



Downe Primary School

Downe Primary School Minutes of Extraordinary Full Board meeting 31 May 2022 at 7:30pm

This meeting was held virtually via Zoom

Sarah Blundell (SB)	Staff Governor	Absent
Kim Brown (KB)	LA Governor, Chair of Governors	Present
Brett Clark (BCI)	Parent Governor, Vice Chair of Governors	Present - left 21:10
Ben Courtney (BCo)	Co-opted Governor	Absent
Ruth Irudayaraji (RI)	Co-opted Governor	Present
Karen Jermy (KJ)	Foundation Governor	Present - from 20:01
Rev. John Musson (Rev. JM)	Foundation Governor	Present
Jodene Panteli (JP)	Headteacher	Present

In attendance:

- Lara Cook (LC) - Octavo Governance Clerk
- Laura Allen (LA) - Chair of Governors, Halstead Primary School – left 20:53
- Nicola Crockett (NC) - Headteacher Red Hill Primary School/Regional Director, The Pioneer Academy left between 20:53 and 21:15
- Rebecca Dolan (RD) - Headteacher, The Pioneer Academy – left between 20:53 and 21:15
- Lee Mason-Ellis (LME) - Chief Executive Officer, The Pioneer Academy – left between 20:53 and 21:15
- Jared Nehra (JN) - Director of Education, Bromley
- Anne Slade (AS) - Chief Operating and Finance Officer, The Pioneer Academy – left between 20:53 and 21:15

AGENDA ITEM	MINUTES	ACTION NO:
1.	<p>Introduction and Apologies</p> <p>The Chair of Governors, KB opened the meeting at 19:33 and welcomed all in attendance.</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Staff Governor SB and Co-opted Governor BC (who had previously served as a Parent Governor). KJ was expected to join shortly and was already up to date with the first item of the agenda.</p> <p>With five governors present, the meeting was quorate.</p>	

	<p>Guests from The Pioneer Academy (TPA) were invited to introduce themselves to the governors:</p> <p>AS – Chief Operating and Finance Officer, TPA</p> <p>NC – A career history solely in Bromley, employed by TPA since 2008, currently the Headteacher (HT) of Red Hill Primary School, previously HT at Stewart Fleming Primary School.</p> <p>BD – With TPA since 2008, currently employed as the Central Team HT supporting newer schools in the Trust with policies, procedures and Teaching and Learning (T&L).</p> <p>LA – Chair of Governors (CoG) for Halstead Community Primary School, joined the Board in December 2020, CoG since February 2021. Halstead Community Primary School joined TPA in March 2022.</p> <p>LME explained that LA has been asked to join the meeting to provide the opportunity for governors to speak to the CoG of a school of comparable size and location to Downe Primary and to hear about the process of transition to academy status and joining TPA. LME is the Chief Executive Officer of TPA. In 2008, he was appointed as the HT for Stewart Fleming by the London Borough of Bromley when it was placed under special measures, having failed 24 of 28 categories. Over 11 months, LME, with BD and NC, moved the school out of special measures to an Ofsted rated Good school and on to Outstanding. Over the past 10 years the TPA Multi Academy Trust has grown based on the ethos of care and guidance, which was first introduced at Steward Fleming in 2008. Today, the TPA moto is ‘Safe and Happy Learning’ underpinned by providing outstanding education in a safe and happy environment.</p> <p>KB introduced JN, the Director of Education for Bromley and LC, Octavo Governance Clerk.</p>	
2.	<p>Declaration of interest</p> <p>There were none.</p>	
3.	<p>Presentation from The Pioneer Academy</p> <p>A slide presentation was shared on screen during the meeting.</p> <p>20:53 - LME, NC, RD and AS temporarily left the meeting for the governors to hold discussions and votes.</p>	
4.	<p>Consideration of resolutions</p> <p>KB explained that the governors needed to consider whether to accept the support from TPA being offered and whether they would like to proceed with the opportunity to academise and join TPA.</p>	
5.	<p>Resolution Vote</p> <p>The Clerk explained that the governors would now participate in a private vote which would take place via email.</p> <p>There were two resolutions requiring a response of: For, Against, or Abstain.</p> <p>JP indicated that as the current HT of Downe Primary School, she would abstain from the voting process.</p>	

	<p><u>Resolutions:</u></p> <p>A: To agree and accept The Pioneer Academy offer of support for Downe Primary School in Summer Term 2, 2022.</p> <p>B: To resolve to proceed with the process of academisation with the intention of joining The Pioneer Academy Trust.</p> <p>21:10 – BCI submitted a vote via email and then left meeting.</p> <p>DECISION: With the exception of the HT who abstained from voting the Full Governing Board for Downe Primary School voted:</p> <p>A – to unanimously accept and agree The Pioneer Academy offer of support for Downe Primary School in Summer Term 2, 2022.</p> <p>B – unanimously resolved to proceed with the process of academisation with the intention of joining The Pioneer Academy Trust.</p> <p>The Clerk declared the result of the votes and TPA representatives were invited to re-join the meeting.</p> <p>21:15 – LME, AS, NC and RD re-joined the meeting.</p> <p>LME - The TPA thanked the governors for their decision. A meeting of the Trust Board meeting will be held to announce the decision. The governors were welcomed to visit any TPA schools as a next step and the MoU will be drawn up by legal representatives.</p> <p>KB explained that communication would be sent out to the school community on Monday 6 June 2022 to announce the departure of JP and the next steps for the school. Input from the governors was welcomed.</p> <p>KB thanked all members for their participation.</p> <p>Actions arising from the minutes will be covered in the process of academisation and joining TPA. No actions outside of this have been noted.</p>	
6.	<p>Confidentiality</p> <p>Some discussions were deemed confidential and minuted separately.</p>	
7.	<p>Meeting closed at 21:25</p>	

Signed: _____ Print Name: _____
Chair of Governors

Date: _____