



Headteacher: Mrs Carol Dunne

**MEETING OF FULL GOVERNING BODY
THURSDAY 29th APRIL 2021, 7:00 PM**

Meeting held virtually via Zoom

Present:

Carol Dunne (CD); Nicola Gladwell (NG); Adam Millgate (AM) Chair; Clare Willetts (CW); Janice Markey (JM); Alan Ford (AF); Hiranthi Herath (HH) Vice-Chair; Scott Crawford (SC); Rachel Wright (RW); Phil Cooke (PC); Ellie Kaye (EK); Graham Robinson (GR).

In attendance:

Rose-Marie Smith - School Business Manager (RS)

1 Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Natalie Sands. AF sent apologies that he would be late joining the meeting.

Absences: There were no apologies received from EC.

The meeting was quorate.

2. Declaration of pecuniary interest in any agenda item

None declared.

3. Items for any other business

AM – 2 items.

4. Appointment of Co-opted and Local Authority Governors

With discussion having taken place by email the board was delighted to reappoint Phil Cooke as local authority governor and Graham Robinson as Co opted governor.

5. Minutes of previous meeting/matters arising

Meeting held 9th February 2021 (virtually via Zoom); document circulated prior to meeting

- It was noted that the 'Keeping Children Safe In Education' document was not correctly recorded throughout the minutes as KCSIE; RS to amend this.

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- Item 7 did not accurately reflect the meeting; RS to amend to ensure this is so.

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

19:10 - AF joined the meeting

6 Headteacher's report/SEDP

Report circulated prior to the meeting

RW queried how pupil attainment data is measured. CD advised that the data as given is not necessarily helpful at this stage of the academic year as it is raw data. EK suggested it might be useful to make clear the parameters, e.g. 39% have understood the objectives of the syllabus taught so far.

CD advised that in pupil progress meetings it was clear from teachers that only a tiny percentage of pupils are not making progress. CW reiterated that schools are no longer required to assign levels to pupils attainment. EK suggested that it would be more useful to receive only end of year attainment figures as this data will be more meaningful.

Would this make more sense: "In response to a question regarding figures in the behaviour table, CD advised some instances do crossover, thus some figures do not add up EK informed governors that she had held a meeting with Jenny Steele (Maths lead) which illustrated that a huge amount of work is being put into the teaching and learning of maths across the school.

7 2021-24 Budget

Document circulated prior to the meeting

RS informed the board that there had been a meeting between her, CD, NS, NG and AM to scrutinise the fine detail of the three year budget.

RS advised that we start in a strong position, with a carry-forward of just under £50,000, but in-year spending continues to outpace income.

Allowance has been made in the budget for expected staff progression up the pay ranges and also for the recruitment of special educational needs Teaching Assistants for specific children. It should be noted that staffing can change in-year to reflect the needs of the school.

The budget was approved as presented by those present.

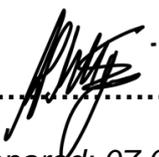
8 Committee meeting feedback (Spring term)

Operational and People Management committee

AF reported that a number of items were discussed, including progress against the school development plan, plans for the full reopening of school on the 8th March, and positive feedback received from parents on provision during lockdown.

Policies adopted or approved included the use of photographs and images in school, driving at work policy, use of force and restraint policy. Incidents of data breach were reported.

Finance committee

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NG reported that LA funding for 2021-22 had been discussed, the Period 11 (February 2021) budget monitoring examined, and financial benchmarking evaluated.

Pay committee

NG reported that it had been agreed that a member of staff would be regraded on the salary range, and that OCC's Support Staff pay policy had been adopted.

9 Review - Nursery Capacity

Document circulated prior to the meeting

CD reported that pupil numbers are currently good in the Nursery (and Reception). As demand does not seem to be exceeding supply at the present time, it was agreed that Nursery capacity would be reviewed again by the full governing board in 18 months' time, unless necessary to do so earlier.

ACTION: RS to add review to meeting schedule

AF asked if the majority of Nursery children attend Long Furlong's Reception class. CW advised that, for September 2021, approximately 14 of the 30 children offered places in Reception currently attend Long Furlong Nursery.

RS

10 Review – Academisation position

Document circulated prior to the meeting

CD commented that national government has very recently restarted the drive for all schools to be part of multi academy trusts (MATs).

NG asked CD if there is any evidence from converter schools in the partnership of benefits in converting to Academy status. CD replied that she was unaware of any. SC enquired whether the Abingdon Partnership offers strong development plans and momentum; CD confirmed that this is the case, with a number of groups meeting regularly – two of which (Early Years and School Business Managers' groups) are led by Long Furlong staff. RS commented on the strong peer-to-peer support gained from these groups. CD highlighted the shared CPD opportunities offered through the partnership, in particular the Trauma training that took place last year.

RW enquired whether remaining a maintained school is likely to impact on staff recruitment; CD responded by saying that some education staff actively avoid applying to academies as academies and MATs are not required to adopt national pay scales/terms and conditions. The positive aspects of MATs were discussed, including the potential for wider CPD and professional development opportunities.

It was agreed to review Long Furlong's position in 2 years, unless necessary to do so earlier.

ACTION: RS to add review to meeting schedule

RS

11 Governing Board Review

AM suggested that it would be useful to carry out a GB skills audit. He has created a Microsoft Form for responses, will share the link, and would

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appreciate all governors completing it by the end of May. NG will review the outcomes, and report back at the July 2021 meeting.

ACTION POINT: all governors to complete online form by end May 21

All
governors

12 Policies/Procedures

Documents circulated prior to meeting

- Keeping Children Safe in Education – CD explained that this is mandatory DfE document, with which all those working in and involved in the management of schools must be familiar. EK highlighted issues around domestic abuse, mental health and extra-familial abuse.
- Staff Code of Conduct – discussion took place around a couple of points, as follows
 - Financial gifts – to clarify that gifts of ‘significant value’ are those in excess of £50 (from one source)
 - Dress code – to be amended to reflect a modern approach

ACTION POINT: RS to amend, and share via GovernorHub.

The code of conduct was approved, subject to the changes above.

RS

13 Standing items

- Governor training – AM has completed ‘Taking the Chair’ training
- Governor visits – virtual visits/meetings have taken place between EK/Jenny Steele (Maths); HH/CW (SEND); AM/RS (miscellaneous). AM is visiting school for the day on Wednesday 5th May, which includes a meeting with the School Council to hear ‘pupil voice’.
- Health & Safety – the annual monitoring exercise by OCC takes place virtually on 12th May
- FOLF – Sadly, circumstances have dictated what FOLF has been able to arrange by way of events, and constrained their socialising and fundraising efforts. RS reported that she met with the FOLF Chairs and Treasurer recently to progress their setting up of eligibility for Gift Aid.
- Successes, celebrations and impact – despite the impact of COVID, there has been much to celebrate, with the following being highlighted:
 - The staff’s very positive response to the full return to school in March
 - The hard work of our pupils and parents during lockdown
 - Planning for “COVID catch-up”
 - Zones of Regulation staff training
 - The success of Street Tag engendering community spirit, promoting exercise and raising funds for school – driven by a group of parents
 - The new fixed play equipment in the main playground
 - Parents’ evenings via Zoom
 - Contributions to the Abingdon Neighbourhood Plan
 - An all-round positive feeling around school

14 Any Other Business

AM proposed that the board consider whether to retain raising AOB in its current format, or whether to agree, for example, that suggested items

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have to be with the Chair 48 hours before the meeting (but still acknowledging that urgent issues might arise at short notice). Support was expressed for the new proposed arrangement. AM passed on advice from Governor Services that, instead of 'fixed-term' or 'permanent exclusions', schools should now use the expressions "suspension" and "expulsion".

Following the meeting CD led a safeguarding briefing session, attended by AM, GR, PC, HH, AF, NG and RW.

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