

Minutes of the Directors' Meeting of the St Christopher's C of E (Secondary) MAT Thursday 26th March 2020 at 13:30pm held remotely via Microsoft Teams and mobile The Ilfracombe Academy

AGENDA ITEM ACTION

Present: Sean Sweeney (SS, Chair), Andrew Bailey (AB), Pat Glover (PG), Alison Homa (AH),			
1. Opening Items (SS) Apologies for Absence – None Declarations – None Confidentiality – Understood – query whether Teams is confidential? HLW to check. ACTION. Approval of previous meeting minutes – previous minutes approved and signed by chair	АН		
2. Main Focus and Questions (SS)			
HT noted that SR is currently deputy head not HT. Review for his induction is due in February. Should we hold off advertising for his backfilling? SS We should stick with the February deadline, as and when school reengages, Directors to chat in Autumn term (AB or July). We are dealing with someone who is already with us. AB Agreed, we don't know enough yet to decide on the induction period fully.	АВ		
AB to add to the agenda – We have received advice from solicitors at the Primary Trust regarding quicker processes of governance currently. AB will have this ready later tonight to have a written resolution to give the chair and/or vice chair with power of action to make a decision as long as it is seen to be in good faith.	SS		
<u>Funding</u> - HT Fullabrook are offering some money, £5000. (£50 per child) we would like to use this to buy books and notebooks for children. We would like to access these fairly quickly. We want to target year 10 (notebooks) and younger students (books). Because of the timescale we would like to circumvent the procedure for getting 3 quotes and use this money asap. AB noted that as long as we can be seen to be operating in good faith this should be fine. SS I am happy with this. All agreed. ACTION.			
Staffing – HT Ian Stuart has been attending interviews and has helped enormously recently. DT and Drama are currently the only gaps we have in staffing.			
Governance ideas – AB noted that the primary trust have been advised to have the facility to use chair's action. This does not exist in the Secondary trust articles of association. AB has a written resolution which would allow the chair or vice chair to take chair's action in certain circumstances. I would recommend we do this. An example would be a financial decision. We would need to enact this via a written resolution. AB has the paperwork to send to Directors to sign and send to HLW. ACTION. HT this is important due to decisions needing to be made quickly and would have to be in line with the academies financial handbook. HT we may receive another financial handout which needs to be actioned quickly, this would enable that to happen. SS Should Ilfracombe be			

moving from MIchelmores? AB we can look at if we are getting value for money AB to look into this and report back at the next meeting. **ACTION**.

3. Portfolio Reports and Questions (SS)

SIMG – No written report. HT updated Directors. PR looking at PP2 -0.5. He has been looking at the QA cycle due to the new Ofsted framework. We have curriculum statement and department overviews. We have had PP3 since then which shows working at grade as -0.26. There is a gap and this is important because last year at PP3 we were -0.5 and our eventual score was -0.26 this shows we have a solid base that we would have hit PP 0 this year going up by quarter of a grade each year following that curve. We have good evidence to show this. The DfE is focussing on how to manage the Coronavirus crisis. Ofqual have said that for vocational qualifications they are using work that has already been assessed and the assessed work so far has been very good, this puts us in a good position. SS what is the trend for the present year 10? HT This is a fairly positive year but have been a bit complacent. AB Can we ensure that we won't suffer because of the mocks in year 11 not being great results due to the complacent attitude? HT The mocks will not be used on their own to reach a final grade from the DfE, it will be teacher assessment too. We want to clarify that they will be using work done up until March or if the work done from home is still valid. The children need some clarity on that. AH how many is that? HT I cannot tell you the number but we have dropped off resources to every child that does not have internet access. PG The quality of parental care and supervision will have an effect on this? HT Yes. PG The gap will widen over the next few months. HT Universities have published criteria and students will not drop below their last grade in school which is PP3.

SEN/SAFEGUARDING – No questions on this portfolio report. SS noted that there are no Directors on this portfolio. PG is down as the link Director. AB Do you have any concerns about students we are not seeing in school and is there anything we can do about it? HT We have categorised the children into Priority 1, 2 and 3. Sianna Clark has been doing this from home. All children have been contacted and we have produced a safeguarding card for children including key agency numbers, MASH, the police, Childline etc. All children who have a vulnerability have 2 additional numbers on the back which go through to HT and SR mobile phones as a priority. County have set out a list of students they consider to be vulnerable and have asked for a list from the school, we have done this. Pastoral Coordinators have been asked by children to FaceTime and they have agreed to this. Parents have been notified of what they can do with any safeguarding issues. We are open over Easter with a switchboard for parents to call if necessary.

CURRICULUM/CCD – HT we were planning to launch a vocational qualification but this will require a lot of preparation so this will have to take a back seat for a year. SS The website has been updated and there is good news on year 7 numbers next year. HT we will have around 200. There will need to be some adaptation for teaching spaces. For the following year J Twomey will need to look at timetabling. The school was not built to accommodate a whole year group being taught a core subject at the same time. AB This has been discussed before. There is also a large cohort coming into the 6th form, will that cause any problems? HT I don't think so, year 12 options are done in Autumn term so staffing has already been accounted for. SS Staffing wise? HT We made some quick appointments in the final weeks, we have appointed very quickly 2 English, 2 Science and 1 Humanities teacher. We have to appoint a point 6 DT and point 8 Drama teacher. Apart from this we are fully staffed. AB

HT

Are we doing enough to make sure the curriculum is accessible to all pupils? HT We are, we were going to provide on-site vocational provision and this will not be possible short term. JT has been looking into this. We have enough vocational subjects to cater for a broad range of children. AB We have Killacleave now. HT this is for KS3 only, we want to look at in house for KS4 as currently this is taken by Petroc.

FINANCE — AB We have a fair reserve built up, we are better off spending some of it where it is needed. HT has drawn up where this will be. AB We will need to change our reserve policy due to this. The other reservation is that we don't need to bring this to the LGB. It can go straight to the board. SS what does the Scheme of delegation say? AB it says that the responsibility as far as it can be is with LGB. By law though this can go to the board. AB proposes to change the scheme of delegation so that LGB does not look at money anymore. HT noted that we spend a lot of time explaining things to governors that we don't need to be. Governors won't be asked about this and cannot hold the school to account about this. AB I would extend this to Premises and H&S. This would allow LGB meetings to focus and will reduce workload for governors and SLT. This would make succession planning for the chair easier. PG Would those portfolios need to report to the board? AB We would probably not need more than 3 a year and we could tailor them. SS Where are we with academy committees? AB I don't agree with this. I attended a leaders' conference and the mood among other chairs was that LGBs are a waste of time and effort. AB noted that he disagreed with this. We should still call it a LGB but with some functions taken away and cleaned up a bit so we can focus where we need to. There is a lot of repetition within LGB. With a governance review coming up we need to look at this. We can take some advice from Michelmores. ACTION. SS Looking at strategic questions this places strategy in the hands of governors. AB It puts it in the hands of the committee which reports back to the board. PG It was expected that some groups would be the experts and others would have to trust in this. AB It takes up time at LGB meetings due to talking about things that don't need to be talked about. SS all to look at this again for the summer term Directors meeting. **ACTION.** PG The scrutiny that is in the Pf groups is evidence that they are working effectively. HT we have people who are experts in each field on the portfolios and I would not advocate taking any more away. I would suggest presenting governors with an annual finance update so they don't feel out of the loop. AB We need to be clear about how we communicate this decision. SS We may need to bring some LGB members in as Directors. AB if we asked a governor to be on the board we would ask them to step down as governor. AB to make a written proposal. ACTION.

PERSONNEL – Nothing to add to this. Notes very thorough.

PREMISES – The current H&S policy needs reviewing, AB will do this. ACTION. Induction plan was copied to Directors. HT most of this is completed, the last bit was for SR to meet with OH. Training with HT took place last week, HT will be dealing with as many personnel issues as possible before she leaves. Most of this plan has been delivered successfully. Planning days that SR was due to have are not now taking place. LGB and Directors will need to keep an eye on improvement planning and when LGB and Directors should step in. Next Directors meeting there needs to be a clear protocol of when this should happen. AB is making a note of this. Directors to discuss SR induction period at the next meeting. ACTION. SS is HT offering her time in September still? HT Yes, I have seen the reservations from Governors and would like to know what criteria Governors would use to step in if necessary.

AB

19/20 meeting 2

	19/20 meeting 2
COMMUNITY – No minutes for this meeting.	
 4. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting (SS) 4.1 Ethos Committee – JM heads this. He has done a report which was passed to JG. SS has not seen this. The report has not gone to Governors. SS Do we need to see this? AB yes. HLW to ask for this from JG. ACTION. 4.2 Infants School – AB They have received a Good Ofsted rating. SS Is there anything of any relevance at present? HT The Covid-19 crisis shows that there are no learning communities. HT has been in close communication about provision with the other schools. Out of the crisis has been forged better communication. Clare Grant has been part of that. 	SS
5. Referred by LGB 5.1 Clerk to Directors JD and Person spec – No decisions to be made. AB has spoken to LN but this has not been decided, AB to check. ACTION. SS The document is not complete? AB the issue was that LN was not sure of the best way to alter and implement the contract. LGB Vacancies – We have 2 staff governor vacancies and one Foundation vacancy. SS We need to hold on this pending LGB decisions. HLW has been asking staff but no interest yet. Expenditure to be added to reserve policy, this conversation needs to be had	AB/HT
with Bishop Fleming. HT this to be proposed for the next meeting to discuss with BF ACTION .	
6. Policies to be adopted Policies to be adopted: SEND Policy – Not completely up to date, HLW to send out when received. ACTION.	All policies approved
Staff Leave and Absence Policy Pay Policy Freedom of Info Scheme Collective Worship Policy RE Policy Discretions Policy – this has been updated but was some time before the policy was uploaded, Directors to review. Drugs Policy – to be sent on. ACTION	
AB noted that there was some confusion at LGB that some governors were not sure on the process of approving policies. This to be put into training for governors and SLT. ACTION.	
Policies adopted by email to be formally minuted:	
7. Items from Annual Cycle (SS)	
None	
8. Regular Items (SS) 8.1 Future of St Christopher's (Secondary) MAT – Talking to John Searson as a Trust, we have not contacted him yet. Timing wise this is not imperative. HT while we have a good Ofsted and SIAMS judgement we don't need to act quickly on this. Other schools locally are not at the same place as us. Due to having a new HT in September this is not a necessity currently. SR would need	

19/20 meeting 2

some more experience as a HT before taking on another school. SS We don't need to take this risk at the moment.		
8.2 <u>Correspondence</u> – None	SS	
8.3 Safeguarding/Health & Safety issues - None to report		
8.4 Impact of meeting –		
8.5 <u>Future dates</u> – 11 th June 2020 HLW to check		
AH Would like it minuted that HT was doing a good job in a difficult time.		