

Sithney School LGB meeting

**Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 15th June 2022
5.30pm @ Sithney School**

<p>1. <u>ATTENDING</u> : Jacqui Ames Tim Atkinson (Vice Chair) Peter Bickford-Smith Sarah French, Executive head teacher Helen Neil</p> <p>In Attendance: Pat Nicholas, Clerk Ruth Milligan, newly appointed governor</p>		
<p>2. <u>APOLOGIES</u> : None.</p>		
		<u>ACTION</u>
3.	<u>WELCOME AND DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS</u>	
	Staff governors declared an interest as paid members of staff. No new interests were declared. RM was welcomed to the meeting.	
4.	<u>MINUTES FROM THE 16.2.22 MEETING & MATTERS ARISING (not on this agenda)</u>	
	The minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 16th February 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and were signed by the Vice Chair. The confidential minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 16th February 2022 had the incorrect date; with this amendment they were agreed as an accurate record and were signed by the Vice Chair.	
5.	<u>FEEDBACK FROM THE TRUST BOARD</u>	
	There were no matters raised at the last meeting.	

	<p>Governors have received the latest letter from the new Trust Board...</p> <p><i>'After great deliberation and in consultation with the Department for Education, the Board of Trustees has decided that it is in the best interests of our pupils for all our schools to transfer to other Trusts. Whilst we would have preferred all the Trust's schools to transfer to one Trust together, this has not been possible to achieve. Following discussions with three Multi Academy Trusts based in Cornwall, it is our belief that Crofty Multi Academy Trust, Aspire Academy Trust and Truro and Penwith Academy Trust have the expertise and capacity to ensure our schools continue their improvement journeys. Subject to consultation and the necessary agreements with the receiving MATs and the Department for Education, our schools will transfer as follows:...'</i></p> <p>Sithney will move to the Crofty MAT. SF attended a heads meeting with the new CEO of SPCMAT, Mark Blackman, who has been appointed to oversee the break up of Southerly Point. Heads feel reassured as MB has stated that he wants staff and pupils to come through the process 'unscathed'.</p> <p>SF met with Simon Hague, the Crofty MAT CEO. SF feels that Crofty have similar values to Sithney, are not a 'top down' organisation; they listen to the needs of individual schools.</p> <p>Crofty MAT uses GAG pooling. This is where a Trust pools all schools' funding centrally and distributes the funding to its schools according to need. HTs at Crofty sit with their Director of Education to look at staffing, so every child gets the support they need. By doing this, it appears, they have managed to save enough to employ a full time speech and language specialist.</p> <p>Q: Will Crofty retain the service of the central and estates teams? A: This is not known.</p> <p>Q: How does Crofty find the money for repairs? A: By dealing with maintenance issues promptly and having a good maintenance plan.</p> <p>SF expressed concern that even with the SPCMAT schools, Crofty would still be a relatively small Trust, and could itself be merged with another.</p> <p>Q: Who made the decision that Sithney should move to Crofty MAT? A: The RSC (Regional Schools Commissioner). The schools are able to make their own representations to the RSC about which Trust they prefer to join. As staff felt happy with the original plan of a merger with Crofty, SF felt that the values, ethos and geography of Crofty MAT were a much better fit for Sithney. Governors heard that Ofsted inspections were paused, but had not stopped; staff would still need to plan for another inspection.</p> <p>Q: What happens with governance? A: That depends on the Trust. Crofty and TPAT have local governors; Aspire don't. Instead Aspire have a hub model.</p>	
6.	<u>FEEDBACK FROM THE FORUM</u>	
	There had been no Forum meeting since the last meeting.	
7.	<u>NOTIFICATION OF ANY NEWLY APPOINTED GOVERNORS / RESIGNATIONS</u>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nigel Logan has resigned. ● Ruth Mulligan has been confirmed by the Trust and is awaiting a DBS check. ● Chris Scarborough has had his pen portrait approved by Trustees. SF explained that CS is a retired primary head teacher, and has indicated his willingness to take on the role of Chair. Governors agreed; the election will take place in September. ● Will Coleman has submitted a pen portrait and is awaiting Trustee approval. ● Peter Bickford-Smith will step down from the LGB immediately after the meeting. The governors thanked PBS for 10 years of service to the school as a governor. 	
8.	<u>HEADTEACHER'S REPORT</u>	
	<p>The Head teachers' report had been circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The main points discussed were;</p> <p>Q: Can you provide an update on the preschool? A: The preschool will now be based in the library, rather than the cabin. SF thanked Tom Richards, the EYFS TA, who came up with the idea, and who has done most of the work. Numbers have been low, but are now improving.</p> <p>Q: Do you have the results of the KS2 SATS? A: These will be published on the 5th July. Writing has been teacher assessed; all others are marked externally. Writing has been moderated, which should take the figure up to 60% of children at ARE (age related expectations). There were no children who achieved GDS (greater depth) in writing. Reading teacher assessment shows 80% at ARE. Maths is 60% at ARE and 20% at GDS. Governors heard that these were the teacher assessments; the SATS results may be different.</p> <p>Q: What are the main issues for children who are not meeting ARE? A: Attitudes to learning are different in test situations; children who do well in class often struggle with the tests. A recent SIP visit reported on the good attitudes to learning observed. Children have missed a lot of ground work through two year of Covid19. Y2 SATS have been moderated and the class teacher has external moderation on Friday. Y1 phonics results are 82% which is in line with national averages (2019).</p> <p>Q: Are there any catch up interventions? A: There is no further National Tutoring Programme (NTP) money this year, the school was able to provide small group intervention with Emma Sumpter last year. Staff have been working with concepts for history and geography, and children are able to explain the concepts and link to their previous learning.</p> <p>Q: Is there any other additional support available? A: Most is provided in house as external support is expensive, and there are huge waiting lists. Sithney has 'fantastic' TAs who are able to deliver the interventions needed.</p> <p>Q: Did the catch up interventions work? A: An outside tutor was helpful, but there were not enough hours, and SF would have preferred to have the money to release a member of staff who knows the children well. The programme only allowed three children, so was not effective, and there was not enough money. The GAG pooling arrangement at Crofty could help Sithney to negotiate for additional TA support.</p> <p>Q: Are there any concerns around attendance?</p>	

	<p>A: Covid had an impact on attendance during the spring term. SF will have a meeting with the EWO (Education Welfare Office) to discuss any issues.</p> <p>SF commended the Sithney staff on their dedication.</p> <p>TA thanked SF for her report.</p>	
9.	<u>SAFEGUARDING (GOVERNOR'S) REPORT</u>	
	<p>There had been no report since the last meeting.</p> <p>Covered under item 8: head teacher's report.</p>	
10.	<u>HEALTH & SAFETY UPDATE</u>	
	<p>A health and safety visit with PBS and Richard Coode, Trust H&S officer, and Phil Rundle from Cornwall Council took place on the 6th April. There were H&S checks of the classrooms too. A number of issues were discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The roof work will take place in the summer break. • The fencing at the end of the school was a cause for concern and should be treated as a safeguarding issue. SF will raise this with Richard Coode and Sean Pinhay. <p>Covered under item 8: head teacher's report.</p>	
11.	<u>SELECTED TOPICS FROM STRUCTURED QUESTIONS</u>	
	<p>Policy implementation</p>	<p>Covered under item 8: head teacher's report.</p>
	<p>Staffing</p>	<p>Covered under item 8: head teacher's report.</p>
12.	<u>FEEDBACK ON GOVERNOR MONITORING VISITS</u>	
	<p>There had been no monitoring visits since the last meeting.</p>	
13.	<u>FOCUS ITEMS AND UPDATES</u>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational risk register – Covid19 - Covered under item 8: head teacher's report. • Property Matters - FOSS have provided a new kitchen for the staff room. • Trustee led preschool - SF will request the funding to employ two full time members of staff in the preschool. 	
14.	<u>IMPACT AND EFFECTIVENESS OF LOCAL GOVERNING BODY SINCE LAST MEETING</u>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring staff wellbeing by keeping in touch regularly with school staff. • Improving skills and knowledge by attending relevant training. • Ensuring effectiveness by completing all actions from the last meeting. • Monitoring standards through monitoring visits e.g. health and safety 	

15.	<u>URGENT MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION</u>	
	None.	
16.	<u>MATTERS TO BE RAISED WITH THE TRUST BOARD</u>	
	None.	
17.	<u>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</u>	
	<p>Wednesday 28th September 2022 5.30pm LGB formal</p> <p>Trust Board meetings for 2021-22</p> <p>21st October 2021 27th January 2022 (AGM followed by Trust Board) 24th March 2022 19 May 2022 14 July 2022</p>	

<u>SUMMARY OF ACTIONS</u>		
Action	Responsible Person[s]	Date for Completion

The meeting concluded at 6.55pm.

Signed

Dated