



Minutes
Full Governing Body Meeting
Monday, 20th March 2023
6.00 pm at the school

Requested Attendees:

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

In attendance: Yvonne Pitman

Agenda Item
1. Welcome and Apologies The chair welcomed all to the meeting. There were no apologies.
2. Notification of Any Urgent Business -
3. Declaration of any business interests -
4. To approve the minutes of the last meeting (21.11.2022) -- and any matters arising not addressed by this agenda All actions from the meeting have been completed: Clerk to share resources from the briefings Work to continue on Governors' visit/ work plan - ongoing KW to schedule meeting with Sharon Pitman and governors re: CC and OFSTED KW to approach PAT CEO The minutes were approved.
5. Committee Reports To receive brief reports on the recent meetings of the committees of the governing body and address any questions arising from the minutes 5.1 Curriculum Committee – met 16.01.2023 A key focus of this meeting was the RAP objectives and the work going on to support Y2, a very low-attaining cohort. Governors also looked at the objectives aiming to close the gap between pupil premium and non-pupil premium children, raising the GLD in EYFS, and at least good progress for all pupils. Working to improve emotional well-being for all is also a priority. Staff see children's emotions coming out following the pandemic and crucially lots of families. A large part of KW's work involves seeing families struggling with huge issues with behaviour at home and asking for support. Governors were updated on Maths and English priorities - the tutor has given extra support to children in Y1 and Y2 but has returned to Y6 for a SATS boost.



Governors are encouraged to keep visits and feedback going using the RAP as the focus and inviting teachers to talk about their subject leads at the same time.

5.2 Finance and Personnel Committee – met 27.02.2023

Governors were updated about staffing changes -some of which were confidential and discussed how the budget will change as a result.

Benchmarking data still shows we are still spending more on staff, but we are comfortable with that.

5.3 Environment Committee – met 27.02.2023

Finally managed to get quotes for the pipe lagging in Reception and Y1 and the blinds in the pod.

Next meeting is planned to be at the school to have a walkround to develop a set of priorities for outstanding work.

The chair invited input from other governors.

6. Headteacher's Report

Staffing remains the same. Mrs Alfazema who was job sharing with Mr Pyrke is now leaving at Easter.

Mrs. Julia Quinn has just been appointed. MDA and KW interviewed today for permanent Y2 and Y4 teachers as LG leaving in the summer as her husband is taking up a post overseas.

Jo Hazelgrove will return to do supply for the summer half term and LG will do the Y2 Sats before she goes so that the year group will have plenty of support and continuity with a teacher they know.

MD and KW have appointed a more experienced teacher for Y2 and a relatively new but not ECT teacher for Y4. This will relieve pressure on the SLT in terms of tutoring and support and there isn't the need to pay for extra PPA and supply cover. Both candidates have accepted which is good.

A new lunch supervisor is taking a L3 TA qualification.

NL and KW have created a new well-being survey for staff, which is a bit less wordy than the last one. The new ECL is Roz Carter-Jones who visited with the former ECL just before OFSTED called. The phonics audit was carried out just before the inspection which was really good as the Ofsted inspector was keen to see we were auditing ourselves.

The draft report was dropped into the portal today and the judgment remains the same. No paper copies are allowed for another 5 days. KW read out the introductory paragraph to the governors as it was so complimentary to the staff and pupils.

The report should go out to parents next week. Well done everyone. CJ will write a letter on behalf of the governors to staff. Everyone worked so hard.

The lagging, blinds, and decorating should be done during the Easter holidays. Window cleaners are going to quote on the canopy. Still waiting to hear back from the tree specialist re: the ivy cover.

KH and KW went to a budget-setting meeting at county where they gave the latest figures.

Cheese festival – a bid has been put in for music resources for the school. KW has also bid for a sensory equipment grant. As there are currently 6 LAC, there could potentially be £2500 to spend on sensory



equipment such as ear defenders, resources for the pod – there is a long list.

Any questions

Will the two new staff starting in September have any settling-in days?

Yes, transition days will certainly be possible, but as both teachers are currently in post, they will need to negotiate time off.

Finally, a massive well done to all staff, governors, and children for all their work!

7. Academisation

To decide on the next steps following Pickwick's presentation.

Governors agreed that Pickwick Academy Trust is the best choice in terms of ethos, but the question remains whether it is right for the school to join an academy at the moment.

The new ECL, Roz Chapman-Jones, indicated that schools with good recent OFSTEDs are unlikely to be pressured to join an academy.

Reasons for joining MAT include better opportunities for headteacher collaboration, well-being support and CPD as the LA's offer has considerably declined.

However, concerns remain about whether the MAT's ethos would continue to be the same in the event of a change of CEO – SAST started with a similar ethos re: schools retaining control of their budgets but now have a centralised budget. Sharon Peel has said that LA schools achieved better results than MAT schools last year.

Is it possible to join a MAT and then leave?

No, schools can join another MAT but can't return to being a maintained school.

Do HT briefings still happen?

Yes, and ECL support is also provided.

At the moment, there is no rush to decide. KW will meet with the headteachers of Stalbridge and Hazelbury Bryan and feedback at the next FGB.

8. Policies

To approve the following policies recommended by committees for adoption:

Curriculum Committee:

Art and Design, Able Pupils, Behaviour

F & P Committee:

Charging and Remissions

Attendance Management for Staff

Supporting Pupils with Managing Medicine

Pay Policy for Teaching Staff

Pay Policy for Support Staff

Environment Committee

- First Aid
- Illness Policy (new)



All of these policies were approved. Discussed some of the reasons behind the need for the new Illness policy, which makes it clear that if a child is sick because of norovirus, they should not attend school but not necessarily after vomiting phlegm after coughing.

9. SFVS

The completed SFVS was formally approved by the FGB who were shared the School's Finance Value Standard form reviewed by the F & P committee at the meeting last week. The chair will sign the SFVS and the clerk will email to the LA by the deadline of 31st March.

10. Chair's Briefing

The chair will share materials from the chairs' briefing when they become available.

11. Clerk's Briefing

Board Membership Matters:

- Vice-Chair - this position is still vacant. The clerk asked if anyone would like to take on the role as governing bodies are required to have a vice-chair. To be revisited at the next meeting.
- LA governor appointment process update. MD's term of office ended a few days ago. The clerk advertised the role in January and no one else has come forward. MDA has kindly completed the application process and has been approved by the LA. Governors unanimously confirmed their acceptance of MDA as LA governor.
- Parent governor and co-opted governor vacancies. RB's term of office as parent governor also ended on the 17th March. As RB only wants to be a governor for another year, the clerk proposed appointing RB as a co-opted governor and then advertising for a parent governor. This was agreed.
- Finally, YP was formally appointed as a co-opted governor. Governors have expressed their approval before this meeting so YPs term of office will begin from this date.

12. Link Governor Update – any training, visits

Review link governor roles – priority areas of focus in RAP

- To be revisited at the next meeting.

13. Any Other Business

Governors discussed plans to mark the coronation of King Charles III for the children. There is a flag competition organised by the town council. It might be possible to order some commemorative medals (MDA to share info), but worth checking whether schools will get anything free first.

Dates of next meetings

- F&P – **Thursday 20th April** – Budget- setting meeting - invite KH and all governors, 6.00 pm
- CC – Monday 12th June – 6.00 if face to face - 6.30 if on Teams
- F & P / Env – Monday 26th June – 5.30 start at the school as a walkaround planned
- FGB – 3rd July at 6.00 at the school

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"Where every child counts"

