

**SASS NonConfMins 250321 CA**

**STEPNEY ALL SAINTS CHURCH OF ENGLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL**

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Governing Board held via Zoom on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>  
March 2021 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
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
Mr David Richards (DR)	Foundation Governor
Mr Tim Duncan (TD)	Co-opted Governor from item 3

**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
Ms Nicola Ahmed (NA)	Observer, School Business Manager

The meeting opened with a prayer.

**1. APOLOGIES**

The apologies of Mr Nurur Chowdhury (NC), Parent Governor, due to work commitments were received.

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

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

Governors noted that Tim Duncan (TD) was recommended for appointment as a Co-opted Governor by the Chair of Governors and Headteacher. TD provided a summary of his experience, which had been circulated and noted his personal and professional experience which he hoped to contribute to the Governing Board.

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CS noted that Mr David Richards' appointment as a Foundation Governor ended on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

HSB noted her end of office 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021 and advised that she did not intend to stand for re-appointment. HSB provided a summary of her experiences at SASS and noted that she had seen significant changes and improvements and said that PW had re-shaped the school and it was very fortunate to have a sound Governing Board and school leadership team.

RESOLVED: that following a unanimous vote in favour TD was appointed as a Co-opted Governor for the term of four years.

**4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020 AND MATTERS ARISING**

The non-confidential minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020 were circulated to the meeting.

RESOLVED: that the non-confidential minutes of the meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting subject to noting that David Richards was in attendance.

**5. CHAIR'S REPORT AND CHAIR'S ACTION**

None.

**6. HEADTEACHER'S REPORT SPRING 2021**

PW noted his Headteacher's Report Spring 2021 and invited questions to the report circulated.

Governors asked what the feedback was from students regarding receiving devices. PW said that some students to whom he taught French had been very positive, and the impact of the use of laptops in day-to-day lessons was good and had improved the pace of lessons.

PW noted that there had been a reduction of on-call behaviour issues as students were much more self-directed in their learning. NIO noted that student feedback had been very positive. BS said the impact of being able to use the devices in the classroom, without moving to computer rooms had improved the flexibility in teaching delivery significantly.

Governors suggested that the feedback noted, which was clearly positive and effective, could be used when submitting future funding bids.

Governors asked if the volume of referrals to the learning centre, particularly hard to place, was an issue. BS said that the learning centre was working well, that there were some who were school refusers that had now wanted to return to school, one of whom had missed almost a year of school but had returned with 100% attendance. BS said that the learning centre numbers were fluid, and it was a flexible supportive model, which was used to prevent fixed term exclusions. Governors noted that the provision was very strong and well thought out and delivered.

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RESOLVED: that the school provided feedback to the Portal Trust regarding the impact of the provision of laptops.

**7. TERM DATE PROPOSAL**

Governors noted that the Term Date Proposal had been presented to both Sub-Committees and was now submitted for approval.

Governors asked if any parents had responded to the consultation. PW said there had been two responses, both had been very positive. Governors asked if there was a reason there had been only two responses. PW advised that he had sent the consultation out in two, possibly three Headteacher's letters and there had been no response. Governors asked how the responses compared to other consultations. PW said that the parent body had confidence in the school, and he viewed it that the overwhelming majority had no issues with the change.

RESOLVED: that the Governing Board approved the changes to the school term dates to include a two-week Autumn half term.

**8. ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCHOOL FINANCIAL VALUE STANDARDS AND BUDGET APPROVAL 2021-2022**

NA noted that the SFVS deadline had been extended to the end of May 2021, which would be reviewed at the Finance and Premises Committee NA suggested that the Budget 2021-2022 approval was reviewed by the F&P Committee and that the final approval would be via email to Governors.

RECEIVED.

**9. SWIMMING POOL PROPOSAL**

TC, as Chair of the Finance and Premises Committee, presented the proposal, options available and the rationale which underpinned the recommendation. TC noted that the LDBS had completed a full condition survey and developed a ten-year plan, which had suggested the swimming pool was updated and redeveloped in year eight.

TC noted the impact of the swimming pool provision as a unique selling point (USP) of the school in recruitment of pupils, community use and the importance of SASS pupils being able to swim, in addition to supporting the PE curriculum and health and wellbeing.

TC said that BS had prepared a challenge to the ten-year priority list, and as a consequence the school had presented a proposal to the Finance and Premises Committee, supported by a working party including himself, BS and AS. TC stated that the suggestion was that the school utilised £300k of the surplus carry forward to contribute to the project. TC said to redevelop the changing rooms, which were secure, had an external entrance and improved Safeguarding would require a further £100k.

The majority of Governors noted their support of the proposal which would be a fantastic asset to the school, and retained the history of the school as well as protecting a broad offer for the future. Parent Governors noted that the school swimming pool was a

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significant part of the school's attraction and parents often asked when it would be re-developed.

Governors asked how confident the school was regarding the funding bids and likely costs. BS said that subject to the Governing Board being in favour of the proposal in principle, the school would meet with the companies which had tendered, supported by the LDBS consultant. This would lead to surveys and provide detailed quotes. BS said the company who had provided the outline estimate was confident that the provisional estimate was close to the actual detailed costs.

Governors asked if the previous rental income was secure, following Covid-19. NA said that the Love to Swim team had been in touch regularly and were very keen to re-use the provision for the community and the school.

The Governing Board noted the positive impact of Learning to Swim on pupils' safety, water awareness and confidence. Governors agreed that it was a life skill, which could save lives particularly as the area of the school and its children and families was surrounded by the River Thames and canals.

Governors noted that public pools locally were closing and therefore it was a good idea on many levels, taking into account the risk of ongoing costs for upkeep and maintenance. AS noted that only 50% of pupils at the end of Year 6 met the statutory requirement for swimming and the progress made in Year 7 and Year 8 was phenomenal with many becoming advanced swimmers.

BS advised Governors that the school was committed to the swimming curriculum irrespective of the proposal.

Governors referred to issues faced by primary schools' ambitions not being met, was lack of swimming provision in the community and asked if it was possible to make connections with local primary schools to use for swimming lessons and generate further income.

Governors agreed that if they were to proceed with the swimming pool it must be promoted on the school website. PW stated that the leadership were going to extend the work with primaries and look at a timetable to consider what they could offer to primary schools particularly with local provision likely to close.

TC concluded that the recommendation was to approve £300k expenditure and if the bid funding was successful, and if the budget permitted, the changing rooms were also to be included.

RESOLVED:

- 1) that following in a unanimous vote in favour the Swimming Pool Proposal was approved
- 2) that the Swimming Pool Proposal would include updates to the changing room as a priority if the budget permitted.

**10. STANDING ITEMS**

- Safeguarding
- Premises and Health and Safety

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- GDPR

See Headteacher's Report circulated to the meeting.

### **11. POLICIES**

Governors noted policies circulated to the meeting following review by various Committees and working parties.

- Governors' Standing Orders

Recommended by Finance and Premises 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021:

- Pay Policy
- Disability Access Policy
- Charging and Remissions Policy
- Data Protection Policy

Recommended by the Personnel and Curriculum Committee 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021:

- RSE Policy
- Supporting Children with Medical Needs Policy
- Designated Teacher Policy
- Remote Learning Policy
- NQT Policy

RESOLVED:

- 1) that the Governing Board Standing Orders were in draft for comment at the next meeting ready for approval for Autumn 2020
- 2) that the policies circulated, and recommendations, were ratified as circulated

- Pay Policy
- Disability Access Policy
- Charging and Remissions Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- RSE Policy
- Supporting Children with Medical Needs Policy
- Designated Teacher Policy
- Remote Learning Policy
- NQT Policy

### **12. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Governors noted minutes of the Committee meetings which had been circulated which included:

- Finance and Premises 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021. TC advised that they had considered the end of year projections, reviewed the outline first draft budget, robustly reviewed the Swimming Pool Proposal.

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- Personnel and Curriculum Committee 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021. AS said there had been strong presentations received by the Committee meetings.
- Pay Committee. HSB noted that the meeting date had moved from December to January, due to Covid-19. HSB advised that the recommendations had been reviewed in detail. Following the review the Committee had approved the recommendations as presented.

HSB said that there had been one additional recommendation which had been agreed outside of the meeting via email. DR noted that he had requested the minutes were circulated to the Full Governing Board. CS noted that when approved for circulation she would circulate them to the next meeting following Chair's Approval.

### RESOLVED:

- 1) that CS would circulate the draft Pay Committee minutes to the next meeting, subject to approval by the Chair of the Pay Committee
- 2) that CS checked the name of Committees to ensure the Personnel and Curriculum Committee was correctly detailed.

## **13. GOVERNORS' REPORTS**

AH said it was likely Link Governors' visits would resume in the Summer term.

## **14. GOVERNORS' TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

AH provided a summary of the Skills Audit, which would be the NGA version and promoted the importance of training.

## **15. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

- Personnel and Curriculum Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 5.00 p.m.
- Finance and Premises Committee Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 5.00 p.m.
- Full Governing Board Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 5.30 p.m.

## **16. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Catch-up premium and monitoring plan – to be presented to a future Personnel and Curriculum Committee.

## **17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

AH thanked HSB for her significant contribution to the Governance of SASS and noted her personal thanks to her for the support she had provided during challenging circumstances. PW noted his sincere thanks and said that she had been a wise and sensible supporter of him professionally and with difficult HR issues. PW said that HSB

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had always been an active Governor, particularly for difficult panels, and was always thorough, fair and transparent. PW said that on behalf of everyone he wanted to say thank you. AS and TC noted their considerable thanks over her time as a Governor and noted that it was the school which had benefited.

Meeting closed 7.09 p.m.

**CHAIR'S SIGNATURE:.....**   
12-10-2021  
**DATE SIGNED:...../...../.....**