



MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Meeting of the Full Governing Body

Wednesday 26th February at 6.00pm

Attendance

Sarah Stepney (Head)	✓	Ann Nicholls	✓
Anna Chaudhri (Chair)	✓	Andrew Monteath	✓
Stephen Atkinson	✓	Serin Dabb	AA
Alison Cox	✓	Eugene Krasnikov	✓
Patrick Gosling	✓	Rehana Kousar	NA
Ciara Murray	✓	Will Taylor	AA
Graeme Cooper	AL	Rachel Biltcliffe	✓
Jack Rudin	✓	Louise O'Gorman (Clerk)	✓
Ellie Taylor	✓	Aylin Ertik Usug (Observer)	✓
Associate Members (no rights to vote.)			
Rebecca Cahill Roots (PTA)	---		

Actions are highlighted in **RED**.

I	<u>PRESENTATION FROM THE PTA</u>	<u>Actions</u>
	<p>Rebecca Cahill Roots attended the meeting on behalf of the PTA, to present the plans for their new fundraising campaign and the improvements they are targetting for the school</p> <p>The 'All Aboard' campaign will be officially launched on Friday 28th February. It will be presented to the parents at an event after school that day, where activities and games will be put on.</p> <p>The campaign will mark 20 years since the devastating fire that destroyed much of the school and saw it being rebuilt, opening again in October 2006.</p>	

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	<p>The campaign hopes to deliver improvements being known as the 'Flagship of the Fleet,' including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laptops and iPads • A trim trail in the KS2 area where the bus was. • Performance area and quiet zone • Sensory garden outside the large hall. • Art projects • Visual teaching aids <p>Smaller scale projects as requested by staff and parents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bench seating in the outdoor classroom • Labelling of plants and trees • New seating area in a shaded area • Improved raised beds <p>Help was requested from the governors to help get word out about the campaign and find supporters, get contacts of companies who sponsor or provide grants for such projects and refer them to Becci.</p> <p>Everyone is invited to the event on Friday. Staff have already been briefed on the campaign and shown the plans.</p> <p>The target sum to be raised by September 2026 is £80K. A Blue Peter-style totaliser has been made to show the progress and will be exhibited around the school.</p> <p>Once money for a project is raised, work will commence as the school schedule permits. The KS2 trim trail will be a priority as the bus has now been removed and the space is now free to be redeveloped.</p> <p>The governors congratulated the PTA on their ambition and dedication to improving the school in such difficult times, and contributed some suggestions.</p> <p>Q. Will staff have any input into the KS2 outdoor area, as the Inclusion team have some requests that would benefit children. A. All requests will be considered and should be made to the PTA.</p> <p>The PTA have once again signed up to the Co-Op Local Cause which could alone raise up to £5K.</p> <p>Louise will forward the All Aboard presentation to the governors.</p>	Louise
2	<p><u>APOLOGIES AND DECLARATION OF INTEREST</u></p> <p>Will and Serin sent their apologies for not being able to attend the meeting.</p> <p>No apologies were received from Rehana.</p> <p>There were no conflicts of interest declared.</p>	

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3	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting held on the 14th January had been distributed prior to the meeting, with no actions outstanding.</p>	
4	<p><u>GOVERNOR ISSUES</u></p> <p>New Governor Aylin Ertik Usug is attending the meeting with a view to joining the GB. She introduced herself to the FGB, and gave some background on herself.</p> <p>(6.30 - Graeme arrived following transport difficulties)</p> <p>Monitoring Visits No monitoring visits have taken place since the last meeting.</p> <p>PWL are drawing up plans to conduct a link visit on Digital Wellbeing.</p> <p>SFVS Approval At the last meeting of the Resources committee the Schools Financial Value Standard was completed and requires approval from the FGB. The GB approved the document on the recommendation of the Resources Committee.</p> <p>It is not compulsory that the checklist is completed by a committee, but it is good practice to ensure expectations are being met within the school, as times change.</p>	
5	<p><u>ACADEMY TRUST UPDATE</u></p> <p>Anna updated the FGB on the research being undertaken in consideration of Mayfield joining an academy trust. The school is in discussion with 3 academy trusts; Saffron Trust, Eastern Learning Alliance and CamTrust. Sarah, Kate and Anna have met, or will shortly meet, with representatives from each trust who have each expressed interest in Mayfield joining them.</p> <p>After visiting Mayfield the CEO and Deputy CEO of the Saffron Academy Trust were impressed with the positive atmosphere in school and the variety of teaching and learning taking place.</p> <p>It was explained that if a school becomes an academy it can apply directly to the DFE as an enhanced provider for SEND, and receive better financial recognition. Sarah is meeting with the Head of the Grove Primary School, who had applied to become a Hub but stopped the process. Being a Hub would allow the school to put a cap on the number of SEND children it can have. Since we already take a high number, this is unlikely to increase.</p> <p>The Head of the Saffron Trust have said that she would be willing to come and make a presentation to the FGB at an extraordinary meeting, to answer any</p>	

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	<p>questions. The Saffron Trust is a medium sized Trust with 4 or 5 primary schools, one of which the trust has helped apply for enhanced provision.</p> <p>Eastern Learning Alliance includes Chesterton Community College. They are not looking to expand as an academy trust but since Mayfield is a principal feeder school for Chesterton CC, the Trustees are willing to consider any application we make to join the Trust. Sarah and Kate have visited Girton Glebe, the sole primary school within the Trust and met with the Head of the school and the Chair of the GB. They were asked what the downside to being in an academy was and the Head struggled to think of anything other than commenting on the ability to change the term dates and needing to consider childcare for parents. Some decisions are rather secondary-based and the Head needs to point out the impact on a primary setting. Girton Glebe would be grateful to have another primary school., for mutual support. A follow up video call will be made with Anna. Lucy Scott is Chair of the Eastern Learning Alliance</p> <p>It is considered important that Sarah and Kate visit the schools within the trusts being researched and have the opportunity to ask any questions they may have.</p> <p>The third Trust is CamTrust, where Comberton Village College is the principal school. They are looking to merge with a smaller academy trust but are keen to explore the possibility of our joining and would like to visit us. Most of the primary schools in the trust feed the secondary schools, which would not be the case with us. They are a trust to consider but they will be expanding.</p> <p>The main concern when considering a timeline for academisation is the deficit Mayfield has and the likelihood that it will increase over time. It is therefore important to have a decision-making timeline in mind. Realistically Mayfield would not be in a position to join an Academy Trust before September 2026. This term is dedicated to research but by the end of the summer term, the GB will need to make a decision on whether or not to proceed with academisation and if so, which trust to join. Any decision of course will have to be a mutual one; it is not just for us to decide to join a Trust but the Trustees have to agree to have us.</p> <p>None of the Trusts have as yet been deterred by the deficit Mayfield has and we have made our financial position clear. Mayfield is a good school with a well maintained site and has good results and OFSTED rating</p> <p>An academy trust gets its funding straight from the DFE and top-slices the budget allocated to individual schools to provide centralised services. Admissions would still go through the LA though there may be amendments to selection criteria.</p> <p>Q. What could the LA impose on the the school, as we are in deficit?</p>	
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	<p>A. It will be interesting to see what they say when we cannot balance the budget this year. We do not wish to find ourselves in the same position as we were last year regarding redundancies and re-employment. This was costly and very difficult for the school. The budget setting meeting with the LA adviser is to take place on 12th March and Andrew and Anna will be attending along with Sarah and Kate.</p> <p>If the budget does not balance County will look at it in depth but we do not know how they will suggest we make up for any shortfall.</p> <p>Q. As we are approaching trusts in preparation to becoming an academy, should we not be going to the LA and asking them what they would do for us, as we are their trusts?</p> <p>A. We are not compelled to speak to the LA and as yet it has shown little interest in helping us with the difficulties we are encountering. It is not felt it would have made any difference to speak with them. The school has contacted the local MP to complain about the LA. A response was received but no action has resulted.</p> <p>The conversation on academisation concluded and the GB will be updated regularly; meanwhile Anna invited further feedback.</p>	
6	<p><u>FINANCIAL UPDATE: PERFORMANCE AGAINST DEFICIT</u></p> <p>Kate had prepared a report for the GB on the current financial situation. Andrew went through the report.</p> <p>The current outturn for the end of the financial year is a deficit of £144K. This is £69K more than the expected.</p> <p>The main reasons for this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County have refused to reimburse the full £32K cost of the redundancies that went through the September payroll. Previously the school had been told County would reimburse the full £32K however they have only funded £15K. • The cost of repairs following a severe flood in the Y2 classroom came to £10,888. This is currently under dispute with the insurers. • The cost of staff for children with a pending EHCP. County are not meeting their 20-week deadline for processing applications and therefore funding is not being received for children who need it. Kate has emailed our new financial advisor requesting an update and that the funding once granted is backdated as compensation. Some children are still waiting for an EHCP to come through from a year ago. Some have since come through, and they have agreed to back pay the funding. 	

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	<p>Mayfield is considered a very inclusive school and is recommended by parents when considering placement for EHCP children. If a parent names the school as their preference, the child will be allocated to us. Mayfield will not refuse a child, but with the situation we are in, full funding from County is essential.</p> <p>It was questioned whether the LA can refuse to pay the amount agreed of the redundancies. Graeme found some legislation stating otherwise, which will be looked into.</p> <p>There was a discussion on what would happen if we are required to make redundancies again this year. Last year it cost us £65K and we had to re-employ staff in September. The school does not want to do this again.</p> <p>There is a concern that an academy trust may be put off by the deficit, especially if it increases.</p> <p>Anna suggested setting a budget that at the very least, does not exceed this year's deficit.</p> <p>Cashflow Loan A cashflow loan application had been drawn up by Kate for £20,000.</p> <p>The loan is separate from the deficit of the budget and is required before the end of the financial year to pay some outstanding invoices.</p> <p>The discussion went back to academies and how the finances would work being in a trust.</p> <p>Anna has mentioned before her decision to step down as Chair of the Governing Body at the end of the school year. She is prepared to stay on the GB to see the academisation through if that is what the GB decides.</p> <p>She is concerned about the budget deficit and feels we cannot get further into debt. She asked the governors to think about ways that the school can make cutbacks and to speak to Sarah, Kate or herself.</p>	Graeme, Anna, Kate
7	<p><u>HEAD'S REPORT</u></p> <p>The Head's report was distributed before the meeting. Due to the limited time left at the meeting the report was not discussed at length. The GB were asked to bring forward any questions to Sarah regarding the report.</p> <p>Exclusions have decreased a lot from last year. The new attendance policy is being implemented well, with overall attendance looking good.</p>	
8	<p><u>SAFEGUARDING</u></p> <p>Alison visited the school in January to complete a review on safeguarding. The report from the visit was distributed to the GB prior to the meeting.</p>	

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	There were no concerns with the safeguarding protocol undertaken at Mayfield and Alison thanked all the staff at Mayfield for their part in keeping children safe.	
9	<p><u>SEND UPDATE</u></p> <p>A verbal report was given by Ciara who had had a visit from a team working for the LA, looking at where the Inclusion team are now and identifying any improvements needed. From looking at our Ofsted report they believe we should have been awarded Outstanding in SEND, which is encouraging and gives the team something positive to focus on. The Inclusion team will focus on this and making the necessary improvements for the next Ofsted visit. The project will last for a year and start in the summer term.</p>	
	<p><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>Due to the length of the meeting and number of items needed to be covered on the agenda, there was no other business to discuss other than Aylin's position on the GB. She was formally and unanimously elected as a Co-opted governor.</p> <p>Louise will start the administration required for new governors.</p>	Louise

Meeting closed at 8.06pm

The next Full Governing Body meeting will be on **Thursday 1st May at 6.00pm**

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Date _____