

THE GOVERNING BODY OF ALMA PRIMARY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE SCHOOL ON
Wednesday 13 November 2019

Present:

Deborah Brooks (Vice-Chair and chairing
this meeting)
Ilan Jacobs (Chair)
Andrew Sutcliffe
Jean Linsky
Emma Davies

Rina Wolfson
Ed Lewin
Sammy Rosehill (Assistant Headteacher -
AHT)
Sophie Fenton
Marc Shoffren (Headteacher)

In attendance:

Michelle Jacobs, Clerk of the meeting
James Burns, Prospective Governor
Jeanie Horowitz, Jewish Learning Lead

ACCEPTANCE/NON-ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from David Steadman and David Grunwald.

DECLARATION OF ANY DIRECT OR INDIRECT PERSONAL INTEREST

No new direct or personal interests declared. No changes have been made to Register of Business Interests and Related Parties.

PART 1 AND PART 2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 JULY 2019

No amendments were proposed or agreed to the minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2019, which were formerly approved.

REPORT ON INCLUSIVITY

The Vice Chair explained that from this meeting onwards, the Governing Body would report against its ethos, with specific areas chosen for 'deep dives' in each meeting. This section therefore refers to the following aspect of the school's ethos:

Inclusivity Rooted in Jewish values: We welcome children from across the Jewish community and of other faiths and communities. We welcome children with special educational needs, and those from all identities and backgrounds. Children learn from each other and about the beliefs and practices of others, to develop a strong appreciation and respect for Judaism and for other religions and cultures. Our children develop universal, spiritual and ethical values underpinned by Jewish traditions, so they grow up understanding the world and are equipped to take their place in it as global citizens.

The Vice Chair asked if there were any questions on the report. No Governors had any questions.

JH gave a presentation to the Governing Body about Jewish Learning and Ivrit with regard to the expected Pikuach Inspection in 2019/20. The School was last inspected in 2015 and received a rating of Good, with SMSC being seen as Excellent.

GB discussed how the school has addressed the findings from the Pikuach Report.

The Chair of the Jewish Learning and Ivrit Sub-Committee explained how Governors have worked with the school to prepare for Pikuach and to drive improvements and that the next step is to focus on assessment.

A Governor asked what GB members themselves, need to do to prepare for the inspection and a discussion followed about how the Jewish Learning and Ivrit Sub Committee was linked in to the wider governance.

A Governor challenged whether we are confident that we can evidence improvement for when Pikuach return. The Head Teacher and the Jewish Learning Lead both outlined that they were confident that there is sufficient evidence.

Action: It was agreed that there should be a more formal link between the Sub-Committee and the Children and Learning Committee. This is to be agreed by the appropriate Committee Chairs.

REPORT ON LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

This section of the meeting refers to the leadership and management of the school.

The Vice Chair asked if there were any questions on the report. No Governors had any questions.

Leadership: The Head explained that there had been a GDPR breach and that all processes had been followed appropriately immediately the breach was identified and that the DPO had advised that no further action was necessary. The Chair of Governors acknowledged the quick and appropriate response of the School Business Manager.

Monthly Accounts: The Head explained that due to the school finance team focusing on preparing Alma's Annual Statutory Accounts, they were unable to present the school's monthly management accounts setting out its financial performance and position for this month. The school will share with the Chair and will adjust the schedule to ensure Governors see the monthly accounts the required six times in the coming financial year.

REPORT ON MEANINGFUL LEARNING

This section of the meeting refers to the following aspect of the school's ethos:

A Commitment to Meaningful Learning and Excellence for All: We support and challenge our children to make maximum progress, whatever their starting point. Alongside excellent teaching and learning in Maths, English and Science, our broadly-based curriculum enables children to develop skills for 21st century life including creativity, communication and collaboration, as well as high quality Jewish Studies and Hebrew as a modern foreign language. We instil in our children a lifelong love of learning and enquiry to help them continue to achieve throughout their lives.

Quality of Education: A Governor questioned whether there was now a greater focus on Science than previously. The Head explained that the activity reported had been ongoing for two years and that during this time there has been increased activity within the school.

A Governor asked about Tech Support for the school and how well this was working. The Head responded by outlining how this is working and that he is confident that tech support is working adequately to meet the school's needs.

A Governor asked about awards and prizes mentioned in the report and questioned whether this was a new approach by the school. The Head and AHT outlined the school approach to reward and it was agreed that this would be revisited at Children and Learning Committee.

ACTION: Children and Learning Committee to have a discussion about rewards and prizes within the school.

A Governor asked about outside play and whether this was ever restricted as a punishment. The Head responded that it is school policy that this is not done.

School Performance Data: AHT then presented an analysis of the last five years of school performance data and outlined strengths and areas of focus for the year ahead. This has already been fed back to class teachers at pupil progress meetings. Teachers are given a full understanding of individual pupil journey which feeds into classroom practice.

A Governor questioned the way that the SLT uses the data and the AHT confirmed that it is used to plan interventions and support teachers in planning.

A Governor asked how the data is used to identify and challenge more able children and those identified as being Gifted and Talented. It was agreed that Children and Learning Committee would take a more in-depth look at what the data is telling us about this cohort and discuss plans in place as this has not been discussed since last academic year.

ACTION: Children and Learning Committee to focus on Gifted and Talented and Most Able pupils using data collated over the past five years

REPORT ON NURTURING COMMUNITY

This section of the meeting refers to the following aspect of the school's ethos:

A Nurturing Community: Our children and families feel valued and secure as members of the Alma community. Our small size means we know and care for each child individually, nurturing them to overcome any challenges they may face and achieve their full potential. We create a fun, caring environment which encourages friendship, confidence and wellbeing.

The Vice Chair asked for questions on this section of the report. A Governor challenged the school concerning the drop in school attendance. The Head outlined the reasons for this.

Governors noted that attendance is actually very good when compared to national and local averages and that changes get close scrutiny at Children and Learning Committee and have not caused any concern.

A Governor asked about attendance at events for prospective parents and level of interest and it was noted that this is going well.

Policies: The Vice Chair outlined that Governors were being asked to sign to confirm that they had read the statutory document "*Keeping Children Safe in Education*" and Alma's own

Safeguarding Policy and should not sign unless they had done so. Anyone wishing to do so, can sign at the December meeting, if they need more time. Sign off of the documents indicates full understanding and agreement to comply. Absent governors will be asked to sign at the next meeting.

ACTION: All Governors (present and absent) to read KCSIE and Alma's Safeguarding Policy and sign off by end of 2019.

ACTION: Children and Learning Committee to review Safeguarding Policy in Spring Term.

School Development Plan: The Head introduced these two documents and explained the changes that had been made to the School Development Plan format now that the school was a full school in steady state, rather than one that was growing each year. The document has now been structured around Alma's revised ethos.

GB were asked to approve the objectives in the School Development Plan. The Vice Chair explained that this has already been looked at in detail by Strategy Group.

DECISION: GB agreed that they were content with the format of the revised School Development Plan and with the Objectives. The Plan was therefore approved and will be reviewed within Committees and at each GB.

ACTION: Committee Chairs to look at SDP and agree how this will be incorporated into their annual forward look.

Self-Evaluation Report: The Head introduced this revised document, highlighting a new section which assesses how successfully school is meeting its revised ethos. The Head also highlighted the metrics and evidence that will be used to assess performance and the integrated risk register.

A Governor questioned how long this document will take to produce and keep up to date and whether it is manageable. The Head said that it was a reasonable approach and therefore manageable.