

Brookland Infant & Nursery and Brookland Junior Schools
Full governing body meeting - Unclerked meeting
July 5, 2023 6pm Infant Dining Hall
Minutes

Attendance:

Laura Pincus (chair)
Jenny Ayles
Brenda McAfferty
Sapna Shah
Claire Rosen
Lisa Weinbrenn
Michael Farhi
James Clare
Nick Astaire
Farnoush Bikdeli
Jenny Catley
Kate Blumhof
Judith Bernstein
Jeff Harris
Samantha Jayasekera-Heffer

Apologies:

Cara Christie
Amy Simpson
Aimee Epstein
Gabi Symons
Carole Frankyl
Daniella Jackson
Tony Brand (by proxy, he is in hospital)

No apologies were received from Joshua Hamerton

1. Bryony presented about JR Equality Objectives and their sustainability project
Bryony spoke to us about these exciting projects and discussed how due to the nature of them, we will never be “finished”.

The equality question we want to answer is “Do I belong?”. When we talk about cultural capital, which culture are we reflecting?

How are we doing so far?

Pupil voice is very strong about their belonging. Represented by teams, clubs, religious trips, food, celebrating difference and different needs, HT award, newsletter, teachers who look like us.

Through the curriculum we are always looking to have diversity in authors as well as subject matter and try to use this across subjects.

We have a wall of new books that are either have neurodiverse authors or characters.

What should governors know?

Equality Objectives often come up during Ofsted interviews so take note. We should be always thinking about our equality objectives during appointments and interviews and during staff induction.

What's next?

A professional development audit of staff (including TAs) confidence and knowledge. Looking at our "hidden curriculum" – are we sending any subliminal messages. Be conscious of our own biases. Monitor any issues with protected characteristics. Keep monitoring the accessibility of the school site. Research training opportunities.

Sustainability project

Gabi and Bryony took 6 children to a Barnet sustainability event for children. The created a digital book. The school currently has an Eco Group. Asking the children to help come up with ideas for us to be more sustainable; they are more likely to engage as well. Looking to create links with Christ College and Martins. We should be including sustainability in our tender decisions.

2. September INSET days (Sept 4/5) – which session to invite governors to?
BMc and JA will follow up on this and post sessions to Governor Hub.
Junior -
September 4 - Safeguarding (AM)
September 5 - Paul Whitcombe, Teaching and Learning (AM), Coaching (PM)
3. WSMs
The Junior whole school meeting will be on July 20 2023 at 1:15pm. The Infants don't have another one scheduled this term.
4. Andrew Hall video/updates to KCSIE (filtering and monitoring etc)
Highly recommend watching this video for a very concise explanation of what these changes mean for governors and governance. More emphasis will be placed on filtering and monitoring and the IT governor will look after this during their regular 3x link subject meetings (curric tea plus 2).
5. New governors
Judith, Sam and Jeff introduced themselves to the group and they were warmly welcomed by all. Most induction items are complete, with some tours outstanding and a photo from Judith.
6. Governor survey
LP will revise this and post on GH.
7. Infant Finance Audit
The two items on the audit are very low risk and are currently being rectified. The first item was that the IT audit was not dated; we can date it by the day Rhiannon was paid OT to conduct the audit. The second item is to do with changing the bank

signatories – this had not been actioned by the bank despite our instructions. We will know to follow up if future changes are necessary. This item will be minuted again in the first FGB meeting of 2023-2024.

8. Governance Audit (Barnet)

Sapna has done a first draft of this, please give comments asap.

9. SEND Learning Walk observations

Lisa and Laura discussed how impressed they were with both schools' strides to embrace diversity and inclusion, and remarked on how many of the small changes that have been made to the learning environments has benefitted all pupils, not just those with SEND.

10. Looking at books INF/JR to show progression – JA BMc to decide which to bring in. Also examples of SEND children's work and progression.

We spent about 20 minutes looking at books of all abilities from the beginning of the year until now. The progress was impressive, as was the maturity of the pupils' green pen comments (self-reflection).

11. Think about roles and committees for next year

Please have in mind if you want to change committee or subject link for next year, or if you want to stand for chair or vice chair. Notify LP before the first FGB meeting if you wish to change.

12. Dates for next year – discussed, to be confirmed with Amira (clerk) and LP will post on GH.

13. A huge thank you goes to Katie Attwood, who has served as a governor (twice) for many years. She is stepping down as she is moving back to Switzerland. We are so very grateful for all you have done for Brookland Schools.