Houghton Primary School Finance, Personnel, Premises & Safety Committee meeting 20 June 2017 at 6.30pm

Governors Present:

Gary Doyle (GD) Chair of FPPS
Marina Hilton (MH) Chair of Governors

Gail Stapleford (GS) Carol Munro (CM) Alan Williams (AW)

Georgina Young (GY) Headteacher

Also present:

Sue Jordan (SJ) School Business Manager

Caroline Lewis (CL) Clerk to Governors

The Committee had intended to tour the pre-School facilities prior to the start of the meeting. However, this was not possible, so the meeting started earlier than planned, at 6.15pm. Pre-School facilities were toured after the end of the meeting, to view the damage caused by flooding.

	Agenda Item	Action	
1	Apologies:		
	There were no apologies.		
2	Declarations of Pecuniary Interest:		
	There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.		
3	Confirmation and signing of Minutes of the last FPPS Committee meeting: The Minutes of the meeting on 23 April 2017 were agreed by the Committee and		
	signed by the Chair.		
4	Actions arising: The Actions schedule was circulated to Governors prior to the meeting. a. Action Item 39. Completed. b. Action Item 46: SJ gave details. Completed. c. Action Item 47: Ongoing. d. Action Item 48: Ongoing. e. Action Item 49: CM gave update. Ongoing. f. Action Item 50: See Minutes of last FPPS meeting. Closed. g. Action Item 51: Examined by Chair and Committee updated. Completed. h. Action Item 52: SJ updated Governors on progress on the outstanding items: Fixed asset register and some job descriptions. H&S and Safeguarding nominated personnel needed to be altered.	MH SJ CM,SJ	
	New Action: GS to review Head's job description i. Action Item 53: See Agenda Item 9c.	GS	
	j. Action Item 54: Head updated Governors. Closed		
	k. Action Item 55: See Agenda Item 8a. Completed.		
	I. Action Item 56: See Agenda Item 8b. Ongoing.m. Action Item 57: Meeting held on 15 June 2017. Completed.	Head	

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- TA hours with the staff generally and was to meet with individuals in the next week.
- viii. The Head gave an update on the current cover for the teacher on longterm sickness absence and the phased return programme:
- ix. Responding to a query about funding, the Head confirmed that the insurance claim would cover the return-to-work phase.
- x. Another teacher would be going on maternity leave in Oct 2017.
- xi. The Head gave details of the arrangements being made to cover both the return to work and cover for maternity leave. Part of these arrangements would be to recruit a temporary Year 1 teacher for a year, starting in September.
- xii. Another Governor asked about the staff who had been covering the longterm sickness absence. The Head confirmed that they would revert to their original part-time roles.

b. Pre-School charges review:

- i. See Agenda Item 9c.
- ii. Governors agreed that following the flooding of the extended schools building which houses the pre-school on 19 June 2017, the planned review of charges for use of Pre-School premises should be delayed until the autumn.

7 Personnel:

a. Staff update:

The Head informed Governors that she had nothing to report in addition to details in section 6.

b. Professional Development:

- A joint training session for Governors and staff had been held on 6 June 2017 and results recorded.
- **ii.** GS told Governors that she and the Head were planning a training session for September, which would include a Myers-Briggs type exercise to support understanding of different personality types in the team.

c. Performance Management:

- **i.** GS informed Governors that the Headteacher's interim performance review had been completed by herself and LB.
- ii. In response to a query from a Governor, the Head gave an update on progress on staff performance reviews, which were ongoing.

8 Policies and Procedures:

The policies schedule was circulated to Governors prior to the meeting.

 Statutory policies for review by FPPS Committee before being agreed by FGB:

Accessibility Plan update:

- i. The final draft of the Accessibility Plan had been forwarded to Governors for comment prior to the meeting.
- ii. Following a query from a Governor, the Head agreed to amend the policy to include the full title of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).
- iii. The Plan had been supported by a number of audits/surveys and consultation with key stakeholders over the past year. It included a detailed action plan. Progress would be monitored each time the policy was reviewed.
- iv. Governors agreed the Accessibility Plan and recommended that it be taken to FGB on 4 July 2017 for ratification.

Action: Clerk to include Accessibi	ity Plan on Agenda for FGB on 4
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Clerk

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	Edu i. ii. iii.	reviewed in autumn term.	Head Clerk
9	i. Sii. Tiii. Actions 1. SJ t 2. SJ t con b. Red i. T ii. P ii. P c. Pre- i. iii.	Intenance Plan update: SJ provided an updated maintenance plan and updated Governors. The report would be forwarded to Governors for their records. A new Premises Management policy had been written and would be orwarded to Governors for approval.	SJ

- e) The affected rooms were drying and would need cleaning.
- f) All other activities within the School had continued as normal during the day.
- g) A lot of support had been offered by parents.
- iv. A Governor asked about the rent while the Pre-School was unable to use the premises. SJ responded that the Pre-School would continue to pay rent, which could be reclaimed from their insurance company.
- v. Another Governor asked what further assistance could be offered to the Pre-School during the recovery phase. The Head responded that the as an independent business, the Pre-School were now following their own recovery plans but that the School would consider any further requests for assistance. They had allowed the pre-school to store their resources, equipment and furniture in the Phoenix Club room as rain was forecast and it could not be left outside.
- vi. CM asked the Head to contact her if any assistance was required from the Parish Council.
- vii. The Head informed Governors that there were concerns about the other fire sensors within the sprinkler system in the School, all of which would need to be checked as a result of this incident.
- viii. Governors agreed with the Head that the Caretaker should be commended for his quick and thorough actions and wished to formally record their thanks to him for the care he was taking to recover the situation.
- ix. After the meeting, Governors visited the Pre-School premises to view the flooded areas.

10 Any other business

a. Catering Services:

- i. The Head raised catering services with Governors. She explained that while the meals were adequate, she had concerns about the way the contracted company operated; she gave examples.
- **ii.** SJ said she felt there were potential financial savings to be made by changing the catering contract and gave examples.
- iii. Both were clear that the School had no wish to take responsibility for catering and that the School should continue to use a catering company. However, they felt there was justification to review the current contract, which had been running for some time.
- iv. SJ gave details of a consultancy firm which had a proven record of securing catering contracts for other schools and which could assist with investigating other companies and undertaking the tender process for a new company.
- v. She gave the costs for consultancy and explained how this expenditure could potentially be met by reductions from changing the current contract.
- vi. In response to a question from a Governor, SJ confirmed that if Governors decided to use the consultancy service to investigate other catering companies but did not then change the current contract, the School would lose the consultant's fee.
- vii. Governors discussed the options, including the timeframe for giving notice to the current catering company in the event that the School decided to change catering companies.
- viii. A Governor asked if the consultant was suggesting use of the same

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company for different schools. SJ confirmed that this was not the case as each school had very different requirements. She was aware of a number of schools who had used the consultancy firm to recruit different catering companies.

- ix. The Head would email Governors details of the consultancy firm.
- x. Governors agreed to discuss the catering services contract at FGB on 4 July 2017.

Action:

- 1. Head to forward details of catering consultancy firm to Governors.
- 2. Clerk to add catering contract to FGB Agenda for 4 July 2017.

Head Clerk

b. Response to terrorism:

The Head gave details of the advice that the LA had issued following the recent terrorist attacks in other areas of the country. She also outlined the actions that the School was taking in response to LA advice.

c. LA support package:

MH had signed the agreement for the LA support package for 2017-18.

d. School Trips:

The Year 5 visit to the space centre had gone ahead on 21 June 2017 as the school had received enough funding in parental donations following a letter to parents advising the trip may have to be cancelled.

There was no other business.

12 Date and time of next meeting: Autumn term – date to be confirmed

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

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