

**Minutes of the Full Governing Board Business Strategy Meeting**

**Moorside Primary School and Nursery  
held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 5.00p.m in School.**

*Nurturing Children to Succeed and Achieve*

Present: Chris Lea (CL)(Chair), Claire Rowett (CR)(HT), Matthew Kettlewell (MK), Rachel Allen (RA), Kimberley Mearns (KM) and Kathy Hammersley (KH)

In attendance: Carol Harris (Clerk) (CH)  
Grace Foster-Lilly (GF-L) Prospective Co-opted Governor

**Core Functions of a Governing Board:**

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, Safeguarding and welfare of stakeholders and strategic direction.
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

**1. Welcome to Governors and apologies.**

The Chair welcomed all Governors to the meeting held in School.

Apologies and reasons for absence were received and accepted Jen Pallister (JP)

The Chair and HT explained the reasoning behind the nomination of Grace Foster-Lilly as a Co-opted Governor to the Board. It was reported that Grace had visited school and met with both the HT and Chair and as such their recommendation was to accept this nomination.

**All Governors present accepted** this nomination and Mrs Foster-Lilly was duly co-opted to the Board. **Action** – The Clerk to update the NYES systems accordingly.

At this point in the meeting the Chair updated Governors on the complaint that had been made by the Board and school regarding the situation around a potential admission to the school. It was reported that a further meeting is scheduled to take place with Amanda Newbould to look at actions and to formulate a plan going forward.

Discussion followed around this situation with Governors expressing their concerns for the family and child involved and how best this matter can be resolved for all concerned.

*GF-L Joined the meeting at 17.15 hrs.*

Clerk

	<p>The Chair further explained the situation to Governors including the financial implications for school.</p> <p>It was noted that the Chair continues to investigate this matter, the implications for subsequent children wanting to join the school and the financial implications going forward.</p> <p><i>GF-L was introduced to Governors and formally welcomed to the Board.</i></p>	
<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p><b>Pecuniary Interests</b></p> <p>The Chair reminded Governors to declare any pecuniary interests.</p> <p>No new interests were declared.</p>	
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Confidentiality</b></p> <p>The Chair reminded Governors of the need for confidentiality and the meeting determined that no part of the minutes needed to be recorded as a confidential item.</p>	
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>To declare the notification of any other urgent business.</b></p> <p>None declared.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Governance Strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Academisation</b> – The HT explained the situation and the historical reasoning behind the academisation process. She explained the HARTS Alliance connection with the school, the benefits of this and how Moorside became an IQM flagship school. Further benefits of these partnerships were further explained.</li> </ul> <p>It was important to note that Moorside continues to be forward looking in its development and is continually striving to update and maintain the links already well established.</p> <p>The need to maintain internal capacity to provide for all of our children remains a priority.</p> <p>Networking with other partnership schools continues with headteachers linking similar threads through the schools SDPs.</p> <p><b>All governors agreed</b> that this was a commonsense strategy and that academisation will remain an ongoing conversation but that it is not the way forward at this point.</p> <p>MK fed back data to Governors which supported this strategy.</p>	

- **Short/Medium Term Goals** – The HT explained the new Ofsted framework and grade descriptors and led Governors through the judgements on a handout shared at the meeting.  
It was noted that Moorside will keep current with Outstanding judgements and grow aspirations towards this.  
It was also explained how Governors will feed into this with challenge and monitoring, perhaps working in pairs.  
It was noted that some policies and procedures need to be embedded, Monitoring in pairs was explained in more detail and how this could work in practice. This will enable Governors to see the bigger picture for accountability with a need to hold leaders to account for the provision and embedding of policies and procedures.  
The Chair explained this further and the vision for future Ofsted visits in order to maintain pace and standards.  
Working in pairs would;
  - ✓ Enable more effective succession planning
  - ✓ Offer other views on evidence viewed
  - ✓ Share areas of expertise
  - ✓ Share skills and burden.

Holding staff to account would remain a priority and the introduction of CPD around report/letter/updates and communication writing in staff meetings will help to standardise this.

The HT reported that there were now 167 (we had forecast 166) children in school with an improving picture forecast in the local community. Children are to become ambassadors within the community with the potential to grow this further and provide more opportunities for the children.

Going forward we would be looking to sustain our judgement of 'good', with our development areas to aspire to be an outstanding provision. The most important thing is to maintain our nurturing ethos, which supports behavior and therefore improving outcomes in school

The HT explained data standards to Governors and how these standards can be sustained and improved.

*GC.- How much feedback do you get from staff and input into this aspirational view and subsequent reporting?*

*R.- Staff are currently being supported with report writing and reports have been shortened over previous years, but we have a duty to keep parents informed about pupil progress. The number and frequency of parent's evening has also been reduced from 3 to 2 because the parents receive 3 reports per year and we have constant dialogue with parents – they are welcome to arrange further meetings if desired..*

	<p>Discussion followed around maintaining and improving standards with the balance of staff workload.</p> <p>The graduated approach to improvement was further explained and how this will look in practice.  The School Vision was explained to Governors and that the Vision was being fulfilled however, it was important to remain reflective, thinking, ‘How can this be improved?’ with the need identified to explore this further.</p> <p>The HT summed up the short-term goals for the subject/curriculum areas. It was noted that the school would be moving away from Target Tracker to <b>SONAR</b> for assessment and to further support staff with the writing of reports.</p> <p>Governors suggested meetings with the SLT to look at exactly what they should be looking at during monitoring visits. Governors were encouraged to talk to the children and look at how subjects are embedded across the school. It was important to look at the bigger picture and share this amongst all staff, not just the SLT. This would then support Governors with direction for monitoring visits and look at how this can be tightened up and further improved.</p> <p>It was suggested to feed this into the agenda cycle and then agendas for meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>FGB Structure and meetings</b> – The Chair opened a discussion around this.</li> </ul> <p><b>Governors felt that;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Meetings are run efficiently and effectively.</li> <li>✓ Governors offer support but challenge in appropriate measure.</li> <li>✓ Governor evaluation would be useful</li> </ul> <p>The HT thanked all Governors for their continued support and challenge,  <b>Action</b> – The Clerk to send 20 questions for Governor evaluation out to all for consideration at the next meeting.</p>	Clerk
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chair and Vice-Chair roles</b> – As these roles would be reviewed and appointed at the next meeting, the Clerk asked all Governors to consider nominations prior to the meeting and let her know of any interest in either role.</li> </ul>	

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12.	<b>Key Dates for Governor attendance</b>	
	TBC	

Item no.	Action	By
1.	To updates NYES systems regarding the appointment of GF-L as Co-opted Governor.	Clerk
5.	To send 20 questions for Governor evaluation to all Governors for consideration at the next meeting.	Clerk

The meeting closed at 18.40 hours.

Signed: ..... Dated: .....