

THE GOVERNING BODY OF JOHN BALL SCHOOL



Minutes of a **SPECIAL** meeting held at the school on **Tuesday 1 April 2014 at 7pm**

Present

Ian Blight, Angela East, Beverley Hards, Kate Jenkins, Cassey Kiely, Sandrine Marionville- Jaines, Kathy Moss, Erica Pienaar (Chair), Michael Roach (Headteacher), Jocelyn Shaw, and Linda Yue (Vice-Chair)

Also present

Sue Bishop (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received with consent from Matthew Fields, and Tom Weddell.

2. POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIP WITH TORRIDON JUNIOR SCHOOL

By way of an introduction, the Chair outlined the current landscape in education citing the following:

- The ongoing need for additional primary places
- The likely effect of this increase on secondary schools from 2016 onwards
- The general election taking place in 2015
- A possible increase in the number of community schools converting to academies
- The future (possibly diminishing) size of local authorities

Against this background, governors were invited to consider the possible strategic directions the school might wish to go in at some point in the future, including the establishment of an all-through school, a JB secondary school, federation with another school, and academy status. It was noted that some of these options had already been examined in the recent past, and that the school was currently involved in a range of partnerships such as the local collaborative with other Lewisham schools, the Partners in Excellence (PiXL) Club, and Challenge Partners. It was agreed that in the longer term the school may wish to explore more ambitious partnerships, and that the proposal from the local authority to partner Torricon School to address the short term leadership issues there could be a helpful step towards a greater strategic role in the future.

RESOLVED that, subject to the agreement of Torricon Junior School, the proposal to enter into a partnership between the two schools be approved.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

A draft Memorandum of Understanding was circulated which set out, in broad terms, the proposed relationship between the governing bodies of the two schools. The duration of the partnership was considered and it was agreed that it should start in April 2014, and end no earlier than January 2016. It was also agreed that the wording be amended to permit either school to have the facility to end the partnership, but that both schools would need to agree to continue it. The arrangements for reviewing the partnership were discussed and it was agreed that this would be done by the Executive Headteacher reporting to each of the two governing bodies.

The roles outlined in the MoU for the Executive Headteacher and the Heads of School were discussed and it was noted that these were high level descriptions and would be backed up by the detailed job descriptions for the leadership posts. It was pointed out that a distributed leadership arrangement was already in place at John Ball and that all the leaders had clear responsibilities, but that at Torricon, the leadership structure was more centralised. Both schools would be able to learn a lot from each other.

It was noted that the governing body at Torricon may also wish to make amendments to the MoU.

RESOLVED that i) the Chair, Kate Jenkins, and the Headteacher be authorised to

- a) amend the draft MoU in line with the points above, and to circulate a revised version to all governors; and
- b) agree any further amendments that may be necessary to take account of suggestions by Torricon governing body; and

ii) the final version of the MoU be included on the agenda of the next ordinary governing body meeting on 29 April 2014.

Letter to parents and carers

A draft letter to go out to parents and carers was circulated for comments and some minor amendments were proposed. It was noted that Torricon School would also be sending out a letter to their parents on the same day (Thursday 3 April).

RESOLVED that the Chair be authorised to amend and sign the letter to parents and carers in accordance with the comments made at the meeting.

Performance Management of the Executive Headteacher

Governors discussed arrangements for the review of the Headteacher's performance for 2013/14 and agreed that this should take place at the end of the summer term 2014. It was further agreed that a joint meeting of governors from both schools should be held in the autumn term to set targets for the Executive Headteacher and be differentiated in relation to success criteria for each school.

It was also suggested that joint meetings between the staff of the two schools be arranged to consider how to get the best from the partnership.

The meeting ended at 8.25pm.

Chair _____

Date: 29 April 2014