

# St Cyprian's Greek Orthodox Primary Academy

## Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Academy Trust Board

**Date of meeting:** 7.00pm, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**Venue:** Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/99722085774?pwd=VIMwVGFrRWlwdzVON2tuV1JudlBUQT09>)

**Present:**

Mrs Angelina Adrien ( <i>Deputy Headteacher</i> )	Mr Christos Nestoros
Mr Arthur Broadberry ( <i>Chair</i> )	Mr Andrew Mantilas
Ms Rianne Darko	Mrs Ehimwenma Osagiobare
Mrs Naghmana Gani	Mr Philip Prodromou
Ms Zoi Iliokaftou	Mr Peter Tragoulas
Mr Elias Loizou	Mrs Sophia Tsoukkas
Mr Christopher Vradis ( <i>Headteacher</i> )	His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas

**In attendance:** Ric Euteneuer (*Clerk*)

**Absent:** Ms Aredi Christou (*Vice-Chair*)  
Mr Adrian Prescod (*Vice-Chair*)

The meeting was quorate: 14 Governors present, 8 required. The meeting began at 19.05pm

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### 1. PRAYER AND WELCOME

The Chair welcomed governors to meeting; His Eminence led the governors in prayer.

### 2. APOLOGIES

Aredi Christou (*Vice-Chair*) - these were **ACCEPTED**. No apologies were received from Adrian Prescod.

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest in items under discussion at tonight's meeting were notified to the Chair or the Clerk.

### 4. FUNDING DEFICIT ACTION PLAN

The Head outlined the past rolls (from 2014) and future projections of pupil numbers and the money that the academy received from the DfE (GAG) - the two were interrelated. He also looked at wages over the same time period. The Head would be meeting with the Trustees next week. Roll has reduced from 414 in 2017 to 363 in 2021.

Funding from government has plateau'd and then reduced. £1.63m in 2017 to £1.61m in 2021. Wages, however have increased by 6-7%. The financial reserves were £211k in 2018, but in 2021, the in-year deficit was £113k, which reduced the available reserves down to £87k. Next year a £175k in year deficit is projected – this would take the school reserves to a **-£60k** deficit. For 2022/23, if the school gets more numbers - £330k in year deficit would take the school balances to £387k.

The Head reminded the meeting that the business goals of the academy for the remainder of this school year were

- To provide 16 extra children, equivalent to circa £60,000 funding
- To enable a zero budget i.e. breakeven position to be achieved for submission to the ESFA

The school is doing a huge amount of PR – presently the Head has undertaken

- *TV, radio appearances and articles in the press about the school*
- *Facebook interviews, and pushing the school on social media.*
- *Enabling staff to visit nurseries to promote the school*
- *Promoting the school at the Greek School*
- *Undertaking a presentation to Battersea next week (went to St Helen & St Constantine last week)*
- *Contacting philanthropists for a donation to the school*
- *Bids into Council and Foundations*
- *Contacting the local councillor and arranging a visit*
- *Contacted the Greek and Cypriot government/Embassy.*
- *Setting up a crowdfunding page, with the PTA's support*

There had been 6 new admissions, school tours being undertaken. Numbers for reception places have increased from 37 to 42 for next year. The Head has spoken to the ESFA – they were helpful, but would want to see evidence of addressing the deficit and an upward trend on rolls and pupil recruitment. An Ofsted “outstanding” grade and fantastic results would help as well. The ESFA are looking at schools forming or joining successful MATs. In a worst case scenario, the ESFA could also force the school to take action if they didn't address financial and/or recruitment issues and the school could be forced to join a MAT. Financial uncertainty could also trigger an OFSTED inspection. The Head feels that the school not ready for this till January 2022.

The school needs to become “the best school in the area”, with great SATs results. This is one of the drivers behind the Singapore Maths programme. The Greek language a big attraction and a unique selling point. This will take investment, financial and human. The school building and grounds need attention. It needs governors to take on responsibility to fund raise and push the school forward. The Chair and the Head asked governors what they could do to support the school and the Head's actions.

## 5. GOVERNOR'S SUPPORTING ACTIONS

His Eminence said that the Archdiocese pledged £10K this calendar year, as a sign of support and challenge. The Chair and governors thanked His Eminence for this generous donations.

Aredi Christou (Vice-Chair) had told the Head she would approach the Hellenic Centre and the Cypriot Embassy forwith information about the school and requests for sponsorship donation. She also had an idea to approach school alumni evenings and donation events. The Head said he would be happy for Aredi to do this

Q. Zoi Iliokaftou asked about what work was being done to attract local people?

A. The Head said the school was doing its best to be the best school in the area, and was doing a wide variety of activities, who offered something different and something worthwhile.

- His Eminence supported what the Headteacher – the physical outlay of the school was important. He had passed the Head a list of foundations – including the Onassis foundation. There was a lack of knowledge about the school from the parishioners which needed addressing.
- Andrew Mantilas offered his time to take up some of the representation. The Head said that he would get Vicky to contact him (**ACTION: HEAD**)

His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas left the meeting at 1945. With 13 governors present, the meeting remained quorate.

- Rianne Darko said she felt the school should approach and work with Black African Christian Pentecostalist Churches with information about the Christian education at the school.

- She also proposed that easy fundraising purchases were given higher profile amongst the parents., and to arrange for publicity at Thornton Heath Tesco's. The Head said that he would love to work with Rianne to do this (**ACTION: HEAD**).
- Sophie Tsoukkas has been selling the school and has had success already, and will continue to make efforts to sell the school at the Greek School and her friends and family, and will support the PTA
- Elias Loizou said that opening the school up to other churches, and a farmers market on the playground would sell the school
- Christos Nestoros offered his time to existing action plan items where he could support. Propose that school consider parental regular giving donation scheme
- Philip Prodomou said that the trustees of the school could be approached for networking. Philip proposed that accountancy firms in Crystal Palace and Greek accountancy firms more generally who have Greek clients are to be approached to tell them about the school and request contributions or donations sponsorship.

Q. A governor asked if the Trustees been approached?

A. Head said this was on the agenda for discussion next week

Head said that the school was attending coffee mornings, and was offering some of the local clubs access to the school's sports facilities. The Head said offering a minibus place. Breaks even at 1.5 to 2 children.

- Ehimwenma Osagiobare said she had sold the school to a Greek parent. Also need to sell the school to other communities. She was very good at selling the school. Happy to help to continue to do this
- Naghmani Gani also backed the idea of cultural days and fundraising through an international food culture event, which would raise funds and promote the school. She also suggested to use letter drops of school flyer in houses known to her that have children of school age, and paper publicity via leafleting. The Chair and Head said this was available. Head invited Naghmani into the school. She will direct potential school-hall hirers to the School Office
- Peter Tragoulis had promoted the school. Three pupils have been brought to the school, Peter has two children at the school, Peter has provided his services as accountancy scrutineer free of charge
- Arthur Broadberry [*Post meeting note*] proposed to approach neighbouring Anglican churches with information about the school, arrange to place information in the churches, work with the Headteacher to deliver presentation to those congregations. Will also provide guidance to governors on developing their proposals
- Ms Zoi Iliokaftou [*Post meeting note*] offered to disseminate any electronic material of the School (e.g. a pamphlet, a brochure) in the Greek communities that she was involved in and to other Greek families she knew that live in London. Zoi also said she would be happy to promote the school and contribute to generating new digital marketing material if required. Along with other governors, she suggested a series of events that can be organized in the school's open spaces for the local neighbourhood as well, or as open days, so the school can show itself to the local community. She also suggested talks by professionals that would be open for our students, parents and the local community

Ms Zoi Iliokaftou left the meeting at 2010. With **12** governors, the meeting remained quorate.

Q. A governor asked if the school was available for rent?

A. The Head said that the school was open for all groups

Q. A governor asked how many children needed for reception

A. Head said 16.2 children would be worth £60k. Head said deprivation index had gone down so school got less funding

Q. A governor asked if there idea was to break even this year

A. Head said that the ESFA would look kindly if the school did this

Q. A governor asked about falling rolls funding

A. The Head explained that it was an advance on numbers in the school presently

Head said that work would be beginning on the entrance to show donors with the money that had been donated.

The Chair thanked everyone for their valuable contributions, and said the Clerk would be writing notes so that a record of what everyone had volunteered for had been recorded.

**6. MEETING END**

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

14.7.21

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R A Brabens". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.