



# Minutes of Cromwell Academy Local Governing Committee

held on Wednesday 27 April 2022

8.30 a.m. via Zoom

**Present**

**Governors:** Richard Laing, (RL), Chair of Governors  
Angela Moore (AM), Parent Governor  
Roger Worgan (RW), Co-opted Governor  
Rebecca Bierton (RB), Co-opted Governor  
Hannah Connor-James (HCJ), Headteacher & Governor  
David Sykes (DS), Staff Governor

**In attendance:** Vicki Wootton (VW), Subject Lead - Writing

**Clerk:** Debbie Warner

<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies for absence</b>
	There were no apologies.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Elections/Resignations</b>
	<p>The Chair informed the meeting that Bernadette Wong's term of office ended in February 2022 and Linda Corrall resigned in January 2022. He thanked them both for their support to the local governing committee. He was pleased to welcome 2 new governors: Roger Worgan as a co-opted governor and Angela Moore as a parent governor.</p> <p>Both governors confirmed that they had completed the necessary training and that DBS documentation was up to date. Both governors had received links to their governor accounts but both required access to The Key for Governors. The Chair also noted that an expression of interest had been received from Chris Cotton and the Chair agreed to follow this up.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> <b>FORMALLY THANK OUTGOING GOVERNORS – CHAIR</b> <b>ACCESS TO THE KEY FOR GOVERNORS FOR NEW GOVERNORS – CLERK</b> <b>FOLLOW UP EXPRESSION OF INTEREST BY POTENTIAL NEW GOVERNOR - CHAIR</b></p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declaration of interest</b>
	There were none.
<b>3.</b>	<b>To approve the minutes of the meeting held 19 January 2022</b>
	<p>The minutes of the meeting were approved subject to minor changes.</p> <p>Action points from the meeting were discussed: Behaviour Policy: updated and approved outside the meeting Governor request for writing update: to be discussed in point 5.2 Governor request for SEND update: next meeting</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Matters arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)</b>
	REB informed the meeting that a Pupil Premium visit had recently taken place and a further visit is scheduled next week.
<b>5.</b>	<b>To ensure accountability of the SLT for the Educational Performance of the School</b>
	<p><b>5.1 To receive Headteacher's Report</b> Governors confirmed they had received and read the report prior to the meeting.</p>

Signed:

Date 08/06/2022

**Questioning/challenge:**

- Q** EAL at 45% in Year 2; how does this compare with other local schools and does the school have the resources to deal with this number?
- A** Higher than other schools in the areas and this is proving a challenge for the school. The Headteacher sought advice from some schools in the Peterborough area where there are higher levels of EAL. Immersion seems to be effective and students show good progress. She informed governors that the Learning Village package has been recommend to the school and is looking into this. The Chair was pleased to hear that there were plans in place to address the large numbers of EAL students at the school.
- Q** Persistent absence remains high
- A** The Headteacher acknowledged that the figure was high which is attributable to families with LA intervention and students on part timetables
- Q** Is staff absence still an issue?
- A** The Headteacher was pleased to report that staff absence was much reduced and the new Covid rules have been of benefit
- Q** Is the school aware of the breakdown of students joining the school in terms of special needs or EAL requirements?
- A** The Headteacher informed governor that the school has no advanced information but will have a better idea once parents/carers have completed their personal details form

A governor noted the success of the recent staff survey which revealed high levels of staff satisfaction and morale. The Headteacher said she was fortunate there was a supportive nature and high team culture among staff. A governor noted that the skill level in the survey was low and the Headteacher informed governors that she will clarify the question with HR but thought it could be related to TA CPD.

The Headteacher highlighted key points from the SDP reporting progress was on target for the for the time of year. The new teacher in EYFS has been an extremely positive appointment and the learning environment has been transformed. Recovery is in hand and the rebuilding of gaps in learning is heading in the right direction. Data: Upper KS2 is showing the biggest impact which is where the majority of recovery resource has taken place. Year 5 has been a concern and catch-up funding has been applied to this year group and gains are already evident from the data. Additional boosters are taking place in Year 6 and now showing more consistent data.

**Questioning/challenge:**

- Q** One of the issues previously was the lack of students performing at greater depth; is this improving?
- A** Implementations have had a huge impact on these students

The Headteacher said that Pupil Progress meetings have highlighted Year 4 as a concern with some students in this cohort that not making good enough progress. However, this may be impacted by the high level of progress in Year 3. Year 2 is currently the biggest concern and the Headteacher is contemplating a research project for this year group which would concentrate on basics rather than rigidly following the curriculum. She added that this cohort had been the most adversely impacted and this was the national picture with learning retention missing. Governors discussed the issues for Year 2 students and felt if students were not hitting their targets, the new initiative could be a sensible way forward with the summer term being the most appropriate.

Attendance: The Headteacher reported that attendance still remains low. However, it is in line with other schools.

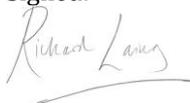
Safeguarding: No significant rise in concerns. No racial or bullying incidents reported.

Staffing: Carla Parker has been appointed as deputy head which is a shared post with Lauren Blyth.

**Questioning/challenge:**

- Q** Has there been a resolution to the caretaker situation?
- A** The Headteacher advised governors that there is a temporary arrangement in place arranged by the Trust

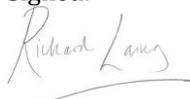
Signed:



Date 08/06/2022

	<p><b>5.3 Safeguarding update (REB)</b>  SCR check had recently been carried out. There will be a further safeguarding visit later this term.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b>  <b>CLARIFY SKILL LEVEL QUESTION IN RECENT STAFF SURVEY – HEADTEACHER</b>  <b>SDP TO BE SENT TO GOVERNORS – HEADTEACHER</b>  <b>DATA CONTAINED IN HEADTEACHER’S REPORT TO BE SENT TO GOVERNORS - HEADTEACHER</b></p> <p><b>5.2 to receive writing update</b>  <i>This item was discussed before the Headteacher’s Report</i>  V Wootton (VW) joined the meeting to provide governors with an update on writing which is currently a focus at the school. VW acknowledged that this is an area that has been significantly impacted by Covid. A phased approach to writing had just been introduced prior to lockdown. “The Right Stuff” by Jane Considine has been adopted by the school which is having an impact on students’ work around vocabulary and sentence structure.</p> <p><b>Questioning/challenge:</b></p> <p><b>Q How do you measure impact and how soon will it be seen?</b>  <b>A Book scrutinies and learning walks are supporting improvements but the impact is not likely to be seen in the short term; it will be a 3 year programme and will take time to embed</b></p> <p><b>Q How is “The Right Stuff” different to methods that have been used previously?</b>  <b>A Previously 1 genre a week did not allow enough time for students to immersive themselves. Genres are now rotated 3 weekly with phases within each genre.</b>  The Headteacher added that previously writing had been very segmented but the new approach allowed more quality time to learn in greater depth</p> <p><b>Q Staff CPD – what are you seeing as the priorities?</b>  <b>A Some staff needed to focus on creativity within writing</b></p> <p><b>Q What advantages have you found from adopting “The Right Stuff?”</b>  <b>A Expanding grammar and a better understanding of sentences</b></p> <p><b>Q Is there a cost implication?</b>  <b>A An initial training cost only</b></p> <p><b>Q How can you measure a shorter term impact?</b>  <b>A Monitoring and an action plan is in place to look at quality of delivery</b></p> <p>The Chair thanked VW for her update.  VW left the meeting at this point.</p>
6.	<b>AOB</b>
	<p>With the addition of 2 new governors, the Chair asked for volunteers for link governor positions:  REB: Link governor for SEND  AM: Link governor for safeguarding  RW: Link governor for Pupil Premium  RL: Link governor for curriculum</p> <p>The Chair advised the meeting of his intention to step down as Chair. He added that it would be sensible elect a new Chair and handover at the first meeting of the Autumn term. The clerk advised that a new Chair is elected by the members of the governing board, and that the Board of Trustees has the task of ratifying that appointment.  REB advised governors that she is leaving ACES at the end of August but intends to continue as a co-opted governor to the school.  Mentors to new governors: REB: AM, RL: RW</p>
8.	<b>Date of next meeting</b>
	Wednesday 8 June, 8.30 a.m.

Signed:



Date 08/06/2022