

Moorlands School Federation

Full Governing Body Meeting Tuesday 17 May – 18.15

MINUTES

Attendees:

Lou Abercrombie (LA)	Parent Governor (MJS)
Simon Weiss (SW)	Community Governor
Jon Bentley (JB)	Community Governor
Binky Clark (BC)	Vice-Chair of Governors/Acting Chair of Governors
Caroline Cronin (CCr)	Co-opted Governor
Rachel Godfrey	Staff Governor
Clare Griffin-Felton (CGF)	Head Teacher
Sam Laite (SL)	Community Governor

1. **Apologies** were received from Ruth Balch, Jonny Norris and Robin Nash.
2. **Declaration of Business Interests** – None.
3. **Minutes of last meeting** – were approved as a correct record.
4. **Headteacher's vision:** CGF reported on a very positive PDM she had with staff focussing on succession planning going forward and individual staff career progression, enabling and prioritising their classroom time. All staff were asked if they were interested in developing middle leadership and in what subject area. PPA time as 1 day per fortnight will be trialled in Term 6. There will be less precise curriculum prescription to allow teachers to decide their own curriculum timetable e.g. occasional double history session or art afternoon. **Governors (SW) asked** how school would check that the full curriculum has been covered – CGF explained this would be monitored through book scrutinies. **Governors (JB) asked** if extra training would be required. CGF reported she had already organised this through David Tilling and Julia Battersby at the Teaching School. Training would also be given to manage data. She explained the main priority would be to release time to manage, coach and work alongside teachers. **Governors (BC) suggested** Senior Leaders could report directly to Governors meetings as part of their CPD. CGF presented a draft document of potential future senior and middle leadership. English as a major curriculum responsibility may be split into various areas supported by the Team Leader. **Governors (JB) asked** if performance reviews would be carried out with Line Managers. CGF confirmed they would. CGF explained that closer moderation with teachers enables expectations and consistency. **Governors (BC) agreed** that now the school has progressed from RI to Good allows greater innovation in looking at next steps. **Governors (JB) asked** if the School Pupil Tracker had had a positive impact on school improvement. RG replied that teachers had responded very positively to SPT, it helps them guide tracking, planning and differentiation, building in intervention, enabling year on year planning and guiding teacher judgements.
Other matters covered by Headteacher:
Place2Be: CGF reported that the school has unfortunately had to give notice to Place2Be due to budgetary restraints. The circle time and therapeutic care provided had been excellent and the school will look at alternative ways of managing this. **Governors (CC) asked** how this would impact on the children: CGF said she hoped to have a replacement service in place by September.
First Steps Nursery: As reported to the C&A committee, relationships are much improved but there is still work to be done.

5. **Academy status: BC reported** following the discussion at the Resources committee, the Federation and The Partnership Trust were still very keen to move this forward but were still awaiting action from the Local Authority.
6. **Staffing:** 2 members of staff (1 TA, 1 caretaker) had returned from long term absence. 1 teacher had secured a position in another school, resignation pending. One teacher on a fixed term contract had been appointed to Midsomer Norton Primary School. 1 caretaker had just resigned, on a 4 week period of notice.
7. **Budget approval and ratification of the Finance Policy:** after discussion at C&A about the educational priorities and following further discussion at Resources, the Budget was **approved** by the FGB.
8. **Achievement for all update: LA attended** a meeting with teachers to decide on A4A priorities. 2 children per class were chosen from a variety of vulnerable backgrounds (FSM/Behavioural/EAL/SEN/Parental Engagement). Over the year teachers have identified with the children, getting to know and understand their needs more closely, and holding 3x in-depth structured conversations with their parents to identify barriers to learning and ensure aspirations. Impact can be measured 2 fold: a) on the A4A children and b) the learning of new practices on the rest of the school. Outcomes: a) As per Chris Rush's report (circulated), the data shows great improvement in learning progress. Chris Foyle has contacted parents of all 22 children to encourage their involvement in after school clubs and activities. 16 (72%) are now involved in clubs, 4 of 11(36%) in more than one club (increase of 22%). From Year 4+, 5 could barely swim, now 2 can swim 15m and 3 can swim 25m. Teachers have tried to ensure that parents of A4A children attend events such as school exhibitions and Female Friday with an emphasis on positive engagement. Liz Ennew's monitoring feedback shows many examples of children being happier in school, better engagement with parents and teachers, improved behaviour, attitude to learning and improvement in work. b) Teachers have gained confidence in having difficult conversations with parents (new and younger teachers are supported in this). Good practice is improved: at Parent's evening, all parents are being asked "What do you want for your child", enabling two-way conversations with parents to support and set targets. Areas for improvement: greater consistency in implementing the Behaviour policy. LSAs felt under-skilled in dealing with some difficult children and situations: Action taken: They have had training with Fosseyway school on de-escalation techniques. Next steps: Pupil voice and improving sense of belonging. In Year 2, the school will have access to BUBBLE, a knowledge and tools database, from which Liz Ennew has identified the Strategic (best use of LSAs in school) and Teaching (upskilling middle management) modules as priorities. **LA reported** that Liz has done an excellent job in championing the A4A programme: MSF is being recommended as a model of success across B&NES. **Governors (CC) congratulated** the school on the A4A programme so far and **asked** if it was planned to continue with the same group or roll out further across the school. CGF explained it was a 2 year programme and decisions would be made following its completion the following year.
9. **Diary dates:** Sports Day planned for Friday 27 May 1030-115, weather dependent. Fathers' Friday: Friday 17 June.
10. **Parental Engagement: JB** has compiled the parents' questionnaire which will be distributed shortly.
11. **Date of next meeting:** 5 July 6.15pm