

**THE GOVERNING BODY FOR FRIERN BARNET SCHOOL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE SCHOOL ON
MONDAY, 3 JUNE 2019**

MEMBERS:

CO-OPTED GOVERNORS

* Ms Ann Woodhall (Chair) (WLA)
* Mr Ian Bretman (BNI)
* Councillor Barry Rawlings (RSB)
* Mr Trevor Renouf (RFT)
* Ms Niki Savva (SAN)
Ms Sonia Ghaznavi (GIS)
Ms Charlotte Fergusson (FNC)

PARENT GOVERNORS

* Miss Michele Buckland (BDM)
* Mr Martin Christie (CEM)
* Ms Olga Glazer (GRO)
* Mrs Joanna Goga (GAJ)
* Mrs Sangeeta Kerai (KIS)
* Mr Nishad Gudhka (GAN)
Mrs Tracy Ward (WDT)

LA GOVERNOR

* Councillor Anne Hutton (Vice-Chair) (HNA)

STAFF GOVERNORS

* Mr Simon Horne (Head Teacher) (HES)
* Mr Jerry Arnull (ALJ)

* Denotes members present

NON-VOTING OBSERVERS PRESENT

Ms Angela Moore (Deputy Head Teacher) (MEA)
Ms Jane Mullan (Deputy Head Teacher) (MNJ)
Miss Zara Adu-Minta (Y10 Deputy Head Student)
Miss Sabrina King (Y10 Deputy Head Student)

IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs Jane Canavan – Clerk (CNJ)

A Woodhall

19/26 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the summer term meeting. She said that at the end of business, the meeting would move to Part II.

19/27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Ms S Ghaznavi, Ms T Ward, Ms C Fergusson – all accepted.
Michele Buckland has offered her resignation, for personal reasons.

19/28 STUDENT PARLIAMENT (SP) PRESENTATION

Led by Y10 Deputy Head Students Zara Adu-Minta (MAZ) and Sabrina King (KGS).
Following a SP meeting on 3 April 2019, head students met with the Head Teacher on 30 April.
Items discussed and outcomes would be fed back to forms. These were as follows:

- Sex education – Students want discreet sex education and relationships. A consultant came in and gave taster sessions. As a result, this will be delivered within drop down days.
- Reporting bullying – Online anonymous reporting system to be loaded on all PCs.
- School Canteen – ongoing issues with queues, cost, variety, portion size and quality. Grassy area outside gets muddy.
Canteen contractors to come in again and meet students. Vending machine to be installed in conservatory and alternatives for eating outside being considered.
- Detentions – students have asked for more teacher consistency using behaviour policy, such as using the warning system before issuing a detention.
- Litter picking – has declined. If students are seen dropping litter they should be sanctioned. HES said the older students are not keen to do litter picking.
- Uniform – request for no ties for boys was declined.
- Toilets – request for refurbishment of toilets. Doors to be replaced on boys' cubicles. HES said the doors on the boys' toilets has been vandalised – cost £1,300 to repair. Students have been asked to respect their environment and report any damage.
- Buildings – clean and renovate classrooms. Fix pipe outside PE area.
(Works are due in summer holidays.)
- Gates/Bells – students requested the back gate stay open later. Declined.
Late-comers must go round to the front gate to be checked in by a member of staff.
- Charities – requested more non-uniform days.
HNA asked which charities the school was currently supporting. Homeless Action in Barnet, Winston's Wish (Christmas Charity) and Noah's Ark Children's Hospice.
- Curriculum – students asked for increased GCSE options (sociology/psychology)
HES said they do not have teachers to deliver these subjects.
Politics/PiXL Edge – form time to be used for politics education/PiXL Edge time.
- Student Voice – 300 students took part in a FireFly survey. They requested:
 - Access to revision materials
 - Links to websites that support learning
 - Student-friendly specifications on topics covered over the yearFaculties to review and update their FireFly pages based on student feedback.
- Dance Leaders – have recently completed their practical assessments. Level 1 students delivered an hour's teaching at St John's, Garfield and Martin Primaries. Level 2 students delivered a day's worth of teaching at De Bohun and Bowes Primaries.

Students were asked how they felt SP had worked this year. They said issues have been brought forward and re-visited and they have been given the reasons why some things cannot change.

GAN noted the impressive number of students who responded to the Firefly survey. KGS said they were reviewing revision/learning materials and the responses have helped Mr Soave (Lead Practitioner) to expand the website. Students were asked to report back on the impact of this. **GAN** asked why students felt it was important to have a warning before a detention is given. MAZ said that sometimes if a student does something wrong they are automatically given a detention. If

a student was given a warning, they could change their behaviour and avoid a detention. If they don't change their behaviour, they can expect a detention.

WLA thanked the students for their presentation.
The students left the meeting.

19/29 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

19/30 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2019 were **APPROVED**.

19/31 MATTERS ARISING

18/54 Pupil Premium

GAN confirmed he had passed information relating to Enfield support to MNJ.

18/64 Safeguarding Update

WLA reminded governors they had should have read the relevant safeguarding information (The Management of Safeguarding paragraphs 52 – 58) and they should inform Maria Casling-Brown that they have done so.

19/16 Governor Representation at Parents' Evenings

WLA asked for feedback from governors who had attended parents' evenings.

GRO attended Y10 parents' evening. She said feedback from parents was very positive. They were pleased to have the opportunity to meet the teachers and to ask questions.

KIS attended Y7 parents' evening. She said some parents said the canteen food could be improved (taste-wise). KIS told them that their child should report this through their SP form rep. She added that a child had moved to FBS from another school and they had settled well and were very happy.

19/20 SEF

WLA said that link governors should have received a copy of their faculty's SEF relating to teaching and learning. MNJ said the next section of the SEF is due to go out to governors in July.

19/32 MINUTES OF THE BUDGET RATIFICATION MEETING

The minutes of the Budget Ratification Meeting held on 26 March 2019 were **APPROVED**.

19/33 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

19/34 CREATIVE ARTS REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Presented by Ms Angela Moore (MEA).

MEA explained she was standing in for the Head of Faculty, Pippa Fisher-Coldwell, using Pippa's Powerpoint Presentation.

Key priorities for the faculty:

- Continue developing partnerships and out of class opportunities, to ensure lesson time and extra curricular are as one.
- KS4 – focus on borderline students, ensuring interleaving to ensure retention.
- KS3 – ensure skills reflect the GCSE specification requirements.
- Focus on written work/assessment/markings.

Curriculum

With the exception of music, there are no major changes in the creative arts curriculum. There is a new head of music and the department is teaching one class a wider variety of instruments. There are several instruments that have been donated in the past, or have been in the department for years. HNA asked if the school could get some funding to buy some instruments. HES said they constantly look for sources but they haven't been able to find funding for instruments. MEA said music has introduced a different GCSE specification in music.

Extra-Curricular

Art

MEA said that art have clubs every lunchtime – she said it is a lovely atmosphere where GSCE students are being very creative. She added that some of the harder to reach students respond well to art. MEA said some Y10 students had their photographic images exhibited in the Wallace Collection and Y9 have been involved in a Crafts Council workshop. MNJ said this had a ceramics focus and a third of the year group had the opportunity to work with ceramics.

Dance

MEA said one of the highlights in dance was the 'Toy Story' dance adaptation. MEA said that English National Ballet (ENB) funding was coming to an end but some students were involved in a project during the Easter break. ENB is moving to east London. MEA said several professional tours had been in to perform. The dance festival at the school was very successful.

Drama

LAMDA continues to build a profile at FBS. Brainstorm play: a cast of 11 students create a play based on their own experiences and bring it to life (through a National Theatre project). This will be performed in the first week of July. Drama club was working on a devised piece on soap operas. There were two trips this year to see "Woman in Black". MEA said students were also involved in a 'Heads Up' project in collaboration with Jacksons Lane Theatre Company. EAPs are working on a drama talent contest.

Music

MEA reminded governors of the great winter concert and said there would be a summer rock concert on 15 July.

School Musical

Legally Blonde was a sell-out and it had excellent reviews.

Still to Come

Step Live (South Bank) – 24th June.

Thrive, Barnet Dance Festival – performing at the Millfield Theatre, Edmonton.

Art Exhibition.

EAPs – Y5 – four students having their auditions on 11th July. There are 17 places available in each year group. MEA said in the first round, approximately 10-11 children accept places and they were shortly running the second round of auditions for the remaining places. She reminded the governors that the EAPs are given an excellent offer, for free, in the creative arts.

MEA said one student has been awarded a place at The Place (contemporary dance) and another already has a place. On this course students are able to attend their mainstream schools. Chloe Gentles (former head student) is performing professionally at the Laban Centre.

19/35 REPORT OF THE HEAD TEACHER

The Head's report had been circulated previously.

HES said he wanted to add his praise for the ongoing work of the creative arts faculty.

He said the SENDCo, Carl Robinson, has settled in. Other staffing matters would be discussed in Part II.

HES said that Ofsted had finished their consultation and they are changing their framework. He said the school would need to adapt the SIP and SEF to reflect the changes in the framework. Ofsted has put the curriculum at the heart of their inspection. In their descriptors, a 'good' school is determined by the number of students who take the Ebacc at GCSE. This means students will need to take history or geography and a foreign language (in our case French or Spanish). HES said these subjects may be taken at the expense of the creative arts and thus reduces choice. He said while he is not worried about the level of student taking a humanities subject, there is a concern about the numbers taking up a language. Currently about 40% take a language and the DfE wants this to increase to 90%. He said they will have to take a view about this particular governmental target. SAN suggested that by making languages compulsory would push numbers up. HES said they are

reluctant to force students to take a language because it reduces choice and subjects like music and drama will suffer. He added that the Ebacc pushes the more traditional curriculum.

Y11 students

HES said are currently turning up for their exams. He said there were a few issues and some children were finding the exams difficult. He said that this year group has a significant number of low attainers. They are hoping to get to the national average for level 4/5.

Attendance

HES said there had been a dip in attendance for the spring term (93.6%). He said he was confident that attendance for the year would be over 95% and above the national average. **BNI** asked if they knew why there was a dip in attendance for the spring term. HES said some students were late back after Christmas but it was more likely to be sickness.

Professional Development

HES said that at FBS teachers are keen to develop their teaching. Metacognition is a way of developing 'learning to learn' and using strategies to manage and enhance learning. Teachers have been working to model their thinking and, in turn, to help students develop self-regulation and metacognition. Teachers may suggest different ways of revising such as the use of flash cards, diagrams and colours and the students can find which methods might suit them. It is hoped that by next year metacognition will be established as normal practice.

MNJ said that this has allowed teachers to review and revisit some of the research but it is not one size fits all - for instance, there might be a different model for maths compared with PE -and it needs to be built on.

GAN asked how the students are made aware of the theory and practice.

MNJ said students practise learning activities in the classroom.

For instance in PE, **ALJ** said KS4 students are given a sheet to consider which exam questions they did well in and which they didn't do so well in. They were asked how they revised the questions, how much time they took and which strategies they used. If the student felt the outcome wasn't so good, they were shown alternative ways to revise.

School Trips

WLA said she would like to see a breakdown in school trips. In particular for PP children, who went on a trip and how many trips were paid for or how much the school contribution is.

Business Support Departments

GAN asked if the school had considered looking for funding to upgrade an IT Room. HES said the Business Manager, Paula Donaldson, constantly searches for funding streams and sources of income. They had tried Google, Apple and Microsoft but had been unsuccessful. **GAN** said he was at Google and he would talk to HES about this.

Progress8

GAJ asked for clarification on the progress figure - was -0.5 the average? HES said he was avoiding stating the progress figure because they won't know what it is until the government has processed all the results. He said last year the school was about -0.3 and the progress figure came in as 0, which was the national average for the country. HES said that the current Y11 is below average and they will have to take a hit on this year group but they are hoping for some improvement. He added that the higher the percentage of disadvantaged children, the lower quartile the school would be in for progress. **RFT** noted there had been some progress since the beginning of the year. HES said that many hadn't made a lot of progress. He said they would be looking to see how well the high achievers do in the year group.

Later HES published the following:

Whilst we will always strive to maximise attainment (and therefore the A8 figure in our results) and will always be seeking to achieve a positive progress 8 (P8) figure, there are reasons why this is harder for us than some other schools. Disadvantaged students are still significantly behind peers with similar prior attainment (just 6% of disadvantaged students obtain higher P8 scores than their peers). By comparison grammar schools achieve a third of a grade higher in each subject. A recent study by the University of Bristol has concluded that more than 40 per cent of "underperforming" secondary schools would no longer fall into the category if progress measures were re-weighted to

account for students' backgrounds. I do not want to be seen to be making excuses as P8 is designed to measure how effective schools are in terms of student progress between the ages of 11 and 16. It just seems that the current P8 measure is distorting the league tables and in the words of the report "punishing and rewarding the wrong schools".

19/36 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SIP)

The SIP document was circulated at the meeting.

HES said they would have to change the headings to conform to the new Ofsted standards. He proposed that all the 'greens' should be removed because they had demonstrated the impact of their actions. Those objectives in "orange' are ongoing works-in-progress.

HES said the priority is the curriculum and they will need to put a lot more about this in the SIP. He added that objectives relating to PP students would also need to be included in the new SIP. **CEM** said he was aware of the progress the school had made in meeting targets and he was concerned that if they took some of the 'greens' off there might be a loss of focus. **BNI** said they need to find a way of adapting to the new framework because it seems to go against the school ethos. He added this is fine for a traditional academic school. **GAJ** said that if they made languages compulsory, it would be something to build on. **KIS** said that children are not given the choice to do French or Spanish from Y7. **MNJ** said that they discuss this in transition interviews and they try to fit with parents' preferences.

19/37 PROPOSED DATES FOR GB MEETINGS & COMMITTEES 2019/20

WLA asked governors to note the dates for the next academic year. In particular, they should be aware that **Governor Day was 12 November 2019.**

19/38 RATIFICATION OF POLICIES

WLA said the following policies had been through the Finance and Resources Committee and were now presented for ratification:

Anti Fraud & Corruption

Performance Appraisal for Associate Staff

The governors agreed to **RATIFY** the policies.

19/39 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Minutes of committee meetings had been circulated previously:

Chairs Committee: 22-01-19

Teaching and Learning: 21-01-19; 20-03-19

Student Inclusion: 28-01-19

Finance and Resources: 22-01-19; 20-03-19

19/40 BLUE SKY THINKING

Outcomes and notes from the training were circulated previously.

HES said that they hoped to update governors on the outcomes concerning the work undertaken on mental health and wellbeing.

He said they have also been doing a lot of work on the curriculum, student needs and mapping the curriculum next autumn. **CEM** asked if this would go into the SIP, HES confirmed it would.

19/41 LA TRAINING COURSES

Details had already been circulated. Should governors wish to attend a training session, please get in touch with the Clerk, Jane Canavan, who will arrange it.

19/42 REPORT OF EDUCATION & SKILLS DIRECTOR – SUMMER TERM 1

Educational Standards in Barnet

WLA said that Barnet had come 5th in the country for Attainment8. They had come second for student progress. (First was Isles of Scilly where they have 14 students).

New Governance Handbook

This is available in the secure governors' area on the website. If needed, please contact the Clerk for login details.

SEND Tool Kit

WLA said governors can access information on this site.

Governance Self Evaluation Tool

WLA said the school didn't participate in the last round because there was very little feedback.

19/43 OPEN EVENING GOVERNOR SUPPORT

WLA noted the Open Evening would be held on Thursday, 26 September from 5.30 – 8.30 pm. The HT would talk at 6.00 and 6.45 pm. She said the school always looks wonderful on this evening and she welcomed governors to come along and support the evening.

19/44 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

WLA said they would need appoint the new Chair and Vice-Chair. Governors can self-nominate. The clerk would email governors later in the summer.

Action: Clerk

19/45 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, 7 October 2019, 6.30 pm.

WLA said they would move to PART II

ALJ left the meeting.

WLA said that as this was the last GB meeting and BNI had tendered his resignation as a governor, this would be his final governing body meeting. On behalf of the governors she commended him on the advice and support he has given the school over the years.