

**Minutes of the meeting of the Governing Board of
Mosaic Jewish Primary School
held on Wednesday 11th December 2019 at 6.30pm**

PRESENT

Vicky Williams (VW) – Vice-Chair
Nerissa Bear (NB) (Headteacher)
Jo Dallal (JD)
David Gold (DG)

Nicolette Hartell (NH)
Shirley Lee (SL)
Sarah Luke (SLu)
Diana Muallem (DM)

In attendance

Steve Cleary (SC) (Clerk)
Edna Maritz – Associate Member
Liz Watt (LW) (Assistant Headteacher) – via phone

The features of effective governance from the competency framework: -
Strategic Leadership, Accountability, People, Structures, Compliance, Evaluation.

PART 1

Item	Topic/purpose
1	<p>GOVERNANCE</p> <p>The meeting began at 6.35pm and was deemed to be quorate.</p> <p>The Vice-Chair welcomed all present and thanked them for their attendance at short notice to discuss an important issue,</p> <p>Apologies were received (and consented to from) David Kelin (DK), Caroline Millar (CM) and Judith Ish-Horowicz (JIH).</p> <p>In accordance with the Education (School Government) Regulations, the Chair reminded Governors of the need to declare any interests for items on the agenda. SL declared that she had undertaken prior consultancy work with the South Farnham Education Trust on teacher training. There were no further declarations of interest from governors.</p>
2	<p>SOUTH FARNHAM EDUCATIONAL TRUST (SFET)</p> <p>VW appraised governors of discussions which had been undertaken in relation to exploring the benefits of joining a MAT and seeking one which would be appropriate for the school. A sub-committee had been formed to pursue the task and had put together a list of criteria felt to be important in making this decision. These included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An understanding and embrace of the school ethos 2. A preference to join a Primary school MAT.

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	<p>3. A need to satisfy ourselves that we could work with the existing MAT Board and that staff and teachers would not be adversely affected.</p> <p>4. A desire to not be forced into joining a MAT which is not of our choosing.</p> <p>Upon discussing with a number of MATS, a preference had been expressed for the South Farnham Educational Trust (MAT). Further discussions, visits and canvassing SFET schools had ensued and information was obtained on philosophy and culture, raising standards, financial efficiency, future trends and support (see separate paper on file from the Chair with details).</p> <p>SL commented that it was important in taking a decision on joining a MAT to be cognisant of the initial history of MJPS in which the application to become a free school had emphasised ethos, age range and being one form entry. No appropriate Jewish MAT was in place at the time and it was decided to be a single-academy trust, although there was an agreed strategy to explore potential MATs once the ethos had been established over time. Consideration had been giving to joining a current Jewish MAT, although this option was discounted as a result of differences in ethos.</p> <p>The following questions were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How have staff reacted?</i> Staff are very positive about the proposal to join SFET. Visits had been undertaken to a member school who had particularly emphasised the benefits to staff and children alike. A faculty approach across the MAT is to be developed to support school improvement and Ofsted and there will be no changes around pay and conditions; • <i>What will be the benefit for teaching?</i> The Deputy CEO is responsible for one of the largest teacher training programmes in the country. The Surrey teacher training programme is outstanding and SFET would wish to use MJPS as a base for training in Wandsworth. Links with Roehampton University would remain and be developed. Staff would also benefit from a range of excellent professional development opportunities; • <i>Is MPJS going to be an Associate Member of SFET just like the other faith school in the Trust (St Mary's)?</i> No. The proposal is that we would join as a full participant. We do not have the same issues that CofE schools have and this is not an option we want to consider. • <i>What does it mean for governance?</i> The CEO would come to governing board meetings, although the approach taken is that the "school manages the school". Current governing board structures would be maintained and there would be an MJPS representative on the SFET board. Policies and the meeting cycle would be aligned across SFET. Whilst SFET has a plan to grow to seven schools or 3000 pupils, MJPS would be a founder member with specific rights; • <i>What about the costs?</i> 3 per cent of the GAG would go to the Trust to cover centralised services such as finance, legal, HR and payroll, although this would enable proper structures to be in place for MJPS; • <i>What if MJPS wanted to do a large project such as the top floor?</i> A bid would be put in for monies. SFET are currently undertaking two large building projects and have experience in this.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>How long does the process take?</i> If approved by the Regional Commissioners Office the process is likely to take 6 months. The single academy trust would dissolve and land and buildings would be transferred to the MAT. Funding is available to support the process; <i>What would the benefits to SFET be?</i> Ensuring the continuance of an outstanding education for all children, controlling their own growth, enhancing resource capacity and becoming more diverse. <p>Those present unanimously RESOLVED to agree to the following resolution¹:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That trustees formally approve a proposal that the school join the South Farnham Educational Trust (SFET) and that the Chair inform SFET accordingly; That trustees commence necessary consultation and arrangements for transfer such as TUPE and changes to governance; <p>Governors reflected on the need for consultation with parents and engagement with the wider Jewish community to be sensitively managed and focus on learning opportunities and the benefits for the children served by MJPS. Noting the need to ensure that such consultation and engagement is best achieved by MJPS leading on this, it was RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair be requested to organise a parent meeting before 20 January (potentially on 16 January) to present the decision; ACTION: DK The Chair, Vice-Chair and Headteacher discuss arrangements for the parent meeting and the MAT working group reflect further on the best approach to sharing the decision with the wider Jewish community. ACTION: DK, VW, NB
3	<p>ANNUAL ACCOUNTS</p> <p>DG reported that the annual accounts are nearing completion. It was RESOLVED to arrange a conference call to approve once finalised.</p>
4	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>SL shared that the new Learning Resource Area 2 donated by the Mervis Family will be celebrated at 12 noon on 17 January and governors are welcome.</p>
5	<p>DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS and AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING (all meetings at 6.30pm unless otherwise stated)</p> <p>Chairs Meeting 30th January, 14th May</p> <p>Children, Families and Communities (CFC) (1.15pm –3.15pm) 12th March, 11th June</p>

¹ All other trustees who submitted apologies to the meeting have given their prior approval to the proposal.

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	<p>Curriculum and Achievement committee Data (CAC) 17th March, 23rd June</p> <p>Full Governing Board Meeting (7pm – 9pm) 7th January (tbc), 29th April, 7th July</p> <p>Resources Committee (RES) (6.30pm – 8.30pm) 6th February, 4th June</p>

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.30 pm.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

No:	Action	By	When	Status	Note
Governing Board – 11 December 2019					
1	Organise parent meeting to present the decision	DK	By 20 January	NEW	
2	Discuss arrangements for the parent meeting and reflect further on the best approach to sharing the decision with the wider Jewish community.	DK, VW, NB	By 20 January	NEW	

Signed: _____ Print Name: _____
Chair of Governors

Date: _____