

**Islington Futures
Federation of Community Schools
Minutes of Vittoria Primary School Committee Meeting
Thursday 12 November 2020
8.00am – 9.30am**

Present:

- Will Garner - Chair
- Tina Southall – Deputy Executive Headteacher
- Denise McCarney – Headteacher
- Angelo Weekes – Co-Opted Governor
- Aanya Madhani – Co-Opted Governor
- Sophie Khan – Primary Staff Governor
- Sarah Ward-Lilley – Associate Member
- Louise Simmons – Associate Staff Governor
- Heather Robjant – Associate Staff Governor
- Matthew Akinnayajo (8.25am-8.40am)
- Hilary Furey - Clerk

Agenda No.		
1.	<p>Apologies and Consent No apologies for absence were received. Abdi Garad was absent. WG welcomed Sophie Khan as the recently elected Primary Staff Governor across the Federation and introductions were made.</p>	
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest No declarations were received.</p>	
3.	<p>Election of Vice Chair Following a request for nominations, Angelo Weekes was proposed and seconded as Vice Chair.</p> <p>Resolved: that AW is Vice Chair of the Vittoria School Committee for a 1 year period.</p>	Clerk
4.	<p>Minutes and Matters Arising The Minutes of the meeting on 17 September 2020 were approved and would be signed electronically by the Chair as an accurate record.</p> <p>Matters Arising Early Years focus - WG told members that he and DMc had discussed and agreed to postpone this until the spring term meeting.</p> <p>Reading and Recovery Curriculum – it had not been possible for AW and LS to meet to discuss Reading and Recovery Curriculum. LS told members that reading</p>	DMc

	<p>featured strongly in the school’s catch up plan, with pupils in Years 1-6 having been identified for targeted specialist reading support. Bookmark resources were currently being used in 1:1 work with Years 1-3 and were also now online to support struggling readers and as boosters and LS would test the software on chrome books. In addition high-quality targeted intervention materials had been purchased and were also in use. SK, Lead teacher for Phonics, had completed Early Reading training and teachers in Years 1 and 2 have also received up to date training, with all teachers having received reading fluency CPD and LS said that work in Early Years, Years 1 and 2 Phonics is crucial for support children’s progress. In response to a query relating to recent reports of a drop in children’s reading age and ability, LS confirmed that there had been a drop and daily reading was now in place to close this gap and planned evaluation points would happen at the end of the autumn term. The more noticeable drop however was in writing ability and different writing tasks for display and inclusion in newsletters was being encouraged.</p> <p>Virtual assembly – DMc apologised for the short notice for the recent virtual assembly and agreed that another would be organised in due course to which all governors and associates would be very welcome.</p>	DMc
<p>5.</p>	<p>Headteacher’s Report</p> <p>The Headteacher’s report had been circulated in advance of the meeting and attention was drawn to the following:</p> <p>MA told committee members that the school was using the Islington Framework for Catch Up Curriculum and Recovery which had 3 strands: whole school/Quality First teaching; 1:1 group support; and wider strategies. Following discussion, it was agreed that the whole school/class approach was the most important, using Quality First teaching, coaching and monitoring and support of staff. Beyond that, 1:1 support and interventions are in place and external partners have been selected with prior progress meetings held, and will focus on reading fluency and Phonics which it is hoped will feed into other areas of children’s learning and progress. MA said that tutors would not, however, be in place until late November or possibly January.</p> <p>The school’s Catch Up strategy will be sent to the LA today and the first strand of wider strategies has invested in technology such as chromebooks and online resources to support online /remote learning, with funding having been received from the Richard Reeves Foundation and also the national Catch Up fund. The scale of the challenge is big and all are aware of the unusual situation that all schools find themselves in at this time. In response to a query, MA said that the gaps in learning were greatest in the lower years, particularly in Year 2 in terms of curriculum content, with Year 6 pupils being in the best position having had the most learning. LS said that teachers were seeing a lot of social and emotional impacts in younger children which impacted their ability to make progress whereas older pupils have already embedded learning behaviours which they have been able to recall with support from teachers. Additional support from outreach services has been provided. The Chair wanted to know what assessments had been done and if tracking data was available at this stage. MA said that summative assessments had been run during the first half term but that the data was only being used by teachers for planning purposes. Additionally, granular assessment was being used before each weekly topic to understand where children are at so that teachers can plan accordingly and, while there was some early data, it was likely to be spring before a more transparent picture could be seen and ready to be</p>	

	<p>shared with governors.</p> <p>DMc said that Phonics assessments would be held at the end of the autumn term and that everything was being done to support accelerated progress, however this was a high expectation given the gaps in learning over the last six months. SK told members that it was a particular challenge in KS1 with classes of 20 or 21, and that some personalised interventions were in place.</p> <p>DMc reiterated MA's point that Quality First teaching was synonymous with catch up, with subject leaders making expectations clear and enabling teachers to rise to the challenge. In terms of adapting to current needs DMc said that marking was time-consuming and not necessarily having an impact so has been amended.</p> <p>Attendance – attendance is 96%, excluding pupils who have had to self-isolate and are coded differently. Some historic persistent absence is being managed with a more targeted approach.</p> <p>Pupil Numbers – the roll has fallen to 162 pupils, and it was agreed that further work would be done across both Vittoria and the federation as a whole in terms of encouraging growth in numbers..</p> <p>Activities – these were currently limited and Heads had been advised by the LA that only Breakfast clubs should run at present. Work on Pupil Voice was in progress with peer mediators and anti-bullying activities, and committee members heard that the school was working towards achieving an Eco-Flag award. DMc reported that parents were generally happy with the arrangements for drop off and pick up, though with some having to wait for Year 6 children, and a lot of parents are wearing face coverings however DMc would like to see more social distancing. It was hoped that a Xmas performance might be possible and all committee members would be invited.</p> <p>Staffing – staff wellbeing is very high on all school committee agendas and a survey was currently in progress and showing some positive results – this would be presented at the Governing Board meeting on 24 November 2020. DMc said that there was an open door policy at Vittoria and exercise opportunities for staff support, however staff absence in Early Years was having an impact on both staff and pupils. The school's ITIPs-approach was helpful in supporting expected behaviours, and a plan would be put together for Early Years.</p> <p>Curriculum – DMc said that laptops had been delivered to Year 6 pupils in self-isolation however there was some concern that not all learning content was being completed although DMc was confident that Year 6 pupils had the necessary skills with Google classroom. Remote attendance and work is being followed up by staff, and DMc reported that she wanted to ensure more parental engagement as a community evening had only seen a 70% uptake in Year 6 phone calls with teachers, whereas this was 90% across the rest of the school. No parental meetings for Early Years had yet taken place and DMc, TS and WG would discuss this outside the meeting.</p> <p>Finance – since writing her report DMc had met with TS and WG, and the SBM, to review the school's financial situation and told committee members that a fuller report would come to the spring term meeting. It had been agreed to look at reducing costs as a matter of urgency and to consider fundraising efforts, and members discussed ways in which to attract more families, particularly into Early</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DMc</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DMc/TS/WG</p>
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	Years.	
6.	Data Dashboard As mentioned previously, the Data Dashboard showed staff absence information, particularly in Early Years, and DMc was concerned the lack of consistency due to self-isolation and maternity leave could impact the school's ability to attract families. Rigorous monitoring of pupils' learning, and Quality First teaching in all areas of the curriculum, were in place with a lot of positive learning behaviours in upper KS2.	
7.	School Development Plan Update DMc summarised the actions by Priority area and said that an updated version would be circulated after the meeting. WG noted the amount of work being managed and the progress being made in tackling the various aspects of the SDP, with DMc's drive and energy supporting staff and pupils to thrive. WG requested that members take time to monitor and scrutinise the different areas.	All
8.	POLICIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote Learning Policy – an amendment would be made to include reference to teachers' using a safe environment or fake background to ensure privacy if working from home – Approved, pending amendment. • Acceptable Use of ICT Policy – Approved. Resolved: that the Remote Learning Policy and Acceptable Use of ICT Policy are Approved .	DMc
9.	AOB It was confirmed that, subject to government guidance, meetings would continue to be held virtually. There were no further items for discussion.	
10.	Confidential Matters A matter was discussed and recorded in separate confidential minutes.	

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting	
Chair's signature	W. Garner
Chair's name	Will Garner
Date	4/02/2021