

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SAMWORTH CHURCH ACADEMY GOVERNING BODY HELD AT THE ACADEMY ON TUESDAY 28th MARCH 2023 AT 3.00 PM

PRESENT: Nick Linney (NL) (Chair), Jane Lewis (JL), Lisa McVeigh (LM), Caroline Whitty (CW), Jo Hall (JH) and Jo Yardley (JY)

IN ATTENDANCE: Donna Barnes (DB) (Clerk), Kaley Macis-Riley (KR), Ellie Slack (ES) and Chris Moodie (CM).

OUTSTANDINGS (In date order)

13/05/20	SCAOT Structure and Funds	MA/CW
19/07/22	Governor Benchmarking visit	
	22/23	LM
04/10/22	Energy strategy	
		DB/ES
28/03/23	Dashboard – 'so what' comparison	ES
28/03/23	Review PASAG Terms of Reference	JH
28/03/23	Aspiration – Student Leadership	LM

CONCLUDED
Are listed on the last sheet
(In alphabetical order)

- 1. Talk with Governors:** Mrs Marriott, parent of a Year 10 student selected at random, was in attendance for this item of the agenda. Governors asked about their experience of the Academy, the parent responded that it was not as expected and referred to the disruption caused by the pandemic. The parent referred to some children, such as her own, who can tend to go unnoticed and who aren't as encouraged as much as some others. She felt there has been fewer opportunities and explained this was one of the key reasons for choosing the academy. When positive or negative notifications are sent home, it was noted that there are no additional comments which she commented would be good to have. Reports consist mainly data and she stated she would find more information useful. Some feedback and concerns were shared about a recent JP Morgan project. Mrs Marriott said her child enjoys school and that he also likes the food provided. NL explained LM would respond by email to the issues raised after the meeting and requested governors are copied in. Mrs Marriott was thanked for her attendance and contribution to the meeting.

The parent left the meeting at approx. 3.45pm.

- 2. Prayer:** JL led attendees in a prayer.
- 3. Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received from Val Leivers (VL). The absence of student representatives was noted and DB was asked to make sure they are present at future meetings. NL provided an update on term of office end dates for Stephen Garner and Michael Arlington. NL acknowledged and thanked both for their contributions and length of service on the governing body. NL and JL explained they are working with the MAT to address the current vacancies on the governing body.
- 4. Declaration of Interest:** None.
- 5. What's New:** CM briefed governors on the following topics whilst referring to a PowerPoint presentation:
 - a) The Schools Bill – What has been scrapped and maintained, academisation by 2030, register of children not in school (LA) and faith protections.
 - b) Ofsted – Recent headlines and concerns. Next steps following complaint is for CM to meet with regional director to discuss. NL thanked CM for his support throughout the process.
 - c) Developing the pavilion/legacy building – Nurture facility with investment from SNMAT. It is currently at the design stage but hoping to move forward quickly with the project. A need was identified for a provision for students who are presenting ongoing and significant challenges to their own and other's learning. LM will continue to involve governors in the decisions and plans.
 - d) Industrial Action – Current position.

- e) Growth of Schools in SNMAT – New schools recently joined, those in process of and potential growth over next 5 years. MAT to retain family feel and cap at 30 schools. An update on the support team staffing was shared.
- f) Quality Assurance – Feedback, impact of pandemic, threats, trilogy visits, collaboration and total internal reflection were area discussed. NL highlighted an error in one of reports shared and clarified JH will become the chair of PASAG and not the governing body. NL explained that VL will be leading on the Academy+ project.

CM left the meeting at 4.40pm and ES joined.

6. FINANCE REPORT:

- (a) **Financial Statistics** - ES presented the February dashboard highlighting the current forecasted position. ES referred to the budget reforecast commentary circulated to governors and the following key changes: IT servers, dishwasher, camera, additional salon stations, Leith course costs and art development. An additional energy efficiency grant of £42k has been provided by the government which will help to replace existing lighting with LED. Other energy savings are also being explored and collaboration with the MAT to look at what is being planned across the trust. NL questioned the variance of information on the dashboard compared to previous year – ES to review and consider 'so what' comparisons. It was noted that the community use figure has increased and that February included half term. ES explained that income is just into surplus and the aim is to increase this further. **OUTSTANDING as dashboard 'so what' comparisons ES.**
- (b) **Cash Flow** - As noted above.
- (c) **Capital Expenditure Requests and Pending** – None.
- (d) **Opportunity Trust Performance** – ES confirmed all residual trustees are required to sign off the accounts.

ES left the meeting at approx. 4.50pm.

7. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING held on 4th October 2022 and 13th December 2022 were accepted as a true record and were signed by NL.

8. MATTERS ARISING AND OUTSTANDING:

- (a) **SCAOT Structure and Funds:** CW provided an update on the actions required prior to resubmitting the CIO application. A safeguarding specialist at the MAT is helping with the Safeguarding Policy that is required and MA is putting together the grant application process document. **OUTSTANDING.**
- (b) **Fundraising/Alumni:** DB to add Academy+ as a standing item. **CONCLUDED.**
- (c) **PASAG review and GKIT:** DB to amend standard item on agenda. **CONCLUDED.** JH to review terms of reference. **OUTSTANDING JH.**
- (d) **Governor Training with CM:** **CONCLUDED.** Discussed link governor allocations and agreed to review this once new governors are appointed.

JL left the meeting at 5.20pm.

- (e) **Governor Benchmarking Visit 22/23:** LM is exploring options and to consider schools who do fundraising well.
- (f) **Review Values Message:** LM confirmed this was about welcoming all students. **CONCLUDED.**
- (g) **Energy Strategy:** As discussed under item 6 (a). **OUTSTANDING.**
- (h) **Academy Aspirations Update:** LM confirmed reference to Ofsted has now been added to the document. **CONCLUDED.**
- (i) **Update dashboard suspensions:** **CONCLUDED.**

9. LEGAL MATTERS: None.

10. **SIGNING & SEALING:** None.

11. **MAJOR TOPICS:** None.

12. **STANDARD ITEMS:**

- (a) **Academy Aspirations:** LM provided an update. Attendance is sitting below national average. A new attendance lead has been appointed and will develop strategic actions to improve attendance. The pastoral team has expanded and will support the strategic plan to improve attendance with a view to achieving 92% by October half term and the aspiration remains 96%. After Easter there will be a focus on the start of lessons and behaviour expectations. The behaviour hub has visited which will help offer bespoke advice on how to achieve consistency by taking small steps using existing policies. The key stage 3 curriculum, teaching and assessment is not precise enough as detailed in the KIT/GKIT feedback and work across teams is underway to bring these areas together working cohesively, with focus on precision teaching and classroom expectations. CW referred to the aspiration for student leadership and whether this is clear, LM to review. **OUTSTANDING as Aspiration – Student Leadership LM.**

JH left the meeting at 5.55pm.

- (b) **Principal's Report:** LM reported that training is in place with Citizens UK to develop staff and students. This week has seen two Project Flavour days and the Leiths course is underway where the academy is one of the first state schools taking part in a pilot scheme. Academy+ has launched which included a visit from Ben Bradley and sponsorship for a CRM system has been secured. An event is being planned, to promote the initiative and raise funds and will take place at the end of June. Project 'Can Do' is well underway and has included some inspiring guest speakers over the past few sessions.

- (c) **IT Development:** DB referred to the MIS migration taking place over Easter and plans to replace servers during the summer term.

- (d) **PASAG:** The following policies were proposed following their review and approved by governors:

- Charging and Remission Policy
- Child on Child Abuse Policy
- Child Protection Policy 2022
- Community Use Policy
- DBS Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy

Additional SNMAT policies approved by the board and adopted by the governing body included:

- Complaints Policy
- Cyber Security Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- Expenses Policy
- Gifts Policy
- Pay Policy

The latest Risk Register was shared with governors. DB clarified that the greyed-out areas are due to those areas being updated centrally by the trust team. No concerns were raised.

- (e) **Link Governors Reports:**

- i. Christian Distinctiveness – JL to share update at next meeting.
- ii. Data Protection (GDPR) – JL to share update at next meeting.
- iii. Student Leadership and Development - LM to share the latest student leadership plan with all governors.

- iv. Leadership/Management - DB to arrange for NL to attend an executive team meeting during the summer term.
- v. Health & Safety – JY reported an audit is to be arranged during the summer term following changes within the site team. JY confirmed her attendance at the last governors' forum with brief feedback shared on SIAMS, headteacher wellbeing, drop ins and safeguarding. NL explained that he checks in regularly with LM to make sure she is ok and meets with her regularly along with JL.

13. MATTERS FOR THIS MEETING:

- a) **Environmental Pathway:** Item to be carried forward to next agenda.

14. CONFIDENTIALITY OF BUSINESS: None.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ MINOR TOPICS: None.

16. DATE, VENUE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 9th May at 11am

Dates of Future Meetings:

Wednesday 14th June at 3.45pm (Strategy Event)

Tuesday 18th July at 3pm

The meeting closed at approx. 6.15pm.