



KENTISH TOWN CE PRIMARY SCHOOL (CAMDEN)

**PUBLIC MINUTES
FULL MEETING OF THE BOARD
17th MARCH 2021 at 5.30PM**

In attendance:

Governor Role		Name	Present
Foundation Governors (7):			
Ex Officio (1)		Father Peter Anthony	✓
LDBS (2)		Colin Reader, Chair	✓
		Shirley Skrentny	✓
PCC (2)		Jacqueline Ewers	✓
		Rachel Wrangham, Vice Chair	✓
Deanery Synod (2)		Tom Dumbell	✓
		Nigel Palmer	✓
Non Foundation Governors (5)			
Staff (2):	Head Teacher (1)	James Humphries	✓
	Teaching Staff (1)	Karen Trussler	✓
Parent Elected Governor		Fan Yeung	✓
		Graeme Caul	✓
Local Authority (LA) (1)		Fiona Lovering	✓
Associate Members (2)			
Deputy Head Teacher		Grant Jacobson	✓
Support staff member		Sarah Haag	✓
		Emma Benham	✓
		Miriam Nadarajah	✓
Others Present (1)			
Clerk:		Pamela Ansley	✓
Visitor:		Johnny Chapman	✓

	PART 1 – PUBLIC ITEMS	Actions/ Date
1	Opening Prayer	
	Colin welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Father Peter to open in prayer.	

2	Apologies	
	Tom Dumbell had reported that he would be late to the meeting and Graeme Caul had yet to join us.	
3	Curriculum Update	
	<p>Colin thanked Johnny for coming to the meeting and asked him to present the Curriculum Update to Governors. Johnny's presentation is attached and Johnny shared the screen to display the Curriculum Plan devised by Karen Brooke.</p> <p>Johnny started by informing the meeting that Karen Brooke had completed her review of our humanities curriculum. The topic map had been reordered and areas removed/added in an attempt to decolonise the curriculum and to sequence it more coherently. Johnny advised that the curriculum map was spilt into year groups and three subjects will be taught throughout the whole year to each class. These had been arranged in a logical fashion although they were mostly chronological. We have also been reviewing our curriculum maps to ensure that we teach all the strands on the national curriculum.</p> <p>Our preferred Curriculum Map was sent to Karen who researched this in order to give us advice on what we should cover to represent all cultures around the world. Black History will ultimately be so imbedded into the curriculum there will no longer be the need to celebrate this within a specific Black History Month as children would be learning all about this throughout the whole year.</p> <p>Coren has also been working with Karen to broaden the scope of the music curriculum also.</p> <p>Johnny shared with Governors a plan of what topics each year group will cover.</p> <p>James thanked Johnny for his presentation. James also advised that many staff found it refreshing to have had the opportunity to talk openly about race and diversity.</p> <p>GQ: This is really exciting and I very much enjoyed the session back in October – are we going to engage parents in the change? James advised that he would like to share this with parents and will do once we can do this in person (socially distanced). This is likely to take place in the hall in the summer term once we are able to have people back in school.</p> <p>GQ: This is really interesting. What topics are in and which ones have been dropped? What was the logic behind the choices?</p> <p>Johnny displayed the current curriculum map alongside the revised map. Amongst other changes, in Year 2 France had been taken out and Benin Africa had been inserted. Ancient Greece had also moved to Year 6. Year 1 has mostly stayed the same but will cover more geography in the curriculum. The Georgians and Victorians are also new areas of study.</p> <p>GQ: We have a significant Bengali community in our school – why are they not represented in the revised curriculum? James advised the meeting that he had in fact asked this question and that there were relatively few published materials and links to artefacts and this would make it hard to teach. Karen Brooke is exploring ways of finding these resources.</p>	

	<p>Johnny also advised that the Islamic Civilisation topic, although not about Bangladesh, engages many of our Muslim children. He also stated that this was not covered in the national curriculum either. We would of course try to find the resources in order to help teach this in our school.</p> <p>James advised that we had been hoping to try to get at this from the angle of English but there are also not a lot of work published by Bangladeshi authors.</p> <p>GQ: There is a local history project at the Peckwater Centre and perhaps this could help us resource some of this information? James advised that a lot of our parents are originally from Sylhet and this does not have a written culture.</p> <p>Tom and Graeme joined the meeting.</p> <p>GQ: Thank you for your presentation Johnny but when I look at your comparison there is no mention of the Asian continent. China/India/South Korea – it feels like there is a big chunk missing? Johnny agreed that we do need to include the Shang dynasty in our curriculum too. James indicated that this was a first draft and once we have consulted with everyone and got their views then it would be finalised.</p> <p>GComment: This curriculum looks really good. I know there is probably some fine tuning needed but this is the most diverse curriculum I have ever seen in a primary school. Thank you for all your hard work that has gone into it.</p> <p>James thanked Johnny for leading on this from the beginning. It has been a massive job and Johnny has done it with good humour in the middle of a pandemic.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Johnny for his contribution to the meeting and Johnny then left.</p>	
4	Minutes of the last meeting	
	There were no questions regarding the minutes of the last meeting therefore they were approved.	Action: Minutes approved.
5	Approval of draft Budget 2021-22	
	<p>Colin advised that there had been some movement in the budget as some children in the resource base have relocated and these children have obviously taken the funding with them. We are currently still waiting to discover who will fill the places and ultimately what funding will come with them.</p> <p>He reported that obviously due to lockdown, spending in certain areas would be less this year so this could ultimately balance out.</p> <p>He also advised that we should secure a grant for the completion of the EYFS Sensory Room.</p> <p>The Chair asked all Governors if they were happy with the draft Budget? All Governors agreed the draft budget and the final budget, as approved by the Resources Committee, will be brought back to the July meeting for ratification.</p>	Action: Governors approved the draft Budget.

6	Head's Report on Return to School	
	<p>The Chair asked for any questions on the Head's Report?</p> <p>GQ: At the last meeting James you indicated that you had reservations around the National Tutoring Programme - do you feel any better about this now? James advised that he was due to have a webinar on this provision next week. Hopefully they would be able to reassure him about the quality of this provision and we could then engage with it. He pointed out that there was a valid argument for waiting for this reassurance as first of all we had to settle the children back into school life, assess them and then we would know where we needed to plug gaps.</p> <p>GQ: Can you give us more of an update on the return to school? How have things gone since the first few days back? James advised that it was an absolute joy to have the children back. They are buzzing with excitement and the atmosphere in school is very positive. It is also great to have music back in the building. There will be things that will unwind as children settle in and we will deal with these when they happen. Chloe is doing lots of PE and we had a workshop in school yesterday (bar Nursery) for all the classes to celebrate World Book Day.</p> <p>GQ: The attendance is positive 95%+. Do we have any benchmarking with regard to attendance and behaviour with other Camden schools and with regard to the families that are currently dual registered do we have any plans to make a policy decision about their absence? James advised that we are in line with other schools and there were no worrying trends. Behaviour in school is good, the only problems seeming to be lots of sleepiness in the afternoons and children being out of routine. With regard to the dual registered families, there were no concerns here and the families would be back as soon as they could get flights back to the UK.</p> <p>At this point the Head asked the class teachers on the Committee if they would like to report back to Governors about how things had been in classes. Both the Yr3 and Yr2 teachers expressed the same as the Head, children were tired in the afternoons but things had been incredibly smooth and it was delightful having the children back in school. James advised that, in terms of benchmarking, as a one form entry school we had many more children in during lockdown than many other schools. The TICARB reported that children were very tired in the Early Years and they were having to go back to basics for some children, working on playing together and sharing skills. One parent had even told the team that their child was going to bed at 5.30pm and sleeping all night.</p> <p>GQ: I would like to just ask whether it was easier coming back after lockdown this time than last because of the fact that so many of our vulnerable children were in school more consistently?</p> <p>James advised for the vast majority of children, returning after lockdown 1 was a much more positive an experience than it might have been. Specific groups of children, whom we had mental health concerns about before this recent lockdown, will suffer and he suspected that mental health concerns/academic concerns will still emerge.</p> <p>He advised that during a recent coaching session led by the LDBS several heads reported that the resilience of children, optimism, grit and leadership of staff was what they had all experienced.</p>	

	<u>CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS</u>	
8	Questions on the Committee meetings	
	There were no committee meeting minutes to look at as these were not yet available. Two committees had only met last week and one had been postponed until next week.	
10	A.O.B.	
	<p>Flexible Working Policy – this had been circulated. Some comments had been received and these would be considered with a view to bringing the Policy back to the July meeting.</p> <p>This was Father Peter and Jacqueline’s last FGB Meetings as Father Peter was moving on to a new parish and Jacqueline had moved to Bristol. Thanks were expressed to both for their hard work within the school and Governing Body.</p> <p>Father Peter expressed how he had felt so privileged to have been the Parish Priest affiliated to such an outstanding school.</p>	
11	Next meeting	
	6 th July 2021 at 4pm	
	The Chair thanked everyone for their time and the meeting ended at 19.22pm	

Signed.....

Date.....

**Colin Reader,
Chair of Governors Kentish Town CofE Primary School
Governing Body**