

STEPNEY ALL SAINTS CHURCH OF ENGLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL

**Non-Confidential Minutes of a meeting of the Governing Board of
Stepney All Saints Church of England Secondary School
held on Thursday 23rd June 2022 at 5.00 p.m. via Zoom**

In attendance

Governors

Ruth Bujack (RB)	Parent Governor
Katie Carr (KC)	Co-opted Governor
Nurur Chowdhury (NC)	Parent Governor
Trevor Critchlow (TC)	Foundation Governor – Ex-Officio
Tim Duncan (TD)	Co-opted Governor
Angela Hancock (AH)	Foundation Governor – Church, Chair of Governors
Fiona Lin (FL)	Co-opted Governor
Nicki Regan (NR)	Staff Governor
David Richards (DR)	Foundation Governor – LDBS
Ann Slater (AS)	Foundation Governor – Portal Trust
Mary Straw (MS)	Foundation Governor – Deanery Synod
Paul Woods (PW)	Headteacher, Ex Officio

Present

Miriam Baguley (MB)	Clerk, Clerking and Appeals Associates Ltd
Nichola Ahmed (NA)	School Business Manager, Observer
Shiulee Begum (SB)	Deputy Headteacher, Observer
Benjamin Siaw (BS)	Deputy Headteacher, Observer

The meeting opened with a prayer led by TC.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

- Julia Clarke (JC) LA Governor
- Simon Cook (SC) Foundation Governor – Church (Bishop of Stepney representative)

RESOLVED: that the Governing Board accepted the apologies of JC and SC, and their absences were consented to.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

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3.1. Resignations

AS and NR were both leaving the Governing Board with effect from 24th June 2022. AS had resigned in order to pursue other interests and NR was retiring from teaching.

3.2. End of Office

None.

3.3. Appointments

None.

3.4. Vacancies

Four Foundation Governor vacancies were noted.

Governors highlighted that the Foundation Governor vacancies had been outstanding for a significant period and this should be raised with the Portal Trust. The impact of the vacancies on the work and effectiveness of the Governing Board was noted

AH advised that she had raised the matter with the Portal Trust on numerous occasions. AS said that she had also suggested to them that vacancies could be filled by approaching Inspiring Governance and Governors for Schools.

RESOLVED: that AH, with the support of AS, would write a formal letter to the Portal Trust to request that the matter of vacancies be discussed at their next meeting.

DR joined the meeting at 5.15 p.m.

4. NON-CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24TH MARCH 2022

The non-confidential minutes of the meeting held on the 24th March 2022 were circulated to the meeting.

Amendments noted were that there was a school tour before the meeting and not a learning walk, and that the meeting was held in person and not via Zoom.

RESOLVED: that the non-confidential minutes of the meeting held on 24th March 2022 were approved to be signed as an accurate record of the meeting subject to the amendments noted.

5. MATTERS ARISING

None.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Personnel and Curriculum 7th June 2022. MS noted the business covered which included the implications of the DfE white paper. Minutes of the meeting would be circulated when complete.

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- Finance and Premises 26th May 2022. TC presented the business considered which included:
 - 2021-2022 year-end outturn
 - 2022-2023 budget
 - site feasibility study and building strategy
 - recruitment and retention allowance.
- Governors' Fund Staff Celebration and Appreciation function. AH advised that the Finance and Premises Committee had approved a sum of money from the Governors' Fund to be spent on an end of term event for staff on 21st July 2022 to which Governors were invited. The event was to be held in celebration of the end of the year which included a successful Ofsted inspection and in recognition of the contribution of staff especially during the pandemic. The venue had been chosen to ensure all staff felt comfortable to attend.

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7. HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE SUMMER 2022

PW referred to the Headteacher's Report which included the School Improvement Plan (SIP) and a full SIP impact review with RAG ratings.

PW noted that no questions to the Headteacher's Report had been received.

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8. DfE WHITE PAPER UPDATE – KC

PW noted the papers which had been circulated to Governors regarding academisation and the Diocesan consultation. The Diocesan strategy had still yet to be announced.

For the record, KC declared that she was Head of School and Trust Governance at the DfE and had worked on the white paper and current bill; however, she was providing an overview of the implications of academisation and joining a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) in a private capacity.

Key points from the white paper.

- The overall ambition was for all schools to be part of, or in the process of, joining a MAT by 2030.
- The ideal size of MATs – ten schools or a minimum of 7,500 pupils.
- The potential benefits of economies of scale/development of central capacity deriving from joining a MAT.
- LA MATs – a test and learn exercise had been launched. Church schools were not part of this initial phase but may be included later on a diocesan basis.
- A tier of local governance within a MAT would be mandatory, operating under a published scheme of delegation.

In response to questions, KC said that the primary legislation would not contain anything relating to schools where the land was owned by a different trust.

Governors asked for further details relating to local governance. KC said that this was viewed as an important connection between the trust, school, and parents and the

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community; however, mandatory local governance may not be contained within the final version of the legislation after scrutiny by MPs.

Governors discussed local governance structures and their efficacy in other MATs.

Governors asked if there would be any protection in the legislation for church or faith schools. PW said that this area was more linked to representation on the Local Governing Bodies (LGB) which would help preserve the character/integrity of schools.

Governors asked what the main benefits would be of the school joining a MAT. KC said the main advantages were well known such as economies of scale and career opportunities which improved the ability to attract and retain staff; however, now that the academisation vision had been articulated, it was inevitable, and the school would need to make a choice how and when to address this.

AH advised that as part of their ongoing research, she and PW had been in contact with the LA and Diocese as well as representatives from Governing Boards of other church schools. PW said that work with local primary schools focusing on collaboration was progressing well. Feedback and an initial plan would be presented to Governors at the Full Governing Board (FGB) meeting towards the end of the Autumn term.

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9. CHAIR OF GOVERNORS'S REPORT (INCLUDING CHAIR'S ACTION)

AH noted her report circulated to the meeting. Key points were highlighted.

- The Deputy Headteacher role was being covered by SB until December; a new Assistant Headteacher was joining the school in September. AH had been part of the appointment process.
- AH had attended a National Governance Association (NGA) meeting regarding the DfE white paper. Slides were available and would be shared on request. Local community involvement was an area of concern amongst Governors generally.

Term dates had been approved under Chair's Action. The dates tied up with LA dates, and a two-week half term in October had been agreed following feedback from all stakeholders.

RESOLVED: that the Governing Board ratified the Chair's Action to approve the term dates.

10. STANDING ITEMS (REPORTABLE INCIDENTS)

- Safeguarding - reported in the Headteacher's Report.
- GDPR - reported in the Headteacher's Report.
- Premises and Health and Safety - reported in the Headteacher's Report.

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11. POLICIES

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Policies were noted as circulated following scrutiny at Committee level and recommended for approval.

RESOLVED: that the policies circulated to the meeting and recommended by the Committees were approved.

From P&C Committee 07/06/2022

- 11.1 Capability of Staff
- 11.2 Public Sector Equality Duty Statement
- 11.3 Medical Needs and First Aid Policy
- 11.4 Career Break Scheme
- 11.5 Extended Leave Scheme

From F&P Committee 26/05/2022

- 11.6 Governors' Allowance
- 11.7 Uniform Policy

12. GOVERNORS' REPORTS

AS reported that she had met with SB and BS to review the Pupil Premium strategy and overall progress of this pupil group. The strategy was detailed, and progress was on track.

AH advised that all Governors would be given a link role and would be actively involved in curriculum review and monitoring of the impact of teaching and learning. PW noted that as curriculum reviews were lengthy and detailed, this would move to a two-year cycle.

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13. GOVERNORS' TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT - AH

A training log detailing training completed by Governors over the year would be circulated by AH. Governors were encouraged to reflect on training attended and indicate what other training might be of interest. Governors were asked to indicate their Committee membership preferences for the next academic year and any training required to support this.

Responses would be collated and fed into the skills audit and would inform the Governor training plan for the next academic year.

RESOLVED: that Governors would respond to AH by the end of the academic year.

14. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- Dates for the next academic year to be circulated.

15. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

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- None.

16. ANY URGENT OTHER BUSINESS

AH thanked both AS and NR for their contribution to, and support of, the work of the Governing Board over the past years.

AH noted that AS had been a Governor for seven years, had been Chair of the Premises Committee and had worked tirelessly to support AH, PW and pupils. AS said that she had enjoyed the experience and the school had made huge progress. PW said that AS embodied active governance and had been instrumental in driving the work of the Governors in school and making a positive impact.

AH noted that NR worked hard to raise the profile of the work of the Governing Board amongst staff and bridge the gap between staff and Governors. NR said that it had been a privilege to be a part of the Governing Board. PW said that NR's work with the pastoral teams had been invaluable, and she would be much missed.

AH said that leaving gifts would be sent to both AS and NR on behalf of the Governing Board.

Governors provided closing comments and reflections on the year.

Meeting closed 5.55 p.m.

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE:.....


24-12-2022

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