

## Minutes of the meeting of the Full Governing Body of Ivydale School, held via videoconference on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 at 6:30pm

### Present

Alasdair Buckle (AB)	Lynne Gravatt (LG) ( <b>Chair</b> )
Helen Ingham (HI) ( <b>Head</b> )	Peter Lilford (PL) (Vice Chair)
Catherine Mahony (CM)	Faye Rounding (FR)
Jessica Skinns (JS)	Kimberley Starke (KS)
Anna Townsend (AT)	Rosh Wijayarathna (RW)

### Also Present

Judith Lambert (JL) – Deputy Head  
Nicole Galea – Clerk

<b><u>PART 1 Governor Business</u></b>		
<b>1</b>	<p><b><u>Apologies for Absence</u></b> LG welcomed Governors to the first meeting of the new school year, held virtually via Zoom due to the continuing Coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>The Clerk advised that no apologies for absence had been received in advance and that the meeting was quorate. The absence of Carol Frazier and Bartley Shaw was noted. The Clerk reported that Miriam Facey had contacted her today to resign with immediate effect.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b> LG advised Governors of the need to declare any interests for items on the agenda; no declarations were made.</p>	
<b>3</b>	<p><b><u>Election of Vice Chairs</u></b> The Clerk advised that no nominations for the role had been received in advance of the meeting. PL volunteered to continue in this capacity; there were no further nominations and Governors unanimously <b>RESOLVED</b> to appoint PL as Vice Chair until the first meeting of the Board in autumn 2021. They thanked him for agreeing to continue in the role.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<p><b><u>Minutes of: 23/9/20 – Parts 1 and 2</u></b></p>	
4.1	<p><b><u>Approval</u></b> The minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed in advance and it was <b>RESOLVED that they were an accurate reflection of the meeting.</b> LG undertook to provide electronic signatures and forward the signed minutes to the school for retention.</p>	<b>LG</b>
4.2	<p><b><u>Matters Arising</u></b> It was agreed that there were no matters arising that would not be covered by the agenda. The Clerk undertook to provide an action tracker.</p>	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>5</b>	<p><b><u>Governing Body Operation and Delegation of Functions</u></b></p>	
5.1	<p><b><u>Membership and Attendance</u></b> The Clerk advised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MF had resigned today as a Parent Governor</li> <li>• There has been no contact from CF this term and she has not attended an FGB since the Extraordinary meeting on 20/5/20. HI reminded Governors that</li> </ul>	

	<p>CF can remain as a Parent Governor, even though her child has left the school but there had been a proposal for her to fill one of the Co-opted positions. This has not progressed due to the lack of communication this term. HI undertook to follow up with CF regarding her membership intentions and to confirm the number of Parent Governor vacancies before running a single election process in the spring term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no terms of office due to come to an end within this academic year and no attendance issues to report</li> <li>• There remain vacancies for 3 Co-opted Governors, 2 of which the Board has historically ring fenced for a member of staff and a parent. HI reported that it would be beneficial to use one of the Co-opted vacancies to allow a member of the support staff to join the Board and there have been attempts to recruit but without success. She undertook to canvass staff again at the start of the spring term.</li> </ul> <p>LG noted that as a Board, they should be mindful of any suggestion that the size of the Board is being restricted at a time when important questions relating to the Budget Deficit Plan and future organisation of the school are being considered. CM highlighted the importance of diversity when considering recruitment for all Governor vacancies.</p>	<p>HI</p> <p>HI</p>
5.2	<p><b>Link Governor Roles</b> HI advised that despite the pandemic restrictions she has organised some Link Visits via Zoom and for the key priority visits to happen in school - AB for Pupil Premium, AT for SEN and CM for safeguarding, which should take place before the end of term.</p>	
5.3	<p><b>Ratification of the committee Terms of Reference</b> The Clerk advised that the draft terms of reference, as reviewed by each committee had been circulated in advance. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to ratify them as presented.</p> <p>FR noted that pre pandemic the CFC Committee had been reviewing measures to increase discussions with parents regarding diversity and engagement. She stated that this was an area in which MF had made some headway and it would be a shame to lose it following her departure. It was agreed that CFC Committee would return to this issue.</p>	CFC
5.4	<p><b>Governor Skills Audit</b> Governors were asked to complete the skills audit previously provided as soon as possible and return it to the Clerk for collation. The Clerk undertook to remind those Governors who have not returned their audit.</p>	All gobs / Clerk
6	<p><b>Alternative Approaches</b> This item was discussed and recorded under Part 2: Confidential Items</p>	
7	<p><b>Headteacher's Report</b> HI referred Governors to her Head's Report which had been shared in advance, stating that it provides a flavour of what has happened at school during this interesting term. She stressed that the school has not stood still throughout the term or only managed the impact of the pandemic, there has been much in the way of moving forward: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is especially so in the work JL has been involved with and the training and support provided to other schools.</li> <li>• The curriculum teams have further developed the work they began last year and have driven forward improvements.</li> </ul>	

- There is increased diversity in topics and greater mindfulness of how diversity is addressed in all aspects of work including the resources and imagery used.
- Staff meetings continue to take place in a socially distanced fashion but only within phases to minimise contacts.
- Parents Evenings were conducted via telephone calls and virtual Open Mornings were held with a zoom Q and A. These were well attended and although not the same as usual, they worked well.

#### **Covid-19 Update**

HI advised that Ivydale has been fortunate until this point, but the first Covid-19 positive test was reported this morning. It has affected pupils from one class and 5 members of staff (the class teacher, Mandarin teacher, 2 TAs and a Learning Mentor) who are now required to self isolate. The Remote Learning Plan was ready and in place allowing pupils to log on and continue their learning from lunchtime. The Mandarin teacher is also a class teacher, she is continuing to teach remotely from home whilst TAs support her class in school. All those affected should return to school on 14/12/20.

#### **Contextual Data**

HI stressed the significant fall in the school roll compared to November 2019 data with an overall reduction of 50 pupils across the school, furthermore, there are only 70 pupils in Reception this year. Many families have been rehoused and their understandable unwillingness to use public transport during the pandemic has resulted in them joining schools nearer to their new homes. This has been coupled with the increasing migration of families out of London, some of which is Covid-19 related. The Resources Committee discussed this worrisome trend and the impact it will have on the budget and the Deficit Recovery Plan. Other schools are reporting that they are experiencing similar changes to their roll.

There has been an increase in pupils eligible for and claiming FSM. This is largely Covid-19 related as families update their information following the decision to provide FSM vouchers over the summer and Christmas holidays. Ivydale is now also offering full time nursery places and lunch which has resulted in an uptake of FSM.

#### ***FR asked if any newly vulnerable children or families fall into these numbers.***

HI stated that the school is not aware of any of these being newly vulnerable pupils but there is a slowly growing impact of Covid-19 on FSM numbers. The school is also aware that there are a number of previously higher earning families where a parent is on 'gardening leave'. The situation will continue to be monitored. HI added that she is meeting the new Assistant Director on Friday and hopes to glean more information regarding the impact across the whole borough.

LG added that Resources Committee recently discussed some documentation on pupil projections that Southwark has released for the first time to Heads, it will also be interesting to see the demographic impact of those families moving out on the social balance of the school.

#### **Quality of Education**

- The required Remote Learning Plan has been in place but unused; the experience of implementing it has identified some tweaks which will be actioned.
- The Catch Up Funding (£42k across the academic year) promised by the government is ring fenced to address the impact of the pandemic on pupils. Analysis of the autumn term pupil assessments found that the Y1 – Y3 year groups were most impacted by the pandemic restrictions and so they have been the initial area of focus. Older children were found to have been able to

	<p>access more learning over the summer term and the gaps identified are considered to be less significant (as discussed at the Standards Committee meeting).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 existing part time members of staff have been appointed as Catch up teachers, providing 3 days in total initially with Y1/2/3 receiving a day each. This releases the most senior (UPS) teacher in each cohort to take a group of up to 10 pupils out (30 over the course of the day) for additional core lessons within their bubble. Literacy will be the focus until February 2021, followed by numeracy until the end of the summer term. These staff will then provide small group work for reading and phonics in the afternoons. The remaining children in the class benefit from working in a smaller group with the Catch Up teacher.</li> <li>• From the start of the spring term there will be focussed 1:1 sessions and also small group tuition of up to 3 pupils working on core skills. All teachers and TAs were offered the opportunity to run these sessions before and after school to minimise time out of class.</li> <li>• In addition to the Catch Up funding, Ivydale will also benefit from taking part in the Academic Mentor Scheme. Through this, Teach 1<sup>st</sup> has matched a local man who will be undertaking teacher training next year to provide additional maths tuition for Y4 and Y5 from January 2021.</li> </ul> <p><b>Behaviour and Attitudes / Personal Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following delays due to the pandemic, Ivydale has now finally received the Bronze Healthy School's Award, work has begun on the Silver award.</li> <li>• Aside from Covid-19 related absence, the school has achieved its best ever attendance levels, including improvements in the figures for unauthorised absence, lateness, persistent absence and the number of pupils achieving 100% attendance. 97.2% is well above the national average which is very positive.</li> <li>• The improved attendance data is possibly linked to the lack of term time holidays as the general level of sickness has increased as usual for this time of the year. Although the level of Persistent Absence is greatly reduced from previous years, staff are aware that some pupils who fall into the PP and SEN groups are over represented in the data; this is being addressed with individual families.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>LG queried why the training update included in the report referred mostly to the senior team.</i></b> HI stated that there has been a lack of formal training opportunities and delays from sessions that should have taken place last year. However, there have been some very useful opportunities (such as JL's Women in Leadership) which are more informal sessions rather than actual training. Some learnings have been cascaded to other staff but the LA has only recently started to reinstate their training offer.</p>	
8	<p><b>School Development Plan 2020 / 21 – Key Priorities</b> HI referred Governors to the SDP which had been provided in advance. She stated that the document was for information only, there have been no changes to the document since it was last shared and all updates were included in her report.</p>	
9	<p><b><u>Safeguarding</u></b></p>	
9.1	<p><b>Safeguarding Policy</b> HI advised that the revised policy shared was the LA model policy personalised to Ivydale. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to ratify the policy as presented.</p>	

10	<b><u>Urgent Business</u></b>  There were no matters of Urgent Business. The meeting was closed at 8:30pm.	
11	<b><u>Date of next meeting and agenda items</u></b>  30/3/21 6/7/21	

Signed .....

Date .....