NETLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

DRAFT MINUTES AND ACTIONS (here)

FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD CURRICULUM AND FGB MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2023 AT 5.00 p.m. ON ZOOM

ATTENDEES:

Anthony Stoll **(Chair)**	✓
Dorothea Hackman **(Vice Chair)**	✓
David Auger **(Chair of Resources)**	✓ *(from 5.25)*
John Hayes **(Executive Headteacher)**	✓ *(until 6.30)*
Gareth Morris **(Head of School)**	✓
Rania Ksibi	✓ *(from 5.10 to 6.05)*
Hamide Latifi	✓ *(from 5.45)*
Mohammad Junayd Khan	✓
Isabel Berwick	✓ *(from 5.45 to 6.35)*
Claire Parker	✓
Ikram Hassan	**APOLOGIES**

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jess Mahdavi-Gladwell	✓ *(until 6.30)*
Karen Keary (Assistant School Business Manager)	✓ *(from 5.45)*
Pete McGuigan (Clerk)	✓

	ITEM	ACTION
1	**Welcome and apologies for absence**	
1.1	Dorothea (DH) welcomed everyone to the first part of the meeting, to consider curriculum, and opened the meeting at 5.00 p.m. Apologies for absence had been received from Ikram Hassan and Governors noted that Abdul Kareem had stood down as a Governor.	
2	**Declarations of Interest**	
2.1	There were no declarations of interest for the meeting and Governors noted Anthony's (AS) long standing association with Findel Education.	
3	**Previous minutes: FGB (15.11.23)**	
3.1	**Governors** noted that previous Curriculum minutes had already been ratified and **agreed the accuracy of the previous FGB minutes from 15.11.23.** • **Pete (PM) to upload the agreed 15.11.23 FGB minutes to GHub.** • **AS to sign previous minutes on GHub.**	**PM** **AS**
3.2	**Governors agreed that all actions had been taken or were on the**	

	current agenda, noting that: • **the spring FGB meeting would consider Aly Dermody Palmer as a potential Netley Governor.** • **JH would present the Campus Handbook at the next FGB meeting.** • **GM was yet to run another meeting on internet safety for parents, following a poor turn-out at a previous meeting.** • **AS was yet to write to Camden regarding the future of the current Reception year, as they progressed to Y1.**	**FGB agenda** **JH FGB agenda** **GM** **AS**
4	**Head of School's report**	
4.1	Gareth (GM) presented the circulated Head of School's report and highlighted: • the recent Camden Professional Partner (CPP) visit had noted the low attainment of the 2023 KS2 cohort, (which had been expected by the school for cohort-specific reasons), but levels were forecast to be above national for 2024, 2025 and 2026. However, because of this, the school had been identified as in need of more support, so was now in a Project Board, which would provide half-termly Camden reviews of progress and attainment. • developing Oracy was a major challenge for the school, but GM assured Governors that children who remained at NPS, were able to make sufficient progress to attain at national age-related expectation (ARE) or above by the end of Y6. • any children identified as being below ARE, were being provided with extra support in KS2, including early morning maths work with GM, and online tutoring for Y6 and Y2 pupils. • improving Writing was a major priority. GM noted that a recent Writing consultant had praised the work of the school on having a Writing champion, good work on EYFS phonics and vocabulary development, collaborative practice and the strong writing culture in the school, leading to children being enthusiastic about developing their writing. • Link Governors were encouraged to scrutinise their subjects regularly, with Maths, English, History and Music, already done. • there were 'working walls' in classes, all subjects were taught, research groups visited other schools, and the Rhyl Headteacher had visited NPS, identifying good adult interaction and school environment. • there was a new display in the foyer, good learning behaviour in classes, and CPOMs used to log and track any behaviour problems. GM noted that 1-off incidents between children were often wrongly described as bullying, and there was more work to do in helping children and parents understand the difference. • there had been an increase in online bullying for Y5 and Y6 pupils,	

	and the police community support officer (PCSO) had visited to discuss it, noting that many parents did not monitor their children's online activity sufficiently. • class visits were targeted and linked to curriculum topics, e.g. children visited the Zoo – Y2 to study habitats, and Y5 to study rainforests. • Leadership and Management were going well, including the Deputy Head currently doing the National Professional Qualification in Headship, and the Assistant Head doing the NPQ in Senior Leadership. Senior Leaders monitored the work of curriculum leaders, including through pupil work scrutiny. CPD was linked to specific curriculum areas and there were regular 'deep dives' across the curriculum in preparation for Ofsted. • SEND levels were very high, including the high number of pupils with ASD in Reception (14 children with EHCPs, which was an unsustainably high level) – GM noted that the EYFS staff were ensuring a great provision for all children in EYFS, and that there had been a **Camden Learning visit in November, with the report yet to be presented to the FGB.*** • children were happy and felt safe at school. *David (DA) joined the meeting during this item at 5.25.*	**GM FGB agenda**
4.2	Through questioning and challenging GM, Governors established that: • improvement measures were already in hand, including innovation in teaching writing, being part of the Camden Kids Talk programme, and being in 'Every Child a Reader'. • the CPP (Prue Barnes-Kemp) had worked with the school to review writing and had noted that there was a notable proportion of pupils with SEND (including Speech and Language difficulties), leading to high numbers of pupils coming into NPS below ARE, shown in baseline assessments. The school was developing the curriculum and positive behaviour was evident when visiting. Now that children had settled, GM noted the need to help them access the curriculum fully. JH noted that • external issues (including housing and social difficulties, and poverty), also had a negative impact on school progress and attainment. This had also been highlighted by low parental engagement and poor responses to a homework survey. • he had met with the Camden Learning SEND team find a way of avoiding the current extreme SEND overload in Reception in the future. **AS agreed to contact local councillors over the issue.**	**AS**
5	**Policies**	

5.1	Governors approved the circulated policies for • Anti-bullying • Equality • Assessment • Complaints • Staff allegations noting that they were updates to previously-agreed model Camden policies.	
6	**Any Other business**	
6.1	Mohammad (MK), Jess (JMG) and Claire (CP) commended GM and the team for their great work, noting that as well as academic work, the school had great community-based and pastoral provision. DH reported that she had visited to scrutinise History and Music planning (with the lead teacher), which had been very good, and AS had visited to scrutinise Maths, when he had met with the maths lead and looked at the White Rose Scheme, which was helping pupils build key knowledge, through small incremental steps.	
7	**FGB meeting**	
7.1	AS formally opened the FGB part of the meeting, and welcomed everyone. There had been no apologies for absence, but apologies were received later from Ikram.	
8	**Pupil roll**	
8.1	GM reported that: • there were 373 pupils currently on roll, with 2Y0 provision (Acorns) likely to increase and more than 45 expected in Reception for 2024-25 (i.e. above 1.5 form entry). AS noted that • there was an extremely high level of SEND in the current Reception year, and if that were to be repeated in 2024-25, there would not be enough physical space to provide for them. • there had been no positive response from Camden SEND team, and AS had followed up with the scrutiny committee, with formal requests to be sent by 15.12.23. **DH and AS agreed to draft a letter to the scrutiny committee**, noting that they would focus on encouraging Camden to distribute SEND children more equitably across the borough's schools, although AS noted that parental	**AS DH**

	choice drove the process. • although SEND funding was complex, especially for the Netley Campus, Camden SEND needed to work more closely with Camden Admissions, to influence the choice of school by parents with SEND children, and encourage them to send their children to nearer mainstream schools. GM noted that SEND children who were travelling long distances for NPS, tended to have lower attendance than those who lived nearly. • it was possible that some current Reception parents would move their children to other schools for Y1. • there was the potential to set up a SEND Hub (which JH had already mentioned to Camden) to facilitate a more equitable distribution of SEND children in Camden schools. **AS and DH agreed to draft a deputation for Camden Council and invited all Governors to attend.** JH noted that • he had arranged a meeting with the Head of SEND, who would be leaving post the post soon after. • it was entirely possible that there would be a similar intake in September 2024. Governors discussed possible reasons for Netley attracting such a high proportion of SEND pupils, and highlighted: ○ the name of the school (Netley Primary School and Centre for Autism), which could confuse parents into thinking (erroneously) that the Autism provision (i.e. Woodlands), was integral to the school. MK noted that he had applied for a place for his daughter for that reason, and Camden had not clarified the situation. ○ that NPS had a strong reputation for supporting SEND pupils and their families, and this attracted more applications from parents with SEND children. GM noted that he frequently ran tours for prospective parents, and explained the role of Woodlands on the campus, but was often told by parents with SEND children that other schools tried to discourage them from applying. ○ JH noted that the joint title was confusing and although NPS was very good with SEND pupils, staff were also needed for non-SEND pupils. ○ the 135 group of schools had devised some solutions to the problems and **agreed to send them to AS.** David (DA) noted that the campus links with SEND were causing financial problems: • NPS had been cross-subsiding Woodlands for many years, and this was exacerbated by Camden withholding funding, due to the lack of agreement over the Service level Agreement for Woodlands.*	**AS DH** **All** **JH**

	GM noted that: • the funding for EHCPs did not cover the cost of provision, relying on a top-up from main school funding to meet their needs. **JH left the meeting during this item at 6.30.*	
9	**Budget review**	
9.1	AS noted that **the Quarter 3 budget would be reviewed at the next Finance meeting** and DA noted that they needed to discuss the alarming state of the budget with Camden.	**Resources agenda**
10	**Policies**	
10.1	**Governors approved the circulated policies for:** • **Complaints** • **Staff allegations**	
11	**Any Other Business**	
11.1	Governors noted that the recent production of Oliver had been excellent (led by Claire). Other Christmas events included the EYFS nativity, to which all Governors were invited.	

There being no further matters to discuss, the Chair thanked everyone, and closed the meeting at 6.50 p.m.

TO BE AGREED AT THE 28.2.24 MEETING AND

TO BE SIGNED ONLINE BY Anthony Stoll, Chair of Governors, Netley Primary School.

	ACTIONS FROM THE 6.12.23 CURRICULUM / FGB MEETING	ACTION
3.1	a. PM to upload the agreed 15.11.23 FGB minutes to GHub.	**Done**
	b. AS to sign previous minutes on GHub.	**??**
3.2	a. Spring FGB meeting to consider Aly Dermody Palmer as a potential Netley Governor.	**FGB agenda**
	b. JH to present the Campus Handbook at the next FGB meeting.	**FGB agenda**
	c. GM to run another meeting on internet safety for parents, following a poor turn-out at a previous meeting.	**??**
	d. AS to write to Camden regarding the future of the current Reception year, as they progress to Y1.	**??**
4.1	GM to present the November Camden Learning visit report to the FGB.	**FGB agenda**
4.2	AS to contact local councillors over the Reception SEND overload.	**??**
8.1	a. DH and AS to draft a deputation to the Education Scrutiny Committee re SEND issues	**??**
	b. AS and DH to draft a deputation for Camden Council to establish a SEND Hub and invited all Governors to be attend.	**??**
	c. JH to send 135 SEND proposals them to AS.	**??**
9.1	Quarter 3 budget to be reviewed at the next Finance meeting.	**Finance agenda**