

# Harris Academy at Peckham Governing Body

Minutes of a meeting of the Governing Body held at the Academy on Wednesday 1 July 2009.

## PRESENT

### GOVERNORS:

	Mr Bruce Noble (Chairman)	
Mr Kevin Browne		Mr Sunny Lambe
Mr Simon Gick		Mrs Cathy Loxton
Ms Vicky Gough		Mrs Vicky O'Keeffe
Lady Pauline Harris		Cllr Bob Skelly
Mr Peter Holmes		

**Others in attendance:** Mr Simon Bridgland (Vice Principal), Mrs Kay Brooker (Finance Officer), Mr Nigel Martin (Vice Principal), Ms Monica Vaciannia (DCSF representative) and Ms Vivolyn Walker (Vice Principal).

**CLERK:** Mr Michael Johnson

### 1. Presentation to Long Serving Staff Leaving at the End of Term

The Chair welcomed Mehmet Kemal to the meeting and announced that at the end of term Mehmet would be taking early retirement after 33 years service in Southwark.

Mehmet thanked governors for inviting him to the meeting and explained that he had worked at the school, which was now named Harris Academy at Peckham, for the whole of his career. Mehmet spoke of starting at the school as a supply teacher and that he had enjoyed it immensely and secured a permanent post. He looked back over some wonderful times and mentioned his involvement with sports teams and particularly a successful badminton team which had won the London Schools' Championships. Mehmet explained that he was retiring due to illness. He concluded by saying that he had thoroughly enjoyed his time at the school and that it was an oasis for the children of Peckham and that they wanted to succeed.

The Chair thanked Mehmet on behalf of the Governing Body and said that he had been a terrific servant of the school. The Chair presented Mehmet with a gift from governors and wished him well for the future.

## **2. Student Representatives' Reports**

The Chair introduced and welcomed Martinique Bartley, a Year 9 student representative, to the meeting.

Martinique gave a presentation on the work of the Student Commission on Learning and tabled a paper setting out what had been achieved; current work; and what there was still to do. Martinique reported that student commissioners were currently creating a DVD and were working with other Harris Academies to develop a website. Martinique also reported that she had been one of the student representatives involved in the interviews to appoint a Principal for Harris Academy at Peckham.

In answer to questions, Martinique explained that there were 10 student representatives on the Commission and that working with students from other academies on the website was interesting. Next year it was hoped to extend the Student Commission to include Years 7 and 8.

The Chair thanked Martinique for her presentation and for giving up her time to attend the meeting.

## **3. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Michael Collins (DCSF), Mr Jaimie D'Cruz (Governor), Mr Dominic Herrington (Governor), Mr Dan Moynihan (Governor), Miss Joanna Pearson (Governor) and Mr Steve Sekiziyivu (Governor).

## **4. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest in matters under consideration were received.

## **5. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 1 April 2009 had been sent to governors prior to the meeting.

### **5.1 Approval**

**Resolved -**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2009 be signed as a correct record.**

## 5.2 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## 6. Chairman's Comments

The Chairman opened by saying that there were two things to celebrate today. One was the very welcome appointment of Cathy Loxton as the Executive Principal. The second was the very pleasing Ofsted report on the recent inspection, which would be considered as a separate item of the agenda.

Moving on to other issues the Chair spoke of concerns about the number of admissions for September. The Chair informed governors that he and the Executive Principal had met with an officer from Southwark Children's Services to discuss the projections for secondary school places in the future. The Executive Principal commented that the positive Ofsted report had come too late to influence this year's admissions. Cllr Skelly said that reports in the two local newspapers on the academy's Ofsted report had been positive.

The Chair concluded by reporting on the work to increase parental involvement and particularly to appoint an additional parent governor. Four parents had expressed an interest in joining the Governing Body and the Chair gave brief details of the four applicants.

**Resolved –**

**That Mr Max Senior be appointed to the Governing Body as a sponsor governor for a three year term of office.**

## 7. Ofsted Inspection Report

The Ofsted inspection report had been sent to governors before the meeting. The inspection took place on 19 and 20 May.

The Executive Principal drew attention to page 5 of the report and the section headed 'What the academy should do to improve further' which identified the following three areas:

- Ensure that the quality of marking and target-setting makes clear to students how they can improve.
- Raise standards by improving the quality of teaching and learning to that of the best, particularly in the level of challenge for more-able students.
- Extend the capacity of middle leaders to manage their areas of responsibility through further training.

The Executive Principal reported that these areas for further improvement were part of the Academy Development Plan for next year.

The Chair said that overall the report was pleasing and reflected the progress made since the previous Ofsted inspection. The effectiveness of the sixth form was now judged to be good being given a grade 2. The overall effectiveness of the academy was also judged to be grade 2 with the inspector reporting that "Harris Academy at Peckham provides a good standard of education, one that is improving rapidly under the positive leadership of the executive principal".

Governors thanked staff, students and parents for their contributions to the improvements and progress made since the previous inspection.

## **8. Principal's Report**

The Executive Principal's Report to Governors – Summer Term 2009 had been sent to governors before the meeting.

The main items reported were:

### **Community Cohesion**

The Executive Principal invited Zoe Browne in to the meeting to report on Community Cohesion. The Executive Principal reported that Zoe had worked tirelessly since her appointment in April to produce a positive profile of the academy and to highlight this in the local community.

Zoe gave a presentation on community cohesion and on a marketing plan she had put together for Harris Academy at Peckham. She explained that there were various definitions of community cohesion and suggested that the academy had two communities. One community was defined as the school community which included pupils, parents/carers and families, staff, governors, federation and community users of the academy's facilities and services. The other community was defined as the extended community and this included the local community, national community and international community.

Zoe went on to explain that she had started by working on the school community and by carrying out an analysis of its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. She had identified the following objectives for the first year:

- To increase the school intake (including post 16)
- To positively raise the profile of the academy's brand.
- To proactively seek to change the perception of the academy.
- To bring Harris Academy at Peckham in to line with the other Harris Academies.
- To fully maintain and up to date website.

Governors discussed both marketing the academy and its community cohesion work. The idea of the academy providing a voice for the community was considered.

The Chair thanked Zoe Browne for her presentation.

### **Staffing**

The Executive Principal referred to the list of staff given in her report showing staff leaving the academy in August and those joining the academy in September.

It was reported that this term all teaching staff job descriptions had been reviewed and made simpler and reformatted so that they would help to provide clearer targets for performance management and make accountability easier.

At leadership level, the Executive Principal reported that the roles of the three Vice Principals had changed as discussed at the last meeting. Viv Walker as Senior Vice Principal will manage Key Stage 5 and be responsible for all site matters on a day to day basis. Nigel Martin will be responsible for Key Stage 4 and all matters relating to the curriculum. Simon Bridgland will be responsible for Key Stage 3 and all matters relating to SEN/Inclusion and student behaviour. The Deans become Assistant Vice Principals with a clear role which will include the line management of a year group. Each year will be lead by a Director of Learning previously known as the Associate Deans.

### **Premises**

It was reported that by and large the issues raised in the Health and Safety Reports had been completed. A Health and Safety Committee had been formed and health and safety inspections would be carried out on a regular basis.

The main project for the summer holidays was the creation of the SPACE centre. This has been agreed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The extension of the hairdressing salon so that beauty can be added to the range of vocational courses will also go ahead.

The Executive Principal reported that the generator was still on site in case of further disruptions to the power supply. Governors compared the costs of hiring the generator with those of buying it. It was agreed to buy the generator currently on site.

### **Budget**

Expenditure continues to be in line with expectations. Income received was 69% and expenditure represented 66% of the budget. A draft budget for 2009/10 would be considered at a later item of the agenda.

### **Pastoral**

The Executive Principal reported that behaviour was improving and that a new incentive scheme called Vivomiles would be introduced in September. This had proved successful in other Federation academies.

Some minor alterations to the uniform had been made but the Executive Principal reported that in the longer term she would like to re-consider the uniform with students who had reported back that in meetings with other academies they felt their uniform was "scruffy".

### **Priorities for Next Year**

The Academy Development Plan (ADP) will be finalised by the end of this term. It will have a different format and relate directly to the self evaluation form (SEF)

### **Events**

On 3 June PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) held an Enterprise Activity Day for Year 9 students. The students really enjoyed the event and four students were chosen to represent the academy at the finals for all academies across the Federation. The finals were held at the PWC Head Office in London on 5 June and Harris Academy at Peckham finished second.

A list of other events was also given in the report and noted by governors.

The Executive Principal concluded her report by providing statistical information on exclusions; number on roll; overall attendance; racist incidents; and bullying incidents.

The Chairman thanked the Executive Principal for her report.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the Principal's report be received with thanks.**
- (2) That the generator currently on hire to the academy be purchased.**

## **9. Budget 2008 – 2009**

A budget for 2009-2010 had been sent to governors before the meeting.

The Chair reported that the Finance & General Purposes Committee had considered the budget for next year and reviewed the accounts for the first eight months of this year. Funding for building projects over the summer had been released.

The Chair referred to an increase in Federation costs for next year due to an increase in support provision.

Governors considered the draft budget before them and agreed to adopt it.

**Resolved –**

**That the budget for 2009 – 2010 be approved and adopted.**

## **10. Committee Minutes**

The draft minutes of this term's committee meetings had been sent to governors prior to the meeting.

The committee minutes were presented to the Governing Body as an efficient way of formally reporting on the work of committees.

**Resolved -**

**That the draft minutes of the following meetings be received:**  
**Personnel Committee on 13 May 2009;**  
**Finance & General Purposes Committee on 10 June 2009;**  
**Curriculum and Academic Standards Committee on 17 June 2009.**

## **11. Dates and Time of Future Next Meeting**

Governors confirmed the dates and times for future meetings.

**Resolved –**

**That the dates and times of future meetings be as follows:**

<b>Autumn Term 2009</b>		
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>30/09/09</b>	<b>09:00</b>
<b>Curric &amp; Academic St</b>	<b>07/10/09</b>	<b>09:00</b>
<b>Finance &amp; GP</b>	<b>25/11/09</b>	<b>09:00</b>
<b>Governing Body</b>	<b>02/12/09</b>	<b>18:30</b>
<b>Spring Term 2010</b>		
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>20/01/10</b>	<b>09:00</b>
<b>Curric &amp; Academic St</b>	<b>03/02/10</b>	<b>09:00</b>
<b>Finance &amp; GP</b>	<b>10/03/10</b>	<b>09:00</b>
<b>Governing Body</b>	<b>31/03/10</b>	<b>18:30</b>

<b>Summer Term 2010</b>		
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>12/05/10</b>	<b>09:00</b>
<b>Curric &amp; Academic St</b>	<b>19/05/10</b>	<b>09:00</b>
<b>Finance &amp; GP</b>	<b>09/06/10</b>	<b>09:00</b>
<b>Governing Body</b>	<b>07/07/10</b>	<b>18:30</b>

**12. Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

**PART II CONFIDENTIAL**

There was no confidential business.

Chair  Date 2/12/09