



Minutes of the Full Governing Body Meeting held in school on 6 April 2022 at 6.30pm

Present:

Simon Smith	Headteacher	SS
Sue Pakes (Chair)	Foundation Governor	SP
Allison White	Staff Governor	AW
Richard Dodson (Vice Chair)	Foundation Governor	RD
Andrew Kindness	Local Authority Governor	AK
Emma House	Foundation Governor	EH
Lisa Raison	Parent Governor	LR
Nick Harris	Co-opted Staff Governor	NH
Ben Bailey	Parent Governor	BB
Jenny Fry	Foundation Governor	JF
Bev Colebeard	Foundation Governor	BC
In Attendance:		
John Alexander	Clerk	JA

		Action
	Opening Prayer	
22/015	<p>Apologies & Welcome</p> <p>SP welcomed JF, the newly appointed Foundation Governor and JA, the new Clerk. She also thanked Lisa for her willingness to be re-nominated as a Parent Governor, Emma who has now had her Foundation Governor term of office renewed and Nick for being re-co-opted as a Staff Governor. She had written to Liza Caddy thanking her for her term of office as a Parent Governor. There had been no nominations from the Parents for this position. Andrew’s term of office comes to an end in July and JA will look into this.</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Rev. Fiona Beale and David Baldwin.</p>	JA
22/016	<p>Register of Business Interests</p> <p>There were no pecuniary interests declared for any items on the agenda.</p>	
22/017	<p>Minutes of meeting held on 16 February 2022</p> <p>The minutes were reviewed and agreed as an accurate record.</p>	
22/018	<p>Matters Arising from minutes of meeting held on 16 February 2022</p> <p>i) <i>22/004(i) SIP Meeting:</i> This had not yet taken place. SS would be working with the Headteachers of Thorners and Powerstock Schools, and this would be further discussed with them at the Collaboration meeting on 7-4-22. SS agreed to report back to FGB at the next meeting.</p>	SS

Signed.....Date.....

	<p>ii) <i>22/006 SRE Consultation:</i> The consultation meeting with parents had gone ahead with five parents in attendance. One Governor who had been there complimented SS on his presentation. The SRE Policy was on the agenda for FGB approval later in the meeting.</p>	
<p>22/019</p>	<p>Committee Reports</p> <p>Resources Committee, 30 March 2022</p> <p>The minutes were received and noted. SS highlighted the decarbonisation project: scaffolding for the solar panelling installation had now been removed, and the panels would be made operational during the Easter holidays or at Whitsun at the latest, pending the resolution of scheduling problems with Dorset Council. Excess power would be sold back to the National Grid. Low energy LED lighting was also being installed at the school. The school would consequently be carbon neutral in the summer months. These developments would feed into topic work on the environment in the summer term.</p>	
<p>22/020</p>	<p>Headteacher Report (Verbal Update)</p> <p>SS gave a verbal update.</p> <p><i>School attendance:</i> This was currently 92.1% - lower than the 95% target, but higher than the Dorset and National Primary School averages. As well as Covid, children had been absent with a wide range of conditions, including colds, scarlet fever, shingles, norovirus and impetigo. On average, Year 6 children had lost two weeks of schooling due to sickness this year, with one child having seven weeks of absence. Governors asked if parents had been informed that children were now only required to isolate for three days following a positive Covid test, and if so how they had responded. SS replied that they had, but that some parents remained nervous about sending their children in this soon, and it would take time for mindsets to change. Some staff members were still unvaccinated against Covid and therefore more vulnerable.</p> <p><i>Sports:</i> Forty Key Stage 1 children had taken part in in the multi-schools tournament and had a great time, getting second place at tag rugby. Cricket would soon be restarting, as well as swimming for Year 6. Governors asked where swimming would take place, and how many sessions there would be. SS replied that swimming would be at Crewkerne, and there would be four or five sessions.</p> <p><i>Staffing:</i> One Senior Teaching Assistant (TA) had reduced their hours to 0.6 FTE. Another TA with Higher Level experience had been promoted to HLTA and would be helping with Year 6. A new child with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) needed one-to-one TA support and this role had been advertised. There remained a need for TA support for two days per week at Key Stage 1, and this post was also being advertised. Further staffing changes were anticipated, and SS would update Governors at their next meeting. Governors asked: if the school was obliged to take EHCP children; if Dorset Council covered the cost of this; and if any children at the school had a 'dual school' arrangement with Mountjoy School in Beaminster (which catered exclusively to EHCP children). SS replied that taking EHCP children was a legal requirement. The school covered £9k of the costs, and the Council covered the rest. The previous 'tipping point' arrangement, whereby additional finance could be accessed if the school had above a certain number of EHCP children, had now been discontinued, but the school could apply for further funding if it produced a detailed resource map of its requirements. As the system was new, it was not possible to predict if such an approach would be successful. Mountjoy School was at full capacity and therefore unable to provide support but we could buy in expertise from them.</p>	<p>SS</p>

Signed.....Date.....

	<p><i>Safeguarding:</i> Two welfare calls had been received concerning possible domestic violence. There had been no incidents of drug use, bullying or racist abuse, and no Fixed Term Exclusions.</p>	
22/021	<p>Budget</p> <p>The proposed budget had been posted on the secure governors' area of the website, and SS highlighted the following: the current high number of pupils on roll meant that a healthy cumulative surplus of £68k was forecast for year end. The school had also benefitted from a change to the 'sparsity factor' by which additional funding was allocated to schools that are both small and remote. In the past this had only been paid if the average distance to a primary school pupil's second nearest school was at least two miles (the threshold distance – which was formerly measured as the crow flies). For 2022-23 a distance threshold taper has been introduced whereby schools with a threshold distance of more than two miles could receive some sparsity funding but not the whole amount. The size of the school is also taken into account. Overall, there was an increase of £817,712 in sparsity funding paid to Dorset schools, and Parrett and Axe had received a portion of this.</p> <p>Forecast net expenditure for 2022-23 was £656k, rising to £680k for 2023-24, £686k for 2024-25, £734k for 2025-26, and 760k for 2026-27. About 90% of this was for staff costs. Each class now had its own budget allocation. Staff Governors confirmed that this system worked well and that this view was shared by other teachers.</p> <p>Governors asked about the reserve fund, which was 16.5k for 2022-23. SS explained that this was sum of money that was set aside against unforeseen expenditure, and was both prudent and strongly encouraged by the Local Authority.</p> <p>The budget was approved unanimously. Governors thanked Sarah Townsend, the school Finance Officer, for her hard work on the budget, and acknowledged the challenging nature of the task.</p>	
22/022	<p>Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS)</p> <p>The Schools Financial Value Standard had been reviewed by the Resources Committee and recommended to FGB for approval. It was duly approved and would now be submitted to Dorset Council.</p> <p>SS also presented the Self Assessment Dashboard, which showed a largely positive picture. The was a relatively high pupil teacher ratio, partly because SS was included as a teacher, and partly because of the higher number of pupils on roll.</p>	SS
22/022	<p>PSA Visit 25-05-22</p> <p>This was a scheduled visit to the school by the Diocese prior to SIAMS inspection, and would look at RE, Collective Worship, school displays etc. The visit was purely supportive and not in itself an inspection.</p>	
22/023	<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>This had already been covered in the Headteacher report.</p>	
22/024	<p>Policies to Review</p> <p><i>SRE Policy:</i> This was approved unanimously, having been proposed by AK and seconded by EH.</p>	

Signed.....Date.....

	Governors also noted that the Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Staff Policy and the Staff Disciplinary and Grievance procedures had been reviewed and approved by the Resources Committee on 30-3-22.	
22/025	Governor Training, Visits and Recruitment EH and LR had completed Prevent training. SP had completed a SEN monitoring report and a Chairs Briefing report. BC had visited the school and discussed the SIP with SS and will be revisiting in May. LR and FB had both had to postpone their SIP discussion visits until the Summer Term. EH had visited to monitor PSHE and her next visit will be to talk to the pupils. BB agreed to take over as lead Governor for Maths.	
22/026	Staff Wellbeing The Staff Governors reported that although staff were very tired and looking forward to the Easter break, morale was good and there was a sense that things were improving after such a challenging two years. Communication was much better, and all staff recognised the importance of being flexible because circumstances remained quite volatile. One teacher had even had to teach a lesson via Zoom, with a TA in the class and SS checking in regularly. While as a one-off this had been a successful exercise, it was strictly for emergencies only. Governors reaffirmed that staff wellbeing was a big priority for them.	
22/027	Correspondence Two lengthy letters had been received from parents proposing breakfast and after-school clubs. These had been tried previously by the school but had proved financially unviable and problematic to staff. Uptake had also been sporadic and inconsistent. SS proposed that he would send a letter to parents to canvas whether there was widespread support for the idea and a concomitant commitment to support it should the clubs be reinstated. This was approved.	SS
22/028	Dates of Future Meetings Resources Committee – Thursday 5 May 2022 at 6pm in school Curriculum Committee – Wednesday 6 July 2022 at 5.30pm in school Full Governing Body - Wednesday 18 May 2022 at 6.30pm in school	
22/014	A.O.U.B. None	

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

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