

**Islington Futures – A Federation of Community Schools
Action Notes of the Federal Chairs’ Committee
Wednesday 11 June 2020, 8.00am – virtual meeting**

Present:

Jill McLaughlin (JMc)	Chair of Governing Board, Chair for the Meeting
Caspar Woolley(CW)	Vice Chair, Chair of Chairs’ Committee
Jo Dibb (JD)	Executive Headteacher
Pauline Edgar(PE)	Chair of Federal Achievement Committee
David Harrison (DH)	Chair of Federal Finance, Resources & Risk Committee
Will Garner (WG)	Chair of Vittoria School Committee and Copenhagen School Committee
Alex Bols (AB)	Chair of Beacon High School Committee
Mary Berrisford (MB)	Chair of EGA School Committee
Aanya Madhani (AM)	Safeguarding Lead Governor
Tina Southall (TSO)	Deputy Executive Headteacher
Hilary Furey (HF)	Clerk

Agenda Item		Action
1.	Apologies and Consent All members were present.	
2.	Declaration of Interest There were no declarations of interest.	
3.	<p>Action Notes and Matters Arising Action notes of the meeting held on 1 June 2020 were Agreed.</p> <p>JD updated Chairs on the re-opening of Copenhagen and Vittoria Schools for Year 6 on Thursday 4 June and Year 1 on Tuesday 9 June 2020:</p> <p>Copenhagen - Year 6 pupils x 8, Year 1 pupils x 1 Vittoria - Year 6 pupils x 13, Year 1 x 2 pupils</p> <p>JD said it was disappointing that so few children had returned but was hopeful that this would grow through word of mouth about the positive benefits of being in school. Responding to queries, JD said that there was no obvious trend in the demographics of returners, with each school having different communities, and it was suggested that Heads write a brief report for newsletters about how great it was to see the pupils. It was noted that DMC had agreed to send the Risk Assessment to parents with queries at Vittoria. JD said that schools needed to stick to rules on only inviting prescribed groups into school, and TS noted that space needed to be maintained for those specific groups to receive their entitlement, should they wish to return over the next few weeks. JD confirmed that if all pods for specific year groups were running it would be difficult to accommodate other year groups, although there was more space for Early Years at Vittoria as social distancing rules were slightly less rigid. JD said that, if it were possible to invite other groups into school, she would like to see Year 9 students back at EGA, and would like to be able to have</p>	

	<p>a face to face meeting with every student and parent before September, and this would happen with year 10 students this week. TS would follow up on a query about whether any school policies needed to be amended to accommodate the current situation, and JD confirmed that she was considering the possibility of being able to meet parents and students in the open air where it was possible to adhere to the 2-meter social distance, however this was dependent on the weather.</p>	<p>TS/JD</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Secondary Schools - Risk Assessments/FAQs</p> <p>Chairs noted the various documents that had been circulated in advance of the meeting and JMc wanted to know to what extent virtual teaching was moving towards a structured timetable. JD said that it could not be guaranteed that all students, and staff, would have access to the necessary equipment at a specific time, therefore there would continue to be a mixed picture with some online lessons and keeping in mind a balance between subject areas. DH recalled a discussion at a recent F,R&R meeting about chromebook availability and wondered if take-up had been low. JD said that efforts had been made to ensure all students had equipment, although schools could not control their use in the home, however there had been some instances of live lessons being gatecrashed which was a concern. TS said that all students had an entitlement, as well as needing access, and that resources and video clips had been uploaded for access at the student’s convenience. It was noted that Oak Academy had made online courses freely available and wondered if EGA and Beacon High students were taking advantage of this. TS said that Heads of Faculties are working in teams to take responsibility for curriculum areas and all students are encouraged to take advantage of external resources, however reiterating the importance of all EGA students having access to their curriculum entitlement. JD said that the Recovery Curriculum would look at what learning students had missed and what content was needed to support their catch up, with a blended offer next year. Chairs acknowledged that there was an issue not only of loss of learning but inequality of learning, with issues of differentiation. TS said that staff were looking at the Recovery Curriculum to address gaps in learning, but it was also important to address issues of trauma and distress caused by the lockdown and the impact on mental health. There was also an impact on teachers and their availability, and TS was looking at carrying out an audit on pedagogy and putting together a training/CPD programme for teachers. Ewan Scott was looking to find organisations which might provide additional funding so that a TA or Tutor could be employed to do interventions in school with those who need it, and which would be available to all staff across the four Federation schools. A suggestion was made that it might be worth looking at voluntary organisations or individuals who could support this work.</p> <p>4.1 – Beacon High Risk Assessment</p> <p>JD had visited Beacon High yesterday and assured Chairs that everything was in place, with staff training taking place on Thursday and Friday, and she would make a final visit on Friday. Beacon High’s curriculum offer was different from EGA’s as they had fewer staff to provide lessons but that students would receive 1:1 tutor support as well as support with online learning. JD was happy with the safety measures in place and students would work in pods of up to 10 students. JD confirmed that all schools have at least three entrance areas and that the Receptionist would have to control and manage the entrance to the building to ensure social distancing was maintained. Air conditioning in the</p>	

	<p>computer room was working, and JD confirmed that students would not need to wear blazers or ties. Responding to a query about carry out lunch, JD agreed that it was important, particularly for FSM students, that they receive a hot meal and said this was being done at Copenhagen and Vittoria and she would look into this for secondaries.</p> <p>In relation to public transport, the updated version of the booklet now referred to the compulsory use of masks and the reference to chewing gum being banned due to its potential to spread disease was noted.. A reference to the use of the word 'children', rather than student, pupil or young person, was noted.</p> <p>JMc agreed to write a letter for secondary pupils and their families. In response to a query, JD said that students would be allocated to a pod, each with a maximum of 10 students, depending on their time of arrival and by House. This differed from EGA where students' allocation to a specific pod was dependent on her Maths group, and was very targeted. JD confirmed that the hall could hold 30 people whilst maintaining social distancing and assemblies would be held each day.</p> <p>In light of updated guidance on masks JD confirmed that it has always been the schools' point of view that masks could be worn by students and staff if they wished. JD was asked if schools had sufficient masks available. JD said that schools would not be issuing masks. However, if the guidance changed for schools JD said she would need to consider how to manage those students who don't bring or wear a face covering, and did not want to disadvantage any student who did not have access to one.</p> <p>After detailed discussion, Chairs' approved the Risk Assessment and opening of Beacon High to Year 10 students.</p> <p>4.2 EGA Risk Assessment</p> <p>JD said that, as acting Headteacher, she had tried to distance herself from operational preparations which had been overseen by TS and Karen Tumbridge. Ewan Scott had carried out a walkaround yesterday and JD would do a final walkaround on Thursday to check that all signage, pods, and sanitizers were in place. The day to day provision was being run by three senior members of staff in addition to the head. The same was true at Beacon High. There were currently 20 students at Beacon High and 9 at EGA with critical worker parents, all of whom would be given the choice, although encouraged, to remain in school for their full entitlement, rather than just 1 day. JD confirmed that the Health & Safety booklet would be sent out along with a letter about timings of the school return to all families. WG wondered about lessons learned from primary school re-opening, noting DMc's comment that despite all the effort which had gone into communication with families, there had been surprise at the level of strict rules at the gate, etc. JD agreed, having spoken to DMc and AP, adding that children had seemed overwhelmed by the different situation and had found it difficult to communicate with each other. It had been necessary to be more regimented for primaries whereas secondary students were more used to arriving at school by themselves and could use the outside area more freely.</p>	<p>JD</p> <p>JD</p> <p>JD</p> <p>JMc</p>
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5.	Health & Safety booklets and NGA Guidance Chairs were pleased with the Health & Safety booklet and the reassurance of a safe environment, and JD agreed to include an item in the school newsletter about the benefits of coming back to school. JD agreed that it would be useful to have similar Health & Safety booklets for each primary.	JD
6.	Any Other Business JD requested that an additional F,R&R Committee meeting be held to look at a proposal to purchase chromebooks for all pupils, or at least Year 7 and 10 pupils, at Beacon High. This would require an amendment to the Charging & Remissions Policy in relation to a loan scheme. JD noted a provision within the Richard Reeves Foundation bid to support this. DH agreed and would forward availability to the Clerk. The Achievement Committee was scheduled to meet and it was agreed that it be moved to 8.00am. The Clerk would request availability. An additional Federal Governing Board meeting would be required to look at strategic planning. A further Chairs' meeting would be held in 2 weeks' time and would focus on a presentation on online learning/blended learning; scenarios to address moving forwards for all different ability students. WG asked about guidance on governors' visits to schools. JD said that schools were advised to minimise the number of people on site so this was not advised, and governors would consider how to find a way to fulfil their responsibilities, for example on safeguarding.	DH/Clerk Clerk JMc/Clerk JMc/JD/ Clerk

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting	
Chair's signature	
Chair's name	CASPAR WOOLLEY
Date	18 November 2020