

**THE PEGASUS ACADEMY TRUST
PART A**



**Minutes of the Whitehorse Junior School
Academy Council Meeting
Held at on Tuesday 12 July 2016 at 6.00pm**

Present: -

Nina Achenbach	Head of School	Present
Susannah Arthur	Parent MAC	Present
Steve Gadd	Staff MAC	Present (arr at 6.55pm)
Audra Grey-Areben	Parent MAC	Present
Richard Hill (Chair)	Community MAC	Apologies
Nicole Malabre	Parent MAC	Present
Sophia Panchoo-Cohen	Parent MAC	Absent
Jolyon Roberts	Executive Principal	Present
John Watt	Staff MAC	Present
David Wood	Community MAC	Apologies

Also present:

Mel Brown - Governance Clerk

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Richard Hill who was unwell and David Wood, who was unable to attend due to work commitments. The Council accepted these apologies. The Clerk was asked to contact David with regard to his attendance.

Action: Clerk

2. Confirmation of Quorum

The meeting was declared quorate at 6.00pm with six of nine MACs in attendance.

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

MACs were asked to declare any pecuniary interests regarding the agenda items for this meeting. None were declared

4. Academy Council Membership Changes

There was one vacancy for a co-opted member. MACs agreed to appoint a parent from the Brigstock site to fill the vacancy. The Council requested that the Trust governance arrangements were amended to include the

requirement to have a representative from the Brigstock site. Nina agreed to advertise the role in September.

Action: Richard Hill / Nina Achenbach

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 May 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair. The minutes were passed to the Head of School for the minute book.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes / Action List

The Head of School advised that Roger may not be able to attend the Probes event as expected, and agreed to follow this up to ensure the thank you letter and gift was received.

Discuss potential applicant for MAC role

Discussed under item 4.

Organise secondary school evening for parents

The event had not taken place due to tight timescales. MACs agreed to hold the event in January 2017 and that it would be aimed at year 4 and 5 parents.

7. Head of School Report

Nina presented the report and gave an overview of the KS2 end-of-year SATs test results. MACs were pleased to note that the combined score was 60%, 7% above the national average. The progress results were unclear under the new system, and MACs were advised that the government would be releasing 'provisional' progress data at the same time as the data checking exercise in September 2016. As attainment levels were good it was hoped that the progress results would show a similar picture.

MACs noted that one of the identified areas of weakness was maths reasoning which was actively being address by the school. A workshop had been held with Nigel Bufton on deepening the understanding in maths. The maths team were reviewing the Maths Policy and other resources that encouraged a 'whole school' approach to reasoning based on the 'Singapore' method. MACs noted the cost of these resources and the requirement for all key stages and schools to become actively involved. Contact had been made with other schools who were using this method to understand its effectiveness. MACs noted that the Singapore method did not take account of SEN children.

MACs discussed the need to ensure children were more resilient and encouraged to become independent learners. This approach supported the new curriculum and possible future staffing arrangements in

classrooms, which were likely to have to function without the support of a full-time TA.

Discussions were had about the new 'scaled score' and MACs noted they were much easier to understand than the previous system which had levels and sub levels.

MACs noted that the pupil premium (PP) expenditure for 2015-16 was on track, and the predicted amount of funding for 2016/17. The Head of School advised that the impact of PP funding would be reported on at the next meeting.

The number of children receiving free school meals had dropped significantly since the Autumn census and a thorough check of entitlement had been carried out. MACs noted that the school continued to receive 'Ever6' funding.

All but two teachers had been observed for the second time and most were judged to be effective or highly effective. MACs were reminded that the school had 5 NQTs who were being supported by their Year Group Leader and the Deputy Head of School. MACs were pleased to note that the NQTs were all meeting the teaching standards and would pass their NQT year. Performance management was discussed and MACs were advised that all mid-term reviews had been completed.

The quality of marking was discussed and MACs were advised that this continued to be a focus for the Trust, and that the Quality Policy was being reviewed. All year groups had moderated their outcomes across the Trust, and Team Leaders had attended moderation sessions at a local primary school for comparison purposes.

Class assemblies had taken place and sports day was well attended. Athens had won Year 3 and 4, and Olympia had won Year 5 and 6. MACs noted that transition meetings with Year 2 parents had taken place on both sites. All children had met their new teachers and parents had been invited to attend the annual open evening. MACs were cordially invited to attend the Year 6 end-of-year production of Romeo and Juliet on 13 and 14 July.

The results of the annual parental questionnaire were discussed. 50 responses had been received from Whitehorse Junior parents and 19 from Brigstock parents. MACs were pleased to note that the results were very positive and included lots of praise for teachers and that most parents considered the school to be well led and managed. Suggested areas for improvement were discussed in detail and included the potential to park bikes and scooters at the school, more teaching of modern foreign languages, support for families experiencing hardship, more or less homework, information on grammar schools, and the booking system for after school clubs. MACs noted that there was no additional time in the curriculum to teach languages other than as part of enrichment sessions as it currently is and that the Trust had established a hardship fund. The Head of School advised that parents were encouraged to find language

courses outside of school. MACs agreed to cover grammar schools in the parents evening they were organising in January 2017.

MACs noted the actions being taken to ensure all members of the school community understood the concepts of British values. The Head of School highlighted that an assembly and special lunch to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

The Academy Improvement Plan was recently reviewed and update by staff and was being collated by the senior leadership team.

The report on the incidents of bad behaviour was discussed in detail and MACs noted the Behaviour Policy would be reviewed in September. There was an increasing number of cyber bullying issues in Year 6, all incidents had been reported to parents with accompanying evidence. The Head of School advised that the intolerance for cyber bullying had been discussed in the Year 3 transition meeting for parents. Following discussions, it was agreed to discuss cyber bullying in assemblies next year and to meet separately with Year 6 children.

Nina Achenbach

Attendance was above national at 97.03% and lateness was noted to be 0.98% before the register closes.

The report from the Facilities Manager was discussed. There were plans to re-model the Year 3 area to expand the smallest classrooms and to create a better breakout area. The work was expected to start in the summer holidays.

MACs were given a detailed overview of the staffing arrangements for September, and were pleased to that the hard work of Nina and Lynne had ensured the school was not carrying any vacancies.

The Year 6 Isle of Wight (IOW) trip had been a success. The children who were not able to attend enjoyed a trip to Kidzania and were praised for their good behaviour when using public transport.

9. MAC Visits and Involvement

Susannah tabled a report and provided MACs with a comprehensive overview of a joint visit which took place in July with Audra. The visit had taken place with John Bonnicic, Interim Inclusion Manager, who was covering Emma Chang. MACs noted the updates on the progress of some children, and that John was complementary of the teaching practices in the school. Nicole attended the Year 2/3 transition meeting.

10. Correspondence to the Chair

There were no items to report.

11. MAC Training and Development

Audra had attended safeguarding course from governors with responsibility for overseeing the safeguarding function.

12. Meeting Impact

It was agreed to move this agenda item to after the section on the minutes in all future agendas. The Executive Principal was complementary of the involvement of MACs and asked that they continued to independently verify the information given by the school.

Following discussions, MACs agreed to review and follow up the comments from the parental questionnaire in more detail. The Head of School agreed to forward the information.

Nina Achenbach

MACs were reminded that whilst Whitehorse Juniors was well run and financially sound, that there were challenging financial times ahead. The expectations were that performance should continue to improve with less money.

13. Confidential Staffing Matters

There were no items for discussion under this section.

14. Any other Business

Nicola knew a violin teacher who would could teach lessons at the school. A discussion was had about music lessons and the lack of space for individual instrumental lessons. The Head of School agreed to consider the matter.

15. Publication of Minutes

It was agreed that, following approval by the Chair the Part A minutes could be made available for publication. There were no Part B minutes.

16. Meeting Dates

The date of the next meeting date would be confirmed via email once agreed.

There being no further business for discussion the Chair thanked everyone for their contributions.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting	
Chair's signature	
Chair's name	
Date	