



Minutes
Full Governing Body Meeting
Monday, 22nd November, 2021,
6.00 pm via Teams

Requested Attendees:

Karen Wrixon (Headteacher), Cliff Walters (Chair), Maria Dixon (Vice-Chair), Rachel Barbet, Russell Field, Richard Hull, Gilford Sweetenham, Janine Wagner-Hale, Annabel Smith, Christopher Jones and Catherine Dunkley-Jones (Clerk)

<p>1. Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>The chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from AS.</p>
<p>2. Notification of Any Urgent Business</p> <p>-</p>
<p>3. Declaration of Business Interests</p> <p>-</p>
<p>4. Minutes of 20th September and any Matters Arising not addressed by this agenda</p> <p>The minutes of 20th September were agreed to be an accurate record.</p> <p>Governors have arranged link governor visits and visit reports have now been completed by several governors.</p> <p>The Young Interpreters have received their badges and are being trained by KW.</p>
<p>5. Succession Planning - electing a Chair of Governors for future meetings</p> <p>CW is stepping down from the role of Chair and retiring from the governing body at the end of term. Various ways forward were discussed. CJ kindly agreed to be CoG and will meet with CW on 1st Dec. to discuss the role. It was decided to review the position of F & P chair at the next committee meeting.</p>
<p>6. Committee Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum Committee - met 11th October Finance and Personnel Committee and Environment Committee – met 15th November <p>CW summarised some of the main points of the committee meetings. CDJ sourced a suitable questionnaire for the governors' accessibility environment audit. There is also one for staff, parents and carers which KW will prepare before sending out.</p> <p>The barrier is going up very soon although the date is not yet confirmed. Discussion about whether the position of the gate should enable one car to leave the main road but the consensus is that parents do want the whole area, including the crossing, to be safe.</p> <p>At the meeting, it was also agreed to use Franks Group for maintenance. CK is friend with the owners but has no business interest.</p> <p>F & P – governors reviewed the budget plans for the next four years.</p> <p>OFSTED is expected this year, so a 'Preparing for OFSTED' pack with useful information for governors has been uploaded onto SharePoint.</p>

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



7. Headteacher's Report

KW presented the main points of the report (attached) and invited questions.

8. Removal of funding from school budget shares – Consultation on De-Delegation for 2022-23 : see email from Nicky Diment

This consultation is done every year, and LA maintained schools usually vote in favour of the delegation of budget shares continuing. KW has always voted in favour of keeping the delegation of the budget shares as they cover areas such as redundancy funds and union fees and the school would pay more if the share wasn't given to the LA. Governors were invited to share any thoughts about the consultation.

9. Academisation Update – confidential?

KW had an informal meeting with Jane Whitehouse-Sharpe the headteacher of Shillingstone Primary who voluntarily chose to join SAST. The headteachers of Stalbridge, SNHS, and Child Okeford had an informal chat online to hear her thoughts as a first step towards thinking about academisation.

As a 'good' school, they opted to convert because they felt that LA support was so diminished in terms of teaching and learning and they were keen to work with a group of schools to improve their school.

The conversion was seamless although there were a few minor financial issues initially as they were a grant maintained school. Staff were all TUPed across so all their pay and working conditions continued in the same way.

There were many benefits; the school improvement lead came in and linked them to other schools in the trust and they immediately started developing school improvement, forming teaching and learning groups and many other improvement measures. JWS felt she didn't relinquish any autonomy, and the next stage is to look at cost savings that can be made as a group of schools.

The MAT HR was very supportive and there is a Covid link person for the whole academy.

FGB became a local governing body with one representative on the academy board.

Shillingstone still sets its own priorities and SDP and JWS meets every other week for briefings. One the whole, she felt that the pros far outweighed the cons. The heads of the other pyramid schools who haven't yet signed up are meeting Colin Sinclair, the new CEO, on Thursday, 25th November for a general chat to introduce ourselves and to find out his views on progressions.

If we are still interested, the next step would probably be to invite the CEO to give a presentation to the governors, possibly linking to other schools' governing boards.

KW also forwarded an informative document: 'Schools' views on the perceived benefits and obstacles to joining a MAT' which came out earlier this week. Comes back to schools' concerns about autonomy. The CEO has the power over all the schools.

Is the CEO the person in charge of the whole MAT?

Yes, Colin Sinclair took over from the previous CEO last summer.

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



Is there anyone within the group who has said they're definitely not going to join?

No ,all are open to joining in the discussions at the moment.

The government have mentioned a 'try before you buy' route into academisation but unclear how this would work at present.

Governors would lose the power to make decisions – the SAST governing body will oversee everything,

KW will let governors know any updates.

10. Link Governor reports and training updates

The latest link governors reports are on SharePoint.

MD,GS and CW met for the headteacher's performance management, and also met with KW for the safeguarding audit and to check the single central register.

Governors are currently encouraged to do a link governor visit every term although this is not mandatory
Visits at school events and trips can all count.

Discussed whether it would be better to plan specific link governor delegating tasks and responsibilities
visit meetings at committee meetings. Essential to provide evidence that governors are performing their monitoring duties.

11. Policies:

The following committee reviewed policies were all approved and are on the website:

- Tapestry
- RE
- Geography (reviewed by the Curriculum Committee)
- Positive Behaviour – updated to reflect recent trauma and relational practice training

- Disaster Management Plan (reviewed by the Environment Committee)
- Appraisal, Pay Policies for Teachers and Support Staff , Violence at Work and Financial and Admin. Regulations and the Pupil Premium Policy (reviewed by the F& P Committee)

Also need to be reviewed:

Attendance – Whole School – noticed due for review Summer 2021

Code of Conduct for Staff and Safe Working Practices

Extended School Provision

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



Global Learning School Plan
Intimate Care Policy
Mobile Phone policy
Tapestry online journal

EYFS policy to be looked at next CC meeting.

12. Well-being Update

JWH met with KW in October report. The well-being charter has been signed and there is another meeting booked in two weeks, part of an ongoing commitment to staff and pupils that the school takes well-being seriously.

Naomi Lewis is the well-being lead and is doing the updated 3 day training; she was the mental health lead at the last school and has already completed training.

13. Preparing for OFSTED - discussion

Governors were encouraged to look through the documents in the SharePoint folder, and to email KW or arrange a meeting if any questions arise.

Geoff Pike's report is especially worth reading and the NGA document for governors is also recommended.

14. Safeguarding Update

There has been no feedback yet from the safeguarding audit – the only outstanding action concerns the need for another member of the SLT, probably RH as DSL, to complete Safer Recruitment training, in January.

15. Update on the Clerks' Briefing of 16th November

The report on the Clerks' Briefing was shared before the meeting. The main focus was recruitment – the board currently has co-opted governor vacancies.

The governors discussed remote recruitment – many benefits of online meetings in terms of work-life balance.

The clerk suggested writing to local businesses and organisations, explaining the benefits of employees becoming a governors.

The clerk offered to send out draft letter to governors, which could be signed by the Chair of Governors.

16. Chair's Briefing

Most relevant items were already covered in this meeting.

At this point, the governors and clerk expressed their thanks to CW for his service to the school as governor, and Chair of Governors for over ten years.

17. Any Other Urgent Business

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Actions:

The clerk to promulgate letter to governors

CW and CJ to meet on Wed 1st September to discuss CoG role

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



Dates of next meetings

Spring Term

17/1/22 - CC

14/02/22 - F & P (outturn / SFVS)

21/3/22 Environment committee

28/3/22 FGB

25/04/22 - Budget Setting

Summer Term

9/5/22 CC

20/6/22 F & P / Env.

27/6/22 FGB

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