

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SAMWORTH CHURCH ACADEMY GOVERNING BODY HELD AT THE ACADEMY ON TUESDAY 9th MAY 2023 AT 12.30 PM

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Donna Barnes (DB) (Clerk), Scott Allott (SA) Ellie Slack (ES), Jack Thurkettle (JT) and Evie Mason (EM).

OUTSTANDINGS (In date order)

13/05/20	SCAOT Structure and Funds CW
19/07/22	Governor Benchmarking visit 22/23 LM
04/10/22	Energy strategy DB/ES
28/03/23	Review PASAG Terms of Reference JH
28/03/23	Aspiration – Student Leadership LM
09/05/23	Dashboard Lettings Revenue ES
09/05/23	Project Flavour PR LM/NL

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

1. **Talk with Governors:** Mr Winterton, parent of a Year 9 student, selected at random, was in attendance for this item of the agenda. Following introductions, governors asked about their experience of the Academy. Mr Winterton explained his child is doing ok and doesn't cause trouble, but feels as a result he is often left to get on and receives little feedback. School doesn't excite his son, but he agreed this is probably typical of most children that age. Not enough information about academic progress is shared, other than end of term assessments twice a year and isn't easy to interpret. Mr Winterton was surprised at generic comments teachers made at parents' evening, often without reference to any notes and only some teachers referred to academic achievement. Positive events awarded by teachers are not detailed and his child often doesn't know what they are for. Communication could be better, teachers don't always return calls and the reason for some detentions is sometimes bizarre. More guidance around homework would be useful, such as how much time should be spent on it and feedback on quality. When asked about the quality of food Mr Winterton said there wasn't a lot of choice and the menu on the website isn't clear. Mr Winterton commented that there isn't much opportunity for participating in trips and activities and his son has only attended one trip, it would be nice to see more. LM responded briefly to some of the comments during the meeting and agreed to respond in detail and follow up on some of the issues raised after the meeting. Mr Winterton was thanked for his attendance and contribution to the meeting.

The parent left the meeting at approx. 1.00pm.

2. **Prayer:** JL led attendees in a prayer.
3. **Apologies for Absence:** None.
4. **Declaration of Interest:** None.
5. **FINANCE REPORT:**
 - (a) **Financial Statistics** - ES presented the April dashboard highlighting the current forecasted position. The surplus/deficit figure does not look good, this will look better next month once funding that is due has been received. Total expenditure is higher than budgeted figure as orders have been placed earlier than usual to take advantage of discounts, the year-end position won't be affected. Pay award discussions remain ongoing. ES talked governors through the changes made to the additional information section of the dashboard which will help with comparisons to last year in key areas. The growth in lettings was noted and governors asked for lettings revenue to be included on the dashboard. VL explained what Academy+ is for the benefit of Evie and Jack. **OUTSTANDING as Dashboard Lettings Revenue ES.**
 - (b) **Cash Flow** – ES reported that the cash at bank figure is healthy.

- (c) **Capital Expenditure Requests and Pending** – Governors queried the capital expenditure figure on the dashboard. ES explained that the costs had been proposed in the mark two budget forecast and noted that separate cap-ex requests should be submitted in future.
- (d) **Opportunity Trust Performance** – ES referred to the value on the dashboard. ES to discuss with MA the inclusion of Heatherdene.
- (e) **Academy+** - VL explained plans are underway to hold an event on June 29th and plans to visit Linney to look at designs to promote this work. DB to invite Paul Hassall to attend the next meeting.

6. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** held on 28th March 2023 were accepted as a true record and were signed by NL.

7. **MATTERS ARISING AND OUTSTANDING:**

- (a) **SCAOT Structure and Funds:** CW provided an update on the CIO process following a meeting with the safeguarding person at SNMAT. Next step is to share draft policy with VL for feedback. **OUTSTANDING.**
- (b) **Governor Benchmarking Visit 22/23:** LM has identified a school that does fundraising well and would be good to visit. Next step is to contact them to try and arrange a visit, they are based in North London. **OUTSTANDING.**
- (c) **Energy Strategy:** ES advised there is no further progress to share from a MAT perspective, but a working group has been established. The LED lighting project continues to progress, and trials have taken place in classrooms to remove fittings which will reduce costs by approximately 50% with works planned to take place during the summer holiday period. Longer term plans are being considered and ES is keen to talk to contacts in other organisations – NL and CW were happy to share contacts and JL recommended discussions with contacts at the Diocese. ES/DB to report on solar at the next meeting. **OUTSTANDING.**
- (d) **Dashboard – ‘so what’ comparison - CONCLUDED.**
- (e) **Review PASAG Terms of Reference** – JH advised this work is almost complete and will then be shared. **OUTSTANDING.**
- (f) **Aspiration – Student Leadership** – LM/CW need to meet to discuss this and then look at a fix. NL shared some feedback on discussions about student leadership that took place with Evie and Jack prior to the meeting instead of a tour. Project Agency was discussed and it was agreed to refer to this work as Project Student Leadership in future. LM to continue providing updates through the monthly principal's report.

8. **LEGAL MATTERS:** None.

9. **SIGNING & SEALING:** None.

10. **MAJOR TOPICS:** None.

11. **STANDARD ITEMS:**

- (a) **Academy Aspirations:** LM reported that attendance has dipped and is below national average. A new attendance lead is now in post and keen to get stuck in and implement some strategies to improve. Governors asked why attendance has dipped, LM explained some of the issues that exist within local community. It is too easy for some students to opt not to come in and to use any excuse, such as strike days, following bank holidays, when some don't feel like it or take opportunity for extended holidays. Strategic work is underway to identify patterns, discuss concerns at earlier opportunities with parents and to be more pro-active when tutor groups are re-established.

LM referred to changes that are taking place with SIAMS inspections which will mean schools will be judged as pass or fail from September.

- (b) **Principal's Report:** LM referred to the April report and teaching vacancies that are being advertised and so far not generating many applications. The current landscape of recruitment was discussed, LM confirmed she is keeping a close eye on the situation and is exploring all options. Year 9 have just participated in a Project Flavour Day with Year 7 due to be involved in a day next week. Evie and Jack commented on their experience which they said was good but that the timing could have been better as it was near to exams. LM to follow up on the promotion of Project Flavour and NL/LM to discuss further. **OUTSTANDING as Project Flavour PR LM/NL.**

LM referred to the recent increase of staff on gates at the end of the day due to separate incidents which were managed pro-actively and the police involved and supported where necessary. Positive feedback was shared about the academy being able to open to all students on strike days and how well it was managed. LM advised the Round Square Conference, hosted by the Academy, was ending today after a weekend of activities with visitors from around the world.

- (c) **IT Development:** Student leaders shared their view about IT in school, both commented it had improved and equipment updated, with positive feedback on the Chromebooks available to sixth form students. DB asked about connectivity and will explore this with them further to obtain feedback. DB explained Windows 10 will not be supported after October 2025 which will impact quite a lot of the computers in school. The development group are exploring options and researching but advised it is likely there will be the need for cap-ex requests in the next couple of years to address this concern.

DB reported that the migration from ISAMS to Bromcom took place over the Easter break. There are some minor issues which need resolving, however their customer service isn't as responsive as we'd like, therefore we are escalating this through their complaints process and are hopeful it will be resolved quickly.

- (d) **PASAG:** VL provided a brief update following the last meeting which had a curriculum focus on Drama. Several changes are taking place and includes JH taking over as chair of the group which is evolving. The name of the group is most likely to change, and JH is reviewing the remit of the group and this section of the governor agenda for future meetings. Feedback from the last GKIT was shared, with particular reference to the key stage 3 curriculum which is an area currently being focussed on. VL referred to a recent safeguarding course attended and offered to share the resources. NL thanked VL for chairing the group over the years. The following policies were proposed following their review and approved by governors:

- CPD Policy
- ECT Policy

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

- i. Christian Distinctiveness – JL has met with LM and AB to discuss SIAMS changes and start putting together an action plan to prepare for the next inspection. AB is working on a calendar of faith and culture events. Training is underway with Citizens UK involving students. Contacts are developing with local church leaders.
- ii. Data Protection (GDPR) – JL referred to recent minor breach and plans to carry out an audit during the summer term.
- iii. Student Leadership and Development – CW in process of setting up meeting with LM, CB and student leaders and will have more to report at the next meeting. CW said she looks forward to seeing a change now students are being given the right tools.
- iv. Leadership/Management - DB to arrange new date for NL to attend an executive team meeting during the summer term.
- v. Health & Safety – JY reported that she has now met the new site manager and has shared the historic audits. Actions were discussed and plans are in place to meet again in July to conduct an audit. Positive feedback was shared and JY is confident he has skills needed for the job and make a difference.

13. MATTERS FOR THIS MEETING:

- a) **Environmental Pathway:** Governors looked at the Church of England 'Environmental Pathway to Net Zero Carbon 2030' resource, Green Governance slide. JH confirmed that the MAT are currently in the early stages of developing their own policy. ES to find out what the action plan is for the MAT and where they are with the policy. NL volunteered to be a 'green' governor, ES staff sustainability lead. Jack and Evie to discuss and appoint a group of student ambassadors to work with all stakeholders. LM to factor into the improvement plan and make sure staff are aware of the priority to become NZC by 2030 with Evie and Jack to share with students. ES/DB to look at and sign up to the Let's Go Zero Campaign if appropriate. Add Net Zero Carbon 2030 as regular item on agenda for ES to report on.

14. CONFIDENTIALITY OF BUSINESS: None.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ MINOR TOPICS: DB explained that Severn Trent are undertaking several projects in the area to prevent flooding and are planning to install a sustainable drainage system at the bottom of the playing fields behind high ropes area. The estates manager at SNMAT, the Academy and Nottinghamshire County Council are involved and are being consulted with about the plans. Works are planned to take place over the summer.

16. DATE, VENUE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 11th July at 2pm

Dates of Future Meetings:

Wednesday 14th June at 3.45pm (Strategy Event)

The meeting closed at approx. 3.10pm.