

# MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Meeting of Governing Body Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 6.00pm in the Staff Room

### **Attendees :-**

Judith Greenwood (Chair)	David Hargreaves
Jas Hill (Head)	Zareen Islam
Petroc Mackenzie-Williams	Bridget Somekh
Sarah Stepney	Jane McHugh
Paula Ayliffe	Jo Sharpington
Kate Vadhia (Clerk)	Avi Bhangaonkar (from 6.15pm)

### **Action**

#### 1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were accepted from Mary Wheeler, Jim Thorp, Kate Stalker, Anna Chaudhri, Alison Cox

No apologies had been received from Rob Thompson.

#### 2. **GOVERNOR ISSUES**

Due to the resignation of Mary Cullen the Equality and Pupil Premium link governor role was vacant. This link governor sits on the P&A committee. Interested governors to let Kate know..

All

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest relating to any items on the agenda.

#### 3. **GOVERNOR TRAINING**

Judith had attended the recent governor briefing and had already shared information on the Knowledge Hub and anti-bullying. Judith took the GB through the key points of the presentation on SEN which followed a County review of their provision. They had spoke with pupils, parents, neighbouring LAs, schools, SENCOs etc.

- There are 200,000 0 to 25 year olds in Cambridgeshire of which 3% have Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP).
- There are proportionately more young people in Cambridgeshire with EHCPs than both nationally and in neighbouring LAs.
- The number of young people receiving SEN support dropped from 18% to 12% between 2010 and 2016.
- 75% of EHCP subjects are male; FSM and LAC are over represented whilst EAL are under represented.
- Pupils with SEN support in Cambridgeshire achieve below their national peers until KS4 when they do better than nationally – the reasons for this are not known.
- The LA is keen to integrate SEN with other services. Jas commented that in effect this has meant things like the Education Child Protection service being merged with other services making it more difficult for schools to access the right person.
- LA keen to facilitate the sharing of best practice.

Jas pointed out that at Mayfield there are 20 pupils with high level needs and one SENCO. How does the school have capacity to find out best practice? Mayfield is in the fortunate position of not currently having to make staffing cuts due to budget constraints but even so, something needs to change as the current pressure on SEN staff in school is too much. Mayfield sees inclusion as everyone's responsibility, not just the SENCO but have to be careful not to overstress class teachers – aim to

provide support to improve practice. Working on changing how 1:1 TAs are deployed to decrease learned dependency and a feeling of difference in SEN children. Lesson planning includes differentiation. The increased pressure on schools is exhausting for staff and there is a concern about attrition. There was a county-wide SEN Ofsted inspection in March but the results have not yet been released.

4. **MAT UPDATE**

Judith updated the GB on progress with the MAT process.

Bassingbourn Primary School had pulled out the day before citing financial and planning uncertainty caused by the MoD delaying the arrival of a substantial number of new pupils due in September.

The GB took the previously circulated update paper as read. Jas shared the wall chart made during a recent meeting between Schools Choice, heads and chairs. Concern was expressed that although every effort would be made to start the MAT with the right CEO, members and directors the school would still be ceding control to the CEO, members and directors of the future. Judith explained that all the schools are keen that they keep their own ethos and characters although many processes etc will start to look similar. A governor asked what the financial implications of the MAT would be – Judith explained that the financial position would likely be one of mitigation rather than actual improvement. The CEO would provide an extra layer of support to the head teachers and having central services, shared policies etc will lighten the administrative burden on schools; any loss of autonomy would not necessarily be negative and it was hoped that very positive outcomes would result too.

The heads and chairs are now working on the scheme of delegation. The consultation with stakeholders is to follow and then the GB will make a recommendation.

5. **OFSTED UPDATE**

The GB agreed that the Ofsted outcome was a fantastic result and the school had done very well; all staff and particularly the SLT, should be very proud. The report read very well and contained lots of positive comments.

The GB discussed what happens next, considering the recommendations in the report. The school has already set targets for PP pupils – to be reviewed at the next P&A meeting. David/Kate

- A new three year SDP is needed next year. The post Ofsted action plan will form one page of this and the school will be prepared to report on progress against this at the next Ofsted inspection.
- Have to ensure success criteria are measurable – this is the GB's responsibility at committee level. Look at whether success criteria have to be more specific and/or use statistics to measure progress against them. Governors have to be happy with the method of evaluation. There is a danger of losing valuable priorities because outcomes are too difficult to measure.
- The Ofsted inspector said too many people are listed as responsible for actions; the school believes this reflects collective responsibility.
- Working outdoors to be a bigger focus – it is on the existing SDP but needs refining.
- Jas to write a post Ofsted action plan for review at the September GB

- meeting.
- Priorities in the next SDP can be identified once the end of year data is available and end of year reviews have taken place. It will be written in the autumn term and will then go to the GB for approval. The SLT will make sure it links to the Ofsted report. It will be finalised after the end of year data review with County in the second half of the autumn term.

6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

News from the Governing Body

At their meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June the Governing Body:

- Thanked staff and everyone else involved on a great Ofsted report and congratulated the school on their achievement.
- Thanked Zareen Islam for organising parent picnics to protest about the funding situation. More action is planned. More information is available on the following websites: <https://www.schoolcuts.org.uk/#/> and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SchoolFundingCams/>
- Governors and the School Leadership Team continue to engage with other schools to explore the MAT project.
- The GB are looking for governors, particularly those who can bring some finance experience. This is a very exciting time to be a governor as there are some far-reaching decisions to be made about Multi-Academy Trusts. No previous experience of school governance is necessary and training is available. The governors are a very welcoming and friendly bunch. If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact Kate Vadhia at [kvadhia@mayfield.camb.sch.uk](mailto:kvadhia@mayfield.camb.sch.uk) or via the school office.

A film crew from Edinburgh University were in school making a short film “Making Teaching Visible”. The film will be out next year.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.