

SASS NonConfMins 101220 CA

STEPNEY ALL SAINTS CHURCH OF ENGLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Governing Board held via Zoom on Thursday 10th
December 2020 at 5.30 p.m.**

In attendance

Governors

Mr Paul Wood (PW)	Headteacher
Mrs Angela Hancock (AH)	Foundation PCC, Chair of Governors
Ms Hendrika Santer Bream (HSB)	Foundation, Vice Chair of Governors
Mr Abzal Ali (AA)	Parent Governor
Ms Katie Carr (KC)	Co-opted Governor
Mr Nurur Chowdhury (NC)	Parent Governor
Ms Julia Clarke (JC)	Local Authority Governor
Rev Trevor Critchlow (TC)	Ex Officio
Mr Dermot O'Brien (DO)	Foundation Governor
Ms Nicki Regan (NR)	Staff Governor
Ms Ann Slater (AS)	Foundation

Present

Ms C Strelitz (CS)	Clerk, Clerking and Appeals Associates Ltd
Mr Benjamin Siaw (BS)	Observer, Deputy Headteacher
Mr Nicolas O'Brien (NIO)	Observer, Deputy Headteacher

The meeting opened with a prayer.

1. APOLOGIES

That the apologies of Nicola Ahmed and Mr David Richards (DR) were received.

RESOLVED: that the apologies of NA and DR were received, and the absence of DR was consented to.

2. GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERSHIP

There were no appointments, resignations or end of office pending.

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3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON 8TH OCTOBER 2020

The minutes of the meetings held on 8th October 2020 were circulated to the meeting.

Governors' Attendance Policy and Standing Orders to be reviewed and revisited in Spring 2021.

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RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 8th October 2020 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting subject to noting that Katie was a member of the Finance and Premises Committee.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Governors referred to Page 4 and Staff Wellbeing and if the results of the staff survey were being shared with staff. PW noted that it had been shared with staff and he would follow up associated actions.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT AND CHAIR'S ACTION

AH noted that they had held a Pupil Exclusion Committee to review a fixed term exclusion, which was upheld. AH advised that she had also dealt with a Stage 1 Parent Complaint, which she had responded to with no further response.

Governors asked if AH was going into school. AH said that she was visiting school and in response to questions said it was a considered risk and that precautions were being made. Governors suggested that it was possible to govern remotely under the circumstances and asked what the school leadership view was. PW stated that they had minimised visitors to school and that PW said that AH mitigated the risk. Governors suggested that the risk now was potentially higher due to a-symptomatic individuals.

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6. HEADTEACHER'S BRIEFING - AUTUMN 2020

PW noted that he had not received any questions to his report.

PW advised that in the previous week when school had re-opened, it had been virtually full but that it had since had to close Year 7, 50% of Year 9 and Year 12 were in this week. PW stated that the process of track and trace for positive cases was complex, but comprehensive. They had on occasion had to make the decision in the morning to send students home due to the late reporting of a positive case and the associated time to follow track and trace procedures. PW acknowledged his thanks to NA for the significant work and robust approach to leading.

Governors asked if the fire break had worked. PW said it was hard to tell. There had been three separate isolations for Year 13 and multiple closures for Year 11. PW said that the firebreak did not appear to work. NA provided a summary of the process to consult the DfE, Public Health England (PHE) and there was no indication there were in-school transmissions. NA said that the measures to partially close bubbles were not a guarantee due to siblings who were instructed to remain in school. PW stated that there were also duplications in the bureaucracy and DfE and PHE had moved to a relaxed approach.

Governors noted that all those attending the meeting should be doing so in a confidential manner.

Governors asked what impact was for Year 11 and Year 13. BS said that they did not have data for Year 11 as they had moved the planned mock exams twice, which were now due on 11th December 2020. BS said that the focus was to establish where students

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were versus where they needed to be, which they hoped would alleviate anxiety for both students and parents. BS advised that they had data for Year 13 and they had to ensure analysis was clear and communicated clearly to parents and students. BS stated that they were giving predicted grades out shortly to support UCAS applications.

Governors asked if all students were equipped with what they required for remote learning. BS said that they continued to have an open dialogue with parents, and they were encouraged to inform pastoral leaders if there were challenges. BS said that nearly all had access to devices and the students had been creative using mobile phones to access Google Classroom, and many were uploading written work as photos. BS said they were moving to live lessons online for blended learning.

PW stated that schools had been advised that they must continue to track and trace. They had offered an inset day on 18th December 2020 and he had decided not to take that up and they would take a half day as they always did at the end of term. In response to questions PW noted that all responses were GDPR compliant.

Governors of the Finance and Premises Committee said that they had understood the school would supply every child with a laptop. PW stated that it was a bid which had been submitted to the Cass Foundation, which was not successful.

Governors had a lengthy discussion regarding historical bids which had also been unsuccessful and asked if TC could support the process. TC noted that he had to remind Governors of his potential conflict as part of the Foundation Committee but he had suggested that the school meet with the Foundation ahead of the next bid.

PW noted that Megan Falck had reviewed the bids ahead of submission and said that they were fine, but they had still been rejected. PW stated that there were clearly barriers or process issues within the system.

Governors agreed that it was a significant use of leadership's time to prepare bids which were subsequently unsuccessful.

AH said that they could look at Grants for Schools to develop a future bid funding strategy.

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7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- Personnel and Curriculum 19th January 2021 at 5.00 p.m.
- Finance and Premises Committee Tuesday 16th March 2021 at 5.00 p.m.
- Full Governing Board Thursday 25th March 2021 at 5.00 p.m.

8. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Grants and Funding Bids
- Cass Foundation Bids review and strategy
- Online Teaching Presentation
- Co-operation with other schools

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AH thanked BS, NA and NIO for their amazing work and supporting PW to lead the school so well during such a difficult time.

9. ANY OTHER CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

JC stated that she had attended NGA E-Learning Safeguarding training.

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PW advised that a Governors' Dismissal Appeal had been held and his decision had been upheld.

AH thanked everyone for their support and continued governance particularly HSB, as **Vice Chair** and AS and TC in their roles as Chairs of Governor Committees.

Meeting closed 6.28 p.m.

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE:.....
DocuSigned by:
Angela Hancock
C4041947992B43D1.....

12-10-2021

DATE SIGNED:...../...../.....