

Minutes of Full Board of Governors Meeting Monday 16 March 2020, 6.30pm in school

Present: Pippa Brook, Kate Butler, Louise Clarke, Pam Clinton, Marjorie Dean, Mark Goossens, Jez Pinfold

In attendance:
Jane Thirlaway - Clerk

LC chaired the meeting in ZP's absence.

578/20 Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Dave Davies, Taz Dearnley and Zanna Patchett.

579/20 Pecuniary Interests Review

No interests were declared.

580/20 Minutes of last meeting

Approved and signed as an accurate record.

581/20 Matters arising from previous minutes

577/19 New school logo - PC showed governors the new logo, as some governors were absent it was decided to email logo round for comment from all governors. **Action: PC**

582/20 Coronavirus action plan

Governors were informed about and discussed the actions that may need to be taken in the event of a school closure. Teachers were preparing on-line learning lessons and a stepped closure action plan was ready to follow. To adhere to the government advice on social distancing it was decided to limit the amount of non-essential visitors to school, this includes parents coming in to the office and other school areas. Governors asked if there were any safeguarding concerns for vulnerable children not attending school. MD confirmed that there were no current concerns.

583/20 Land proposals

There were no further updates from the DfE and no information was expected anytime soon. There had been some progress with the farmers land to the rear of the school. Planning permission had gone in for change of use and parents had been informed and asked to post letters of support on the planning portal. Costs from the farmer were higher than initially discussed coming in at £7,500 for seeding and fencing etc. and an annual rent of £2,300 on the ten year lease. Some fundraisings/sponsorship ideas were discussed to try to help with these costs. Maybe parents/local business could be invited to sponsor a square of the land. Colin Wilcox (local architect) had offered his services free of charge, governors would formerly thank him at the end of the process.

584/20 Standards & Achievement

Governors studied the data on the Spring LIP review which is based on TA judgements for pupils achieving the expected standards at this point in the year.

Key points to note were:

Predicted progress for EYFS is slightly down on previous years, new children to the cohort will have a significant impact. 3 or possibly 4 out of the 12 children will not make expected progress at the end of the year.

As one of the Ofsted priorities is writing, governors asked what we can do as a school to prioritise raising standards in writing as we have done in reading and maths. MD - need to look at support for the transition period between KS1 and KS2. Interventions are already in place for the underperformers.

Year 6 predicted outcomes are as follows:

Reading - GDS 45%, EXS 36%, WTS 18%

Writing - GDS 27%, EXS 45%, WTS 27%

GPS - GDS 54%, EXS 27%, WTS 18%

Maths - GDS 45%, EXS 45%, WTS 9%

585/20 Financial year end report

Year end reports had been completed and submitted to County. JT gave a brief overview of the year end position. Spend throughout the year was mainly in line with budget, some categories had slight variations. Year end finished with a carry forward of £76,230 which is an increase of £11,610 up on budget of £64,620.

Income - Additional teachers' pay grant of £12k was received to cover teacher pay increases, £6k insurance claim for the library and £5k additional donations. These are offset by expenditure.

Expenditure - £6k saving on teacher's pay, despite the salary increases

£3k saving on other staff - mainly breakfast/homework club

£4k extra on property maintenance - mainly the library

Reserves are still being propped up by PE grant.

Pupil numbers have increased to 77 and early indications show we should have a full intake of 15 pupils in September, this should increase our numbers to 81. Governors were keen to continue to promote the school with an open day and advertising ready for the next intake in 2021.

586/20 Headteacher's report

MD had previously circulated her HT's report for discussion. A copy of which is attached to these minutes. MD informed governors that a child had been given a fixed term exclusion for one day. The decision was made to exclude after three major breaches had occurred and for the safety of staff and other children. External support for the family is being arranged and parents are fully engaged.

TA support is needed in some classrooms. There are 2 TA positions which will be advertised after the Easter break to work in Reception and KS2.

In terms of the new curriculum staff have made a good start on mapping out the subject knowledge and skills for their year groups in order to show how the curriculum is being implemented. Information gleaned from recent Ofsted inspections within the local cluster schools has highlighted just how detailed this needs to be and how much work still needs to be done. Some subject leaders have attended a range of meetings and CPD sessions so have had support with this. As the school works on a 2 -year rolling programme of topics as a vehicle for teaching the curriculum it is unlikely that it will not be fully in place until September 2021 when staff have been able to review the whole cycle.

Following on subject leader training with an Ofsted inspector a new assessment system has been introduced. The system will track pupil outcomes in all subjects except PSHE&C.

Subject leaders are familiarising themselves with assessment statements across all year groups.

Governors asked what impact there had been on the new behaviour policy, implemented earlier in the year. MD - the collective implementation of the stepped system is developing amongst support staff across the school with teachers using the approach consistently.

Those pupils identified at the start of the year are responding to behaviour expectations positively.

587/20 Safeguarding

There were no safeguarding issues or concerns to report. The one fixed term exclusion has been discussed and minuted above in 586/20

588/20 New website update

The new website is now up and running, feedback from parents had been positive. It was agreed that some of the background colours needed changing, this would be looked at. JT was now confident in updating certain areas of the site, with Neil Brown still on hand to help out.

589/20 Policy approval

- Safeguarding
- Equality objectives
- Race equality

ZP had read and recommended these policies for approval, this was duly done by the board.

590/20 Date for budget setting and summer term meetings

Budget sign off - Monday 27 April @ 8.30am

Summer full board meeting - Tuesday 7 July @ 6.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.15pm