

**THE GOVERNING BODY FOR FRIERN BARNET SCHOOL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN SCHOOL AND ON MS TEAMS**  
**MONDAY 31 MARCH 2025**

**MEMBERS:**

**CO-OPTED GOVERNORS**

\*Ms Ann Woodhall (Chair) (WLA)  
Councillor Barry Rawlings (RSB)  
\*Ms Niki Sawva (SAN)  
#Mr Kunal Gautami (GIK)  
\*Mr Nishad Gudhka (GAN)  
Ms Mavis Osei-Agyapong (OGM)

**PARENT GOVERNORS**

# Ms Helen Bull (Vice Chair) (BLH)  
Ms Olga Glazer (GRO)  
\*Ms Zeenat Syed (SDZ)

**LA GOVERNOR**

\*Councillor Anne Hutton (HNA)  
\*Ms Galia Admoni (AIG)

**STAFF GOVERNORS**

\*Simon Horne (HES)

**NON-VOTING OBSERVERS PRESENT**

\*Ms Kathryn Poynting (PGK)  
\*Ms Jane Mullan (MNJ)  
\*Ms Paula Donaldson (DNP)  
\*Mr Jim Robinson (RNJ)  
\*Mrs Sharon Morgan (MNS)  
\*Mr Andrew Redpath (RHA)

*A Woodhall*

**We held a one minute silence in remembrance of Jane Canavan, who will be greatly missed.**

**26/01 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**WLA** welcomed everyone to the March meeting.

**26/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None received.

**26/03 ELECTION OF CO-OPTED GOVERNOR – ANDREW REDPATH**

Mr Redpath left the room.

**RHA**'s knowledge fits very well with the school.

The vote for **RHA** to become a Co-opted Governor was unanimous.

**RHA** returned to the room.

**26/04 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None

**26/05 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2025**

Minutes of the meeting were **APPROVED**.

**26/06 MATTERS ARISING**

None

**26/07 GREEN AGENDA**

**DNP** reported that the feasibility study from New Power was received in February, concluding that the school is appropriate for the solar panel project. Barnet Council has applied for 100% funding and planning permission.

Food waste collections, recycled into renewable energy, start 1<sup>st</sup> April, with weekly collection by the Council. There will be four recycle stations throughout school.

Aw

Governor papers – there will be an area on the school website where they can see papers and decide whether they want to print them off. **HES** will send an email to remind governors how to access the governors' section.

#### 26/08 **BUDGET MONITORING**

**DNP** reported the income we have received is 93.9% of additional funding including OOB revenue. We are on track to carry forward into the next financial year.

Lettings are down as we have no caretaking staff during the evening. Employing a management company to cover evening lettings would prove expensive and would mean high hiring rates. We have no all weather pitch and caretaking staff would be expensive should we let on a Saturday

#### 26/09 **HOW WE REVIEW AND MANAGE RISK**

Statutory fire risk assessment will be reviewed shortly.

We discussed our risk assessment for trampolining as it is high risk. All PE teachers have a qualification with British Gymnastics. The problem appears to be when students are over enthusiastic which can lead to accidents. However, LBB are happy with what we have in place.

It was confirmed to governors that staff are responsible for assessing risks in their department. **DNP** is responsible for more general RAs (such as Health & Safety) with support from Barnet.

A loss prevention survey will be carried out in May; an example is loss within the school, such as after a fire.

#### 26/10 **HEADTEACHER'S REPORT**

**HES** drew members' attention to the first paragraph which celebrates student activities. **AIG** will be invited to present on her work with disadvantaged students at a future meeting.

The Falling Roles committee has had one meeting and met with the local authority.

By the next GB meeting we will be clearer on Y7 numbers for September and budget. Numbers would probably not be dissimilar to this year's intake.

Most feeder primaries are within borough, with a few OOB schools, but close to the border, sending children. Low figures are attributed to low birth rate in this part of the borough.

Aw

The DFE are tracking two categories – Persistent Absence and Severely Absent. we are pretty much in line with other state secondary schools for PA and similar to neighbouring schools for SA.

We want to provide as much support as possible before following a legal route – pastoral staff regularly review attendance and meet with the EWO one day each week.

We do issue fixed penalty notices.

It is felt that high Y10 school avoidance could be connected to Covid years. **HES** said that this being the case, we need to think about how to do things differently and how these students access education when they are not in school.

A small number of LAC children will be coming off roll as they have moved out of the area. We are still supporting them.

For students with attendance below 70%, as a school, we do what we can with counselling and there is also external provision.

## 26/11/SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

### 12 LAC/YOUNG CARERS UPDATE

The Borough is tightening up on registering those being home schooled.

Theo Josif (**JFT**) has completed Level 3 safeguarding training recently, Tammy John (**JNT**) will undertake in the Summer. Holly Levitan (**LNH**) will be on maternity leave.

We are expecting major changes in Safeguarding next year so more training and documenting will be necessary.

We currently have 3 Children in Need and 5 Child Protection students, across the year groups. No access to Early Help, at the moment, but quite a few have been referred over the last few months.

We currently have five LACs, one new in Y8, another child will start after Easter. Some LACs are OOB so **RNJ** has to work with various other boroughs.

Young Carers – promotion through BYCAS assemblies and posters throughout the school. Support is given to those who have come forward. Some YC remain unknown as they fear they will be taken into care.

School councillor is always busy; there aren't many students on the wait list. Students are usually seen straight away. However, this is expected to change with the holidays/time away from students' safe place (school).

**HNA** talked about a Barnet policy on food allergies. **MNJ/RNJ** confirmed this is a topic covered by admission form, PSHE and assemblies. **HES** will see if other schools include this in any of their policies.

Aw



26/13 **LITERACY INTERVENTION PLAN**

**PGK** explained the Reading comprehension intervention group process, which is a ten week, bought in programme. It doesn't include ARP students.

There are a maximum of 10 students per group and some students can make up to 3 years progress; EAL students tend to do well. If they don't progress, they will be moved to another intervention group next term. The programme is working well and ensuring students can access the curriculum.

26/14 **CONSISTENCY IN ADDRESSING MISCONCEPTIONS IN THE CLASSROOM**

This is always on Ofsted and is always changing accordingly.

Middle Leaders receive training on different techniques, to find out what the children understand. Cold calling has been added to the lesson observation proforma. Teachers are more aware that, in terms of understanding, it is an effective technique.

SIP will be reviewed at a future meeting.

26/15 **LINK GOVERNOR REPORTS**

See Governor Day

26/16 **POLICIES FOR RATIFICATION**

None

26/17 **GOVERNOR DAY (25 MARCH) REVIEW**

**WLA** thanked all those who attended and distributed feedback. Staff and students both spoke well. It was a shame it wasn't a bit longer and we shall have to think about how we structure future events.

Students feel that bullying seems to be dealt with well and behaviour in the classroom is improved. **SDZ** said the main challenge seems to be bullying via social media, out of school.

Outside areas can cause concern, i.e. corridors, playground. **MNJ** said there is a strong staff presence at transition and break times. Any incidents are logged. **WLA** suggested governors receive information on *where* incidents take place rather than be told a list. **MNJ** confirmed that a termly report is sent to parents and additional contact is made with parents when necessary.

AW

With regards to behaviour, **HES** confirmed that new initiatives are not all rolled out at the beginning of the new school year, they are reinforced with reminders during the year. Some staff are better than others at dealing with behaviour.

Regarding Parents' Evening, 5 minute calls are enough for a snap shot. There is a tab for a parent to click if they require more time, at a later date, with the teacher. If there are any other issues, teachers will contact parents direct, at the time.

**HES** said they will be contacting parents to see if they wish to continue with video calls. The day has been made longer to accommodate parents. **AIG** said, although she likes to speak to parents face to face, there are some teachers who teach 80/90 children and speaking to all their parents in one evening would not be viable. **HES** confirmed that the figures for parents showing up online has improved.

Regarding translation of letters/document etc., **HES** will promote in the Newsletter, how non-English speakers can access translation via their browser.

**HES** thanked governors for attending.

#### 26/18 **GOVERNOR TRAINING**

**WLA** attended an online webinar on Prevent (extremism/terrorism), which was interesting. There are some dates coming up in May and **WLA** will forward these so governors can sign themselves up. **SDZ** has undertaken Role of the Parent Governor training, **BLH** has attended training on Complaints and Appeals Panel /Exclusion/Director's briefing for Chairs and Vice Chairs.

**WLA** reported that Barnet's focus is earlier intervention on high needs and there is an initiative to make schools smartphone free.

#### 26/19 **REPORT OF EDUCATION & SKILLS DIRECTOR**

Information given regarding changes to the new Children's Bill where you can have a single Academy and the simple process of forming a Federation.

#### 26/20 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Members are reminded that it is Prize Giving on Wednesday 2 April between 5-6 pm.

**WLA/HES/MNS** will send an email to Governors/staff/ex-staff regarding collating a collection of memories of Jane Canavan to give to her husband. A collection will be made towards a bench, with a plaque, to be placed on the school site. **WLA** will organise a ceremony in honour of Jane, at a later date.

AW

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26/21 Next meeting: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025, 6.30 pm (in school/MS Teams)

