

**THE GOVERNING BODY OF ALMA PRIMARY
MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING HELD BY ZOOM ON
WEDNESDAY 9th DECEMBER 2020**

Present:

Ilan Jacobs (Chair and chairing this meeting)

Deborah Brooks (Vice Chair)

David Steadman

Emma Davies

Jean Linsky

Adam Zellick

Katie Abrams

Samantha Rosehill

Ed Lewin

Natalie Grazin

David Grunwald

James Burns

Jonathan Levy

Marc Shoffren (Headteacher)

In attendance:

Rebecca Doctors, School Business Manager

Rachel Clark, School Inclusion Leader

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed all attendees, in particular the two newly elected parent Governors.

2. ACCEPTANCE/NON-ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies from Andrew Sutcliffe.

3. DECLARATIONS OF ANY DIRECT OR INDIRECT PERSONAL INTEREST (INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY PERSONAL FINANCIAL INTEREST); CONFIRMATION OF ANY CHANGES TO REGISTER OF BUSINESS INTERESTS AND RELATED PARTIES

No changes were declared by any Governor.

4. MINUTES OF THE GB MEETING HELD ON 15 JULY 2020 and 21 OCTOBER 2020

The minutes of 15th July 2020 and 21 October 2020 were both APPROVED.

5. APPROVAL OF 'MUSTS' (SCHEDULE C) LIST FOR ALMA PRIMARY STATUTORY ACCOUNTS AND TRUSTEES REPORT

The Chair talked through the 'Musts' list that he had completed as part of the 2019-20 Statutory Accounts and the Governing Body APPROVED the list.

6. APPROVAL OF ALMA PRIMARY STATUTORY ACCOUNTS AND TRUSTEES REPORT, 2019/20

The School Business Manager talked through the 2019/20 Statutory Accounts and Annual Report.

Governing Body APPROVED the Accounts, subject to correction of a typo on page 1 [*Subsequently corrected*].

7. DEEP DIVE INTO WELL BEING - INCLUDING FOR CHILDREN NOT IN SCHOOL.

The Staff Governor and the Inclusion leader led a discussion of wellbeing.

Governors were asked to comment on the current consultation on health and wellbeing policy, which has been revised due to new statutory guidance.

A Governor paid tribute to the staff and another commented that as a new parent he was impressed with the focus on wellbeing

A Governor challenged as to how Alma is assessing the level of wellbeing or anxiety among the children. The Inclusion Leader responded that Alma uses the Spence anxiety scale but will also be considering other tools available over the next year. Spence also has an option for parents to measure their sense of their children's anxiety although Alma have not yet used this function.

The Vice Chair challenged the school as to whether the current impressive level of support for wellbeing will continue after lockdown or is it just for crisis mode? Will Alma Primary continue using the Spence anxiety scale?

The Inclusion Leader responded that Alma would continue using Spence (or a suitable alternative) and has given considerable thought about how to baseline and track children's nurture groups going forward. Some of the other additional things Alma have brought into play during lockdown, the team will find uses for each year group going forward.

A Governor challenged as to whether other members of staff get involved in wellbeing and how can we track and measure the effectiveness of their interventions. Another Governor challenged that there needs to be provision for staff's wellbeing.

The School Inclusion Leader responded that several members of staff are involved in leading wellbeing in the school including LSAs. SLT devote time in each SLT meeting to discussing staff wellbeing and monitor this closely.

A Governor congratulated Alma on their use of 'Blob playground/tree' which helps children communicate their well being and that It is safe not to be ok.

Governors thanked Rachel and Sammy for their contribution and time

8. **DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF NEW SDP**

The Head talked through the School Development Plan which Governors APPROVED.

9. **AOB**

- The Vice Chair led a tribute and gave a vote of thanks to Staff Governor who was at the end of her term. Governors joined in their thanks for her hard work and service.
- Parent Letter re fundraising - there was a brief discussion of the Chair's letter to parents stressing the urgency of the financial situation.
- Singing –the school's recent careful planned re-introduction of singing, which Governors had been informed of over email, was noted.