

MINUTES OF MEETING

School: Lawrence View Primary and Nursery School
Meeting title: Combined meeting of the Business and Strategic Development Committees
Date and time: Wednesday, 10 February 2021 at 2:00pm
Location: Virtual

Membership
'A' denotes absence

	Mr C Blackburn
	Mrs K Smith
	Mr D Hill
	Mr L Johnson
	Mrs E McGrenaghan
	Mrs C Needham
A	Mrs T Christian
	Mr S Ufton
A	Mrs L Lord
A	Mr K Evans

In attendance Mrs C Greasby (associate member)
Mr L Russell (clerk to the governors)

BC/01/21 Apologies for absence Action

Mrs Lord was not in attendance due to the discussion of financial matters. Mr Evans has a standing apology due to illness. Mrs Christian attempted to join the meeting, but technological issues prevented that from being successful.

It was

resolved

that the governing body consent to these absences.

BC/02/21 Declaration of interest

There were no declarations of interest, either direct or indirect, for items of business on the agenda.

BC/03/21 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the autumn term meeting business committee meeting held on 8 December 2020 having been previously circulated were confirmed and the chair gave permission for these to be signed electronically.

There were no matters arising requiring discussion.

BC/04/21 Financial matters

Mrs Greasby spoke to the financial report circulated in advance of the meeting.

Current budget position is that 79% of this year's budget has been spent, which is where the school ought to be at this point in the year. More money has been received from the from winter Covid grant than had been anticipated, and

additional expenditure on laptops has been incurred. However, overall a surplus in line with the re-forecast is still being predicted, and so the budget remains healthy.

The headteacher confirmed her view that the budget is healthy and is as expected.

Governor challenge: Any budget issues with Pupil Premium?

No, however the census number in January is no longer used to calculate the pupil premium grant, with the number in September alone being used. This has about a £15k negative impact upon the budget.

Governor challenge: Do we have enough laptops?

School has bought sixty and has received another twelve from the DfE, so we have enough for those who have requested them.

Governor challenge: How is the school catering doing financially?

There are no difficulties around school meals and the bill continues to be paid.

Governor challenge: Are there any staffing issues?

No, there is a new staff member who has started in January teaching online from the start, which is a challenge and learning curve, but it is going well.

Governors **accepted** the budget update report.

BC/05/21 Services for Schools

A paper had been distributed in advance detailing proposed services to be purchased from the local authority. It was noted that not all prices have been released yet, however in those instances an assumed 10% price increase has been used. Recommendations broadly were as we per those currently purchased.

The chair recommended that the recommendation were accepted. Governors unaminously **agreed** to the purchase of services for schools as recommended.

BC/06/21 School Financial Value Standard (SFVS)

Mrs Greasby explained that the SFVS has been completed and gave an overview of what was considered within it.

It was confirmed that the submission date is now 31 May 2021, and so this will be completed in due course and considered at the FGB meeting.

FGB

BC/07/21 Scheme of delegation

The clerk reminded governors that the scheme of delegation for 2020/21 was available for governors on GovernorHub. It was

approved

by governors.

BC/08/21 Children Missing in Education

The chair confirmed that the report had been read and understood, and governors noted and **accepted** the report.

In response to a **governor challenge**, the headteacher confirmed that the school has had children missing in education in the past, and that the school is familiar with the procedures and ensure these are always adhered to.

SDC/09/21 **Staff governors**

It was confirmed that nominations for the post of staff governor are currently open, with one nomination received so far.

The closing date is 12 February 2021, at which point it will be known if elections will be held.

SDC/10/21 **Policies**

Several policies had been distributed in advance of the meeting for governors to review. All the below are adopted local authority policies.

- Behaviour Policy
- Exclusion Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Peer on Peer Abuse Policy
- Appraisal and Pay Policy
- Attendance Policy (including Covid amendments.)

An amendment to the attendance policy for absence from blended learning is to be incorporated at a later date. Attendance of virtual learning is being monitored by the school.

Governor challenge: Are all classes using Teams now?

Yes, all classes have Team meetings, and the school does make phone calls home where there is little engagement, to ensure the safety of the children. It is often the families that there are other or general concerns about who appear not to be engaging.

Governor challenge: What impact will the current situation have?

We know after school holidays that children have fallen back; and what is happening currently is similar to a long holiday, so we can expect that there will be similar issues once children return to school. Routines and boundaries are important for the children, and not all get this structure at home. Some families are really struggling with parenting during the pandemic as a result.

A parent governor said that the interaction with other children during this lockdown has been beneficial, but it is not easy for any family, and it seems harder this time than when we first experienced lockdown last March.

Governor challenge: Do you think when children return to school it will be a phased return?

There is no indication of this at present; it will be decided by government policy at the time. School have not been informed of anything yet about how this will happen.

Governors discussed the eventual return to school and the desire for clear rules to be set by the government, which would help people adhere to the necessary measures, including for parents at each end of the school day.

Governors noted that community transmission away from school has had an impact on bubble closures.

SDC/11/21 School Resource Write-offs

There are currently no write-offs requiring approval.

It was reported that the school's inventory of laptops is under review and as a result there will most likely be some laptops to write-offs in the next meeting.

SDC/12/21 Facebook comments

The chair reported that he has referred the issue of abuse being made against school staff via Facebook to the NAGs (Nottinghamshire Association of Governors) meeting last week, who took this very seriously. Whilst there is little that can be done directly, there does need to be more emphasis on resolving this issue.

NAGs have moved it forward and added it to the agenda of the next meeting of the Notts Education Trust, with a view to determining a way forward. This possibly will involve finding out how many schools are experiencing similar issues.

A governor said he believed another school had reported similar incidents to the Police.

SDC/13/21 Confirmation of dates for 2021-2022

The governing body

agreed

Business Committee - Wednesday 24 March 2021
Summer term 2021 – Tuesday 18 May 2021 at 4.00 pm

Mr Johnson gave his apologies for the 24 March meeting, due to work commitments.

SDC/14/21 Determination of confidentiality of business

It was

resolved

that all papers and reports be made available as necessary.

The meeting closed at 2:50 pm.

Signed (chair) Date