

MONKTON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Minutes of a meeting of the Governing Body

Thursday 2nd May 2019

(Subject to the approval of the Governing Body at the next meeting)

Present:	Sean Dennien (Co-Chair), David Palmer, Ed Bailey, Steve Rafferty (Headteacher), Ian Sankey, Jonathan Watts, Barbara Hearn, Matt Slee, Jess Baldry, Chris Dutton and Jan Douglas
In attendance	Katie Kelly (Clerk to the Governors), Wayne Lawther (item 5.4)
5.1	Apologies Justine Guillon
5.2	Declarations of Interest There were none.
5.3	Minutes & Matters Arising The minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2019 were viewed and confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Co-Chair Sean Dennien (SD)
5.4	Prayer Spaces in Schools – Presentation by Wayne Lawther – Steve Rafferty (SR) introduced Wayne Lawther (WL), Minister from Station Hill Baptist Church, to the meeting. WL gave a brief presentation about ‘Prayer Spaces’ a national initiative to create an area in to both Primary and secondary schools where children can reflect, pray, sit, think and learn. Children would move around the room taking part in activities designed to help them learn these skills, reflecting the school values, community and world events. The team involved would be trained and DBS checked. The ‘Prayer Space’ would not be exclusive to Christians; children of all faiths and beliefs would be welcome. WL then took questions from the Governors. Chris Dutton (CD) asked if the children would be able to opt out of using the ‘Prayer Space?’ WL confirmed that attendance would not be mandatory. The governors then discussed the name ‘Prayer Space’ they felt that some children/families may be put off by the name. WL agreed, and he confirmed that in some schools it is referred to as ‘The Sanctuary’. CD advised that the School where he teaches have used similar spaces, however they have called it ‘Breathing Spaces’. This helped to remove the religious connotations. The governors agreed that this may be a good idea. David Palmer (DP) asked whether it would link in with mental wellbeing. WL confirmed that it helps children to reflect and think and teaches mindfulness techniques, which would enhance the techniques already taught in school. Ed Bailey (EB) wanted to confirm that it wouldn’t be exclusive to Christians. WL confirmed this. Ian Sankey (IS) asked if there are members of other faiths helping to run the scheme? WL advised that currently there isn’t however they would welcome input from members of the school community. WL gave advice sheets to the governors. SR thanked him for coming to the meeting. WL then left the meeting and the governors continued their discussion. SR felt that it would be a good resource for the school and, if carried out in the correct way, could be a very positive experience for the children. He liked the name ‘breathing spaces’. EB thought how it was introduced to the pupils would need to be carefully considered. Rod Key (RK) felt that the teacher would need to have an oversight of the sessions to ensure that they met the children’s needs. The governors agreed that staff monitoring was essential. DP suggested that visiting ‘prayer spaces’ in other schools may be worthwhile. SR agreed and suggested that Becky Evens the PHSE lead would be

	<p>best placed to do this. SD asked if the governors agreed in principle to using 'Prayer Spaces'? The governors agreed. SR will develop a proposal.</p>
<p>5.5</p>	<p>Setting our strategic direction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum Development <p>SR and Jan Douglas (JD) recently attend a presentation "What is a knowledge led Curriculum?" SR gave an overview of the presentation. A copy of the presentation is attached.</p> <p>SR and JD have been developing a new 'knowledge Led' curriculum for History, Geography and Art. Teachers will need to be aware of the whole curriculum rather than term by term. Therefore, SR and JD will be looking at what is achievable and what schemes of work will be needed to support staff over the coming year. Considering time constraints and lack of specialism, staff cannot be expected to develop the required breadth of knowledge in a short period of time.</p> <p>SD asked why only History, Geography and Art had been considered. SR advised that Science, English and Maths are already developed and PE and PSHE have their own schemes of work.</p> <p>DP asked how the school is going to manage the increase in workload for staff? SR advised that they will be avoiding overloading the staff by using quality schemes of work.</p> <p>CD advised that GCSEs have become more knowledge based and that Primary schools need to evolve their teaching.</p>
<p>5.6</p>	<p>Monitoring & improving our performance</p> <p>Headteacher Report (HTR)</p> <p>The report was available for the governors to read before the meeting. SR gave an overview of the HTR. SATs will be taking place during the week beginning 13th May. SR asked if any Governors would be willing to come into school for the start of each test.</p> <p>Monday – Rod Key (RK) Tuesday – Jonathan Watts (JW) Wednesday – Barbara Hearn (BH) Thursday – Jess Baldry (JB)</p> <p>SR thanked the governors for their support in this matter.</p> <p>SR has received 3 quotes for the proposed Amphitheatre and the redevelopment of the EYFS outdoor area, ranging from £12,500 to £15,000. Although FOMPS will be funding the projects, due to the value the governors will need to approve the spend. The quotes have been discussed at F&P committee. The quote of £12,500 from Ian Bundy (£4,700 for the EYFS project and £7,800 for the Amphitheatre) has been provisionally approved subject to Full Governors approval.</p> <p>JW asked if Sport England had been consulted. SR advised that this had not happened yet but would be covered with the Pre-Planning Application.</p> <p>The Governors approved the spend.</p> <p><i>Post minute note: FOMPS have agreed the EYFS spend of £4,700. SR to gain planning permission from the council before FOMPS release the funds for the Amphitheatre.</i></p> <p>Attainment & Curriculum Minutes</p> <p>IS gave an overview of the A&C meeting. The meetings focus was Pupil Premium. SD advised the Governors that they must understand how pupil premium makes a difference, they need to see evidence on school visits and from Link Governors. DP advised that the PP finance needs to be tracked through F&P. SR confirmed that Sarah Quarrell is looking at this. DP will add to the next F&P meeting for further discussion.</p> <p>School Improvement Plan</p>

	Phonics practice screening is taking place in KS1 this week. There are 5 pupils with significant SEN which will lower the grade expectations. SR told the governors that the results will be a realistic representation of the pupil's ability and will allow the school to put provisions in place for those pupils on transition to KS2.
5.7	<p>Managing our resources effectively</p> <p>Finance and Premises Minutes</p> <p>DP gave an overview of the F&P meeting</p> <p>The Financial Audit review is back and was a very good report, with only minor improvements recommended. F&P minutes need to clearly show any financial approvals.</p> <p>The ramp to the KS2 playground is now complete, ready for the fencing work to be carried out in the summer holidays.</p> <p>The school are looking at refurbishing the Foxes and Pine Martens classrooms</p> <p>The F&P committee have approved the purchase of 30 Chromebooks.</p> <p>The National Lottery have declined the grant for the bungalow. The school plan to review the plans and consider resubmitting a bid.</p> <p>HR Minutes</p> <p>The committee are due to meet on Tuesday 14th May.</p>
5.8	<p>Increasing governor effectiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governors Day SR thanked the governors for attending the day. He produced a Q&A sheet answering the questions the governors had on the day. A copy was distributed. • Governor Training JW was due to attend a H&S course, however it was cancelled. • School Visits JB and DP have both attended Owls Class assembly and the Violin and Recorder concert. DP attended the Level 3 Gymnastics competition and the online safety presentation. • Link Governors & Gathering Evidence SR to produce guidance for the governors. Item to be discussed at the next FGM
5.9	<p>Approval of policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behaviour Policy. The governors viewed the policy before the meeting. CD noted a small error in section 10. SR will amend. There were no further comments. The governors approved the policy. SD signed off the policy. • Homework Policy. The policy is still being drafted, will be reviewed at the next meeting. • Whistleblowing Policy. The governors viewed the policy before the meeting. CD suggested adding that staff could gain advice from the public sector – PCAW.org.uk and from their unions. The governors agreed. The governors approved the policy. SD signed off the policy.
4.9	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JB asked if the school is a collection point for Pen recycling. SR confirmed that Badgers' class were signed up to recycling scheme.
Date of next meeting - The next meeting is on Thursday 20th June 2019 at 7.30 pm.	