

Low Trenchard Church of England Primary School



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Chair of Governors – A Crompton

01/07/2021

Minutes

Local Governing Board; Low Trenchard Church of England School

Wednesday 30th June 2021 5.30pm remotely via zoom

All participants had audio and video

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Amy Crompton (Chair), Emma Bending (Vice), Father Philip Conway, Sharon Thorp, Ruth Wilson, Liz Davy (HoS), Louise Hussey (EHT)

Apologies: Sharon Thorp

In Attendance:

2. Governor Appointment

Adrian Bell has resigned due to family circumstances.

Ruth Wilson voted in by governing board to be a co-opted governor until she is appointed as a Foundation Governor by the Diocese.

3. Declarations of Interest Relevant to this Agenda

None.

4. Confirm Minutes of LGB Autumn Meeting (19th May 2021) and Matters Arising

Pupil voice will take place on 31st March with AC, DH & EB. *See item 10.*

Decision made to accept minutes as true and accurate record of meeting.

5. Head Teacher's Report / Current Situation Update

LH noted some local data and information about area disadvantaged and that it seems to have affected younger children and parents disproportionately. **Moderation backs up data from assessments, and shows that the staff have a really good understanding, and Yr 6 progress has been good but can you explain how you will continue with the progress with the writing across the school?** The writing covered over lockdown was not used as a starting point because it just could not be conducted in the same way over lockdown and independent work could not be guaranteed. LD explained how progress with writing was being managed across the year groups, including the focus on independence and strategy. It was noted that writing across all schools in the trust and a governor noted that this is because the younger ones had not yet developed the strategies to progress their writing independently during the lockdowns. There was a lengthy discussion on writing and LD is confident that there is time to ensure the children progress further. **Have you noticed any significant effects on mental health of our children at LT?** There are small pockets here and there, and perhaps a mild case of anxiety before has now been compounded or escalated by the Covid situation. Waiting list for support are overloaded. It is not necessarily classroom based but can centre around attitude to learning or friendships, and also that fact that everything was done on line for so long. **Do you have enough resources to**

deal with this issue? For the most part yes, but external support is not always available and finances are tighter than ever. It will be monitored closely, and the school dog has been a great help.

Attendance has been high. **There is a lot in the news about the need for children to isolate outside of school because of Covid, has this affected us?** All staff are double vaccinated, school is still operating bubbles which will minimise this if it was to occur. Procedures are still very stringent to minimise transmission.

6. Recovery & Data

The governors were presented with some progress and attainment data. **Do you think the recovery schedule has managed to claw back some attainment and progress across the school?** Recovery has been targeted and it can be proved that it has definitely had an impact. The governors were given some predicted and actual figures that demonstrated great progress. It looks possible that more recovery funding will be made available for the Autumn term. **Have there been any positives from Covid?** Children have appreciate being in school and noted that they don't want to do home learning again. There is now much more trust and support within the whole school community which is a positive to take forward. The governors discussed this.

7. Improvement Plan

Exceptions reports for 2 academy improvement officer visits made available to governors. Moving back to full Academy Improvement Plan from September. LH gave background on the draft school improvement plan, noted the likely priorities below and gave some detail on each:

1. **Standards** – progress from previous points of learning and getting attainment to where it should be. Focus will be on English – reading, writing and so on. LD has been working on oracy, staff have been improving subject knowledge particularly in phonics, and further work is being done using accelerated reader.

2. **Implementing the new EYFS framework.** LT was an early adopter so there is much familiarisation with it but it will need to be fully adopted from September focussing on early reading, vocabulary and oracy.

3. **Implementation of the curriculum?** Focus has been on core lessons and some of the planned curriculum didn't happen because of lockdowns. Some detail was given on the various planned provision in the curriculum. **Do you plan to return to the broader curriculum in September?** The intention to do so as much as possible, noting that closing the gap on English and maths is still needed. Ofsted are not expecting a return to a full curriculum until summer 2022. Context of the school is very important in the decision making process when it comes to decisions about the curriculum. **What is happening with swimming?** As soon as risk assessments allow and pools open up. A lot of the activities will be better for fitness, confidence, self esteem and mental health.

4. **Church Vision.** Re-establishing the children's understanding of our values when larger collective worship and assemblies are allowed. SIAMs is not due yet but it is important to keep working at the Christian distinctiveness of the school and bedding in the values. It was noted that the children have missed that sense of belonging in the whole school community. A governor commented on their observations when they visited an outdoor collective worship assembly and that it was a very positive experience.

8. Safeguarding

Staff have continued online safeguarding training and is all up to date. S157 covered in the last meeting. The Chair meets fortnightly with the Head and safeguarding is also covered in these meetings.

9. Staff and Pupil Welfare

Pupil welfare covered in item 6. Staff absence is minimal, the positivity of the team is incredible, they care deeply about school and want to be in school, and they care about each other. It is really hard work and can be very emotional and exhausting, but the staff have remained positive throughout. LH noted the support network that is available from being part of a MAT. Insurance provides a free helpline that staff can access, if more serious then occupation health support can be obtained with counselling available.

10. Governor Monitoring

Recorded in last minutes less for:

Pupil voice will take place on 31st March with AC, DH & EB. *Not completed due to fairly recent pupil voice so a parental questionnaire was completed instead. Pupil conferencing had been done by LD and she will collate and share with governors.*

Chair's meeting with CEO – no concern regarding LT, nothing significant to report.

EG attending collective worship celebration assembly in June.

Chair met with new governor, Ruth Wilson.

EB & Chair met to discuss Chair and Vice Chair role and discussed the current situation.

A director from the Trust Board, Steve Tavener, visited the school and was very impressed and grateful for what the staff are doing.

LH – noted how the current PPG funding is being allocated.

Agree monitoring and working group for next term:

Working group - Data, SEF, Improvement Plan, School top 3 risks and PE impact (AC, RB, PC)

Monitoring visit to discuss the school vision (PC)

SEND meeting with SENDCO/local offer/PPG impact & expenditure (EB)

Action: agree governor leads at next meeting, particularly PE, data and improvement.

11. SEND

SEND policy and local offer will be reviewed and published on website. EG will look at this during monitoring in the autumn term.

12. SIAMS

Covered in item 7.

13. Governor Recruitment, Mentoring & Training

TM explained the new Chair & Vice-Chair role descriptions they are now separate roles.

TM explained future training opportunities and governors are encouraged to attend. She also explained the plan to write job descriptions for the governor leads. It was noted that there are vacancies for one parent, one or two co-opted governors.

14. Any Other Business

The Chair, on behalf of the governors, wished to extend a very warm thanks to the staff for their commitment and hard work, and for going above and beyond. The welfare of the staff was discussed.

15. DONM

Date of the next meeting is Wednesday 1st December 2021 at 4pm at LT School.

16. Confidential Matter

There is no further progress on the matter that governors have been aware of previously, so no requirement for confidential minutes.

Meeting closed at 6pm.

Toni JH Martin
Governance Officer

Distribution List:

Amy Crompton – Chair & Parent Governor
Emma Bending – Vice Chair & Co-opted Governor
Father Philip Conway – Foundation Governor
Sharon Thorp – Staff Governor
Ruth Wilson – Co-opted Governor (to be Foundation Governor)
Liz Davy – Head of School
Louise Hussey – Executive Head Teacher

Graeme Barriball – ADMAT Board of Directors Chair
Will Hermon – Executive Head/CEO