting was quorate. Apologies for absence had been received in advance from Judith Lambert.</p>
2	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>LG advised Governors of the need to declare any interests for items on the agenda; no declarations were made.</p>
3	<p><u>Minutes of the previous meetings: 1/12/20 and 1/3/21 – Parts 1 and 2.</u></p> <p>Minutes of the meetings of 1/12/20 and 1/3/21 (Parts 1 and 2) had been distributed in advance. It was RESOLVED that they were accurate reflections of the meeting. LG undertook to provide an electronic signature for the documents.</p> <p>There were no matters arising not picked up elsewhere on the agenda.</p>
4	<p><u>Governing Body Operation</u></p> <p>Membership</p> <p>The Clerk advised that there are currently vacancies for 3 Co-opted Governors (1 each historically ring fenced for a member of support staff and a parent meeting specific diversity or skills requirements) and 2 parents.</p> <p>HI advised that the upcoming Parent Election has been flagged in the newsletter along with the message that the Board is seeking a wider representation of parents. The election process itself will begin when school re-opens in the summer term. Suitable candidates for the Co-opted Parent vacancy will be considered once nominations have been received. The practical arrangements around holding an election in a pandemic are being considered; it is likely that a paper based ballot will be used if there are more than 2 candidates.</p> <p>HI also reported that the Co-opted Staff vacancy will be followed up in the summer term.</p>

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Headteacher's Report

HI referred Governors to the report which had been provided in advance. She stated that it provides a flavour of what has been going on in school and is used as a form of Self Evaluation for the school and Ofsted's benefit.

Contextual Information

- HI highlighted the key context information which shows that there has been a significant fall in the number of pupils on roll from 567 in November 2019 to 506 in March 2021. The number of pupils has generally fallen in the area and has been exacerbated by the relocation out of London. For Ivydale, it has primarily been white middle class families that have left. This has led to an increased percentage of the other characteristics - FSM, Pupil Premium, BME, EAL and SEND. This increase in eligibility for FSM and PP is similarly reflected in other schools.
- The number of pupils in each year group is being carefully tracking in terms of feasible arrangements for September. For example, Y4 (next year's Y5) is close to being 2FE with only 63 pupils currently on roll. HI added that the current Y2 is also a small cohort (64) but has a high proportion of high needs SEN pupils that need space; it is important to balance the needs of pupils against the financial position would not be useful to shoehorn them into a smaller area.
- However, 2 families who moved away are returning and so Y5 into Y6 is likely to be full and the Reception intake figures for September are indicated as 79 first choice applications and 29 second choice. The number of first choices is very strong, particularly in relation to other schools which is positive. Offer day is towards the end of the Easter holidays after which final numbers will be confirmed. Pending any parental changes, it seems likely that Reception will be 3 FE, which will impact on the staffing levels required. Southwark would prefer 2FE.
- The return to school was planned and organised to be as easy as possible for the children; they have shown that they are very adaptable and resilient which has enabled the return to go well.
- The DfE has now updated their guidance regarding trips. The update is not significant but states that, if the government's road map continues as planned, from 17/5/21 residential trips can take place. However, there are a number of caveats in place and so it is unlikely that any will take place at Ivydale this year.
- The school continues to maintain Covid security with parents not coming in for events or any large congregations allowed. The majority of staff are yet to be vaccinated and so the risk remains high.
- The autumn PLP data was presented to the Standards Committee in February but due to the extended period of remote learning this is now out of date. Data from the end of this term will be used to inform planning for the summer term.
- Attendance has been very good with a 97% attendance rate for the autumn and summer terms. However, it is anticipated that this will be impacted once restrictions begin to ease and holidays are allowed. The school's official line will continue to be that term time holidays will not be approved but SLT are mindful that it is important to maintain wider family links that will have no doubt suffered due to the pandemic.
- The 30 hour Nursery offer has proved very popular and there is now a waiting list; the children have settled very well.
- The pre return to school survey for staff, parent and pupil were discussed at the spring term CFC Committee meeting. There were no surprises regarding the main issues raised, which the school have plans to address.

	<p>Governors asked the following questions: -</p> <p><i>Recent media reports referred to schools as being institutionally racist, does the behaviour report data captures ethnicity?</i> HI confirmed that it does and that this has been discussed by the CFC Committee in the past. The management information system has been changed and now the school is more able to interrogate the data. There has also been work undertaken on unconscious bias.</p> <p><i>How do the number of first choice preferences for Reception compare to previous years, does this mean that Ivydale is likely to be oversubscribed and how this compares to other schools?</i> HI stated that 79 first choices is higher than in recent years but this type of information is not something the LA shares with schools. However, there is still opportunity for significant movement as it depends on movement in other schools, in how many families are still to relocate and also how many families did not apply at all – there is usually at least one family who have not applied for a sibling place. HI advised that she would follow this up when the official list has been received from the LA.</p> <p><i>Is the exodus from the area and London expected to continue?</i> HI suggested that the advice is that it may slow. The biggest loss was last summer and early autumn and was replicated in other schools with a similar profile of families. In addition to some families choosing to take advantage of increased work flexibility and homeworking to relocate out of London, some loss is due to re-housing as Southwark tends to send families out of borough. However, Ivydale has benefitted from some nearby Lewisham schools consulting on closure and PAN reduction.</p> <p><i>Is it the school's decision to be 2 or 3 Form Entry (FE) for Reception?</i> HI advised that the Pupil Admissions Number (PAN) has been advertised as 90, this could be reduced if, in discussion with the LA, it is felt that this is not achievable. However, to do so, the LA must follow a process of consultation. Furthermore, some year groups – such as Y4, which currently has 63 pupils, will probably only have 2 classes next year rather than 3 x 21 pupils. The risk with this however is that there could be casual admissions requests which then require the opening of a third class. This is one of the issues that will need to be discussed with Southwark. It is hoped that it would be amenable to work with the school on this.</p> <p>Further items were discussed and recorded under Part 2: Confidential Items.</p> <p>Budget Recovery Plan HI reported that there has been no progress on this due to her absence, but this will be picked up again.</p> <p>LG advised that she and HI are due to meet with the LA again regarding the budget, but no clarification has been received regarding the number of pupils or site upon which the plans are based. The short notice date of the next Panel meeting for Schools in Financial Difficulty was reported in passing at a recent meeting rather than Heads being officially informed and given time to prepare. Despite this, HI and the School Business Manager are doing all they can to move the Budget Recovery Plan forward. HI stated that there will be greater clarity when the September Reception figures are confirmed.</p>	
6	<p><u>Delegated Items</u></p> <p>Committee Chairs were asked to highlight the key points from the Spring term meetings.</p>	

	<p>Resources Committee The draft minutes of the meetings of 3/2/21 and 17/3/21 had been circulated in advance. PL stated that, as previously discussed, the school continues to face a huge financial challenge. HI and the School Business Manager are doing all that they can to address the deficit but the uncertainty of the situation is impacting on the budget monitor and Budget Recovery Plan.</p> <p>Standards Committee The draft minutes of the meeting of 9/2/21 had been circulated in advance. JS stated that the focus of the last meeting was the Remote Learning provision, Catch Up plans and tracking the gaps in learning. The committee reviewed the steps being taken to address the gaps.</p> <p>CFC Committee The draft minutes of the meeting of 4/3/21 had been circulated in advance. CM encouraged Governors to consider the committees ideas for Board development and increasing diversity and visibility. Suggestions included articles and updates from the Board in the newsletter, photographs and pen portraits on the website and a more robust induction system. CM asked Governors to forward any comments or suggestions to her. Governors discussed the relevance of this in terms of securing parental support for the plans for the future of the school. HI and LG undertook to follow these suggestions up.</p> <p>HI reported that as part of the work to support the Parent Governor election she had drafted a document on the role. AT, JS and LG volunteered to engage in a zoom call Q&A session with any potential candidates who would like to understand more of the role in advance, or answer queries by email. HI undertook to include this in the communication to parents.</p>	<p>HI / LG</p>
7	<p><u>Urgent Business</u></p> <p>LG confirmed that there were no items of Urgent Business.</p>	
8	<p><u>Date of next meeting and agenda items</u></p> <p>6/7/21</p>	

Signed

Date