



Minutes of The King Alfred School Board of Governors Meeting

Held Tuesday 23rd May 2017
18:00 Room G01

Present: Eur Ing H Mackay (Chair), Mrs N Augar, Mrs D Cornish, Mr R Dyer, Mr M Ellis, Mrs D Hurr, Mr S Lodge, Mrs A Milburn, Mr P Reddish and Mrs J Strong

In Attendance: Mrs S Lloyd (SEN Manager - SML), Mr D Herbert (DH), Mr J-P Hoskins (JPH), Mr S Ladd (SPL), Mr S Aylward, Miss P Matthews and Mrs T Humphris (Clerk)

Apologies: Mr K Elliot

1. Apologies were accepted from Keith Elliott.

There were no **Declarations of Business Interests**.

Conflict of Interests – HM confirmed that he had been asked to become an additional Governor for Pawlett Primary School. He confirmed that Chris Burman is acting as Interim Headteacher there. HM said that he felt that the experience would be useful for him and the role is in “the family” of schools.

2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2017.**

The minutes were signed off as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. **Matters arising from the meeting on 21st March 2017**

Point 3 - email security - this issue has been deferred.

Point 11 - SDP has been deferred until the next meeting, awaiting the Ofsted Report.

4. **Urgent items:**

HM updated the governors regarding the Ofsted report. HM and DCH have met with Sue Rogers (SR) and Neil Chislet (NC) to talk about the Ofsted inspection. SR and NC confirmed that it would not be appropriate for the governors to meet to discuss the outcomes until after the full report is available.

The Statutory Powers were confirmed by SR and NC: removal of the Headteacher and Governors, a freeze put on the budget. They also spoke about what this would then look like. HM advised governors to read the DfE guidance document that he had previously circulated. DCH said we are at Day 16 since the Inspection and she is expecting the Report by Day 20.

DCH confirmed that she had met with Simon Faull regarding the response from the School and she has already started work on what the report is likely to bring up (changes that need to be made). DCH talked about the forced academisation. The SEP work has to happen within 8 months. The CLT have been given control for the School improvement work - this has been confirmed today. She confirmed that a meeting will take place on Friday with Simon Faull, HM and DCH.

SML left the room at this stage.

SL reported on some hearsay information received about another MAT and also about the Ofsted inspection itself.

SML returned to the room.

5. **Somerset Core Standards for SEND (SML/DH)**

DH outlined the rationale behind this document. They will be rationalising the SEND provision within the county in terms of expectations and responsibilities of the School which are all centred around quality teaching and learning (T&L) at the School. The T&L must then facilitate all students, including those with SEND being successful in the exams.

The SEND provision at the School will be audited by County, who will be aiming for a county-wide consistent approach with timely and effective identification, assessment and provision. There is an expectation that we will make reference to the Core Standards, which outline the graduated response expected of schools in the county: 1) Universal, 2) SEND support and 3) High Needs (very few of these).

DH said that this document has been shared with HODs. SML and JS attended a Core Standards meeting. DH then showed the governors a video which clearly showed what students with SEND need in order to be successful.

Key website: www.somerset.gov.uk/localoffer

DH then outlined the "Assess" cycle. JS said there is considerable inconsistency in the SEND provision across Somerset, but she feels this system should make it fairer. SML said there are inconsistencies with the primary schools and we should be working in the same way.

AM said that children "in the middle" have been coded as a K and there will be additional funding for these. Those children coded with an E do not come with additional funding, but this can be applied for. She said that an Educational Healthcare Plan (EHP) will last until the child is 25 years old, or until they go to university.

RD said children used to be statemented. In his work with blind children he found that the statements forced the Local Authority to provide better support for them. JS said there is a huge training need, SML said there are different support services for different aspects of SEND. AM said that the local criteria is that a child may have an educational need and she confirmed that an application for an EHP takes 20 weeks altogether from start to finish and includes work with an Educational Psychologist and Community Paediatrician. She said that by week 14 a decision will have been made as to whether to issue an EHP or not, the final 6 weeks are spent choosing the right school for the child, with parental preference being the first indicator. AM said that any existing Statements have to be changed to EHP by 31.3.18. AM said the assessment can be requested by the parent, the GP, a paediatrician or the child's school. NA said it is possible that Ofsted may inspect the SEND provision in the County.

HM thanked DH and SML for their presentation. DC said she felt the presentation was excellent and found the video really good.

SML and DH left the meeting at this stage.

7. **Interventions (JPH)**

JPH had circulated a report. HM asked the governors whether they had any questions. *DC asked whether 23 strategies are sustainable?* JPH said that he had started by going through SPL's interventions and then added more ideas of his own. He will "take stock" after August and streamline them next year.

DCH said that she had looked at sustainability and has been reviewing the SLT roles for Sept 2017. JPH has a number of responsibilities, but the changes should create capacity. JPH said he will ensure that the SOLs reflect what is actually going on. They will have a lot of time to revise, with revision for Year 11 starting in September.

DC said that she really liked the idea that "prevention is better than cure", with work starting in Year 7 and an improved learning environment. JPH said that there will be a data capture for Year 10 in July 2017, with strategies both before and after planned.

HM asked JPH whether he had managed to engage the parents? JPH said they had been endeavouring to engage the "hard to reach" parents. SPL had run an EBACC evening which was well received by those parents who attended, but the numbers were not what we would have wanted. DCH spoke about the EBACC evening and the English/Maths/Science evening too, with "What can I do to help my child?" with practical strategies offered, leading to a consistent approach both in School and at home. PLM confirmed that the booklet that was given to parents on this evening was also given to all other Year 11 students whose parents did not attend. JPH said this may be because a lot of parents are afraid of looking silly, by not understanding the work that their child has been set. He confirmed that all Year 11s received a bag of useful equipment. JPH said on the radar is to improve communication. *JS suggested a breakfast session for the parents and asked what different ways can we engage them?* Strategies already used include texts, letters and telephone calls.

HM thanked JPH for his report and JPH left the meeting at this stage.

8. **EBACC (SPL)**

SPL thanked the Departments for the information that they had provided. MFL have been on a difficult journey in the past 18 months and he said Doug Radnidge deserves a lot of credit for all the work he has done as HOD. There has been a massive improvement in German in particular.

There has been an improvement in the take up of EBACC subjects. Option groups - 5 x Geography, 4 x History, 2 x French and 1 x German, which is very pleasing.

DCH said HODs did a taster course. SPL said current Year 8 had a difficult journey in particular. It had been all change in Year 7, so we are very pleased to maintain 2 x French classes. He said we are hoping to see an improvement in MFL take up next year.

JS asked how does this affect the lower ability child? SPL said extraction won't happen from next year. SPL said primary liaison work is being undertaken by Lorraine Coghill to ensure that students arrive at KAS at a similar level, as some primary schools are unable to deliver French teaching. This is part of our long term strategy.

ME said that DR and he have been talking about a cross-curricular trip to Berlin. Our Twin-Town in Germany is Fritslarren. SMA said that there are a lot of issues with safeguarding that make exchange programmes difficult to run.

9. **Pupil Premium Review (SPL)**

SPL shared with Governors a presentation regarding Pupil Premium (PP) students. The School's PP Mantra "Every child deserves the opportunity to: go to school, learn, achieve, dream big and work towards their goals" and he identified what makes a student receive the PP funding. He said his aim is to remove barriers for these students. He shared an overview of spending, including the alternative provision money spent on certain students who are PP.

DCH said showing the success of PP students is determined by them taking GCSEs and not becoming "NEETS" after leaving KAS. *ME asked whether Ofsted had had access to the spending data and did they criticise it?* DCH said Ofsted checked the website for compliance. SPL said the money is not ring-fenced. *DC asked what % of the PP students also have SEND?* SPL to establish this value and confirm to Governors. **Action: SPL.**

SPL said that a student may have two passports: one for PP and another for SEND. This will be improved. SPL said that the results for PP students were particularly disappointing, with the Progress 8 figure for PP students much lower than that for all students. SPL said the gap must be closed. *DC asked whether this is because many PP students leave primary schools with higher KS2 results than what we see.* DCH said that the data gathered by primary school is much more rigorous now.

PLM said we will be able to show how much money has been spent per child and the progress they have made. *SL asked whether the PP results that we achieve are above or below the national average?* DCH confirmed our results are just below the national average. SPL outlined the predictions for this year's results, all of which show improvements on last year and a narrower gap.

DCH described how our new payment for meals system means that nobody knows which students are on FSM. She said she hopes that this will encourage more students who are entitled to FSM sign up.

SPL confirmed his reflections on the year's work with PP students. He would propose adding an external audit. He said that class packs (information on every student) were introduced this year when it was realised that teacher awareness was inconsistent. SPL said he uses his seating plan every lesson to remind himself of his PP students and he wants to ensure all teachers use their seating plans well, along with student passports. These class packs were introduced in February, but their use is still in their infancy, and he wants to increase training in the use of them.

Parental engagement on parents' evenings is improving, but still some do not come. He said he had introduced Year 9 mentors, who are listening to Year 7 students read. This has results in a 75% increase in students making one level of progress or more.

SPL outlined the idea of the "Elevate Group" and how students were chosen to be in this group. SPL has mentored this group of students, also providing them with any equipment (including calculators) that they need. Predictions for levels 9-4 have increased from 56% to 60%. Priority students' predictions for 9-4 was 71% in December, but 79% in the Spring. Students are selected for the Elevate Group based on their reports, so they are chosen for positive reasons.

SPL confirmed his plans for next year: SPL take over from Daniele Nattee who will be leaving KAS to take up a place on a PGCE course, increase staff awareness and SPL to lead on phonics intervention to close the gap during KS3. SPL said he is passionate about the work that he is doing with PP students, but he is open to be challenged. *DC questioned whether this would be extra work for him?* SPL said he will be relinquishing the EBACCs and Interventions. DCH said she will outline the new structure for SLT to Governors on the Training Day.

HM thanked SPL for his reports and SPL left the meeting at this stage.

11. **Governor Training Feedback**

The latest Network booklet (55) of training opportunities has been circulated by Somerset Governor Services. Governors were encouraged to sign up for training.

12. **Policies to be approved: Governor Expenses and Governor Behaviour Principles**

DC asked whether we have to have the Governor Behaviour Principles? DCH said yes, this is a statutory document. Both policies were approved unanimously.

10. **Behaviour Review**

PLM made a presentation on Behaviour and copies of the presentation notes were circulated.

PLM confirmed that she will be the SLT link for SEND and has been working closely with DH and SML. She confirmed that we have employed an experienced SENDCO, Paula Wilkins, who will be joining KAS in September. Paula will be able to drive SEND forward at the School and she is "Thrive" trained. She is currently employed as the Deputy SENDCO at Robert Blake. SML will continue as SEND Manager. PLM then shared some key data regarding SEND students which showed how history suggests they will be affected in adult life and so why getting it right for them in school is essential to improve their chances.

Behaviour – Ofsted confirmed that behaviour in lessons is acceptable, but there are issues around the site during break and lunchtime. Ofsted did highlight that passivity in lessons is an issue.

Attendance - PLM said the Ofsted Inspector was not interested in local issues involving attendance. They looked at where our figures are compared with last year. PLM said we are considering buying in our own EWO support. She said penalty notices may be increased for non-attendance. She has introduced the "Fantastic 50" - a reward for 100% attendance with a cinema trip, and also the "100 Club" with extra benefits for a half-term. Ed Lounge online learning has been purchased for students not attending in school. We can code them as being in school if they spend sufficient time actively learning. PLM said that if we were to exclude the students with no attendance at all then our attendance figures would be in line with national average. PLM said that we are being more proactive with our pastoral services in relation to attendance too.

PR left the meeting at this stage.

Bullying - PLM said she has been questioning how to address bullying. We have a 20-20 anti-bullying policy but this was created in 2015, based on the types of bullying seen in 2014 and before. She has created a Parents' Forum and their recent meeting

was attended by PC Pete Wills who told them he does not believe there is an issue with bullying at KAS, nor does he believe there is an issue with bullying at most schools. He said the problem is that there is a PERCEPTION of bullying. PC Wills confirmed to the parents that there are just two things you can go to prison for life for - murder and harrassment. The children also need to be aware that their actions could result in them not being allowed to travel to the USA, for instance. PLM said that during the children's PSHE lessons, they are encourage to risk assess their actions and make informed decisions. PLM confirmed ME leads PSHE, but SMSC has been raised as an issue.

PLM said that bullying and relational conflict are different things. We cannot ban mobile phones, but much of what happens that is considered to be bullying is linked to their mobile phones. All we can do is to give them the tools to make the right decisions. AM said that the word "bullying" is being over-used by parents - one incident does not constitute bullying. DCH said friends having a fall out is not bullying either and we need to build resilience.

SMA, PLM and ME left the meeting at this stage.

- 2. Confidential minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2017**
The minutes were signed off as an accurate record of the meeting.

Meeting closed at 7.56pm

Next Meeting Tuesday 13th June 2017

6pm in GO1

Signed as an accurate record of the Meeting:

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Eur Ing Hugh Mackay (Chair of Governing Body) Dated: