



Minutes of the virtual meeting of the FGB held on Wednesday 20th January 2021 at 6pm

Present: Ms J Hudson (Chair), Ms T Clarke (Headteacher), Dr A Pawley, Mr B Twist, Mr G Whitmore, Ms F Moxon and Mr M Snowden.

In Attendance: Ms D Rees (DHT)
Ms D Waters (SBM)
Ms M Riley (Governance Support Officer, CYC – Clerk)

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REMAINING BUSINESS INTEREST FORMS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received, with consent, from Mr D Allen. Ms C Johnson and Ms A Last were not present.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 23rd NOVEMBER 2020

Previously distributed.

Resolved:

Governors considered and approved the minutes of the FGB meeting held on 23rd November 2020 as a true and accurate record of the meeting. The clerk will add approved to the final copy and return them to school.

3. ACTION PLAN AND MATTERS ARISING

With reference to the action plan from the FGB meeting held 23rd November 2020:

Action Point 1: Completed

Action Point 2: Completed

Action Point 3: Completed

Matters Arising

A governor asked if the Headteacher had contacted a councillor about the traffic situation around the school, the Headteacher responded this had been done and the councillor was investigating the situation.

Reporting to governors about the Headteacher's appraisal

6.35pm – the Headteacher stepped out of the meeting.

The Chair informed the governors she had met with the School Improvement Partner, Doug Lowes, to carry out the Headteacher's appraisal for 2019-20 and to set targets for 2020-21. The result of the meeting was the Headteacher was recommended a pay increase and had met all of the targets set from the previous year. The Chair added the pay increase was well deserved and no amount of money could cover what the Headteacher and everyone had done in this year.

6.40pm – The Headteacher returned to the meeting.

4. FINANCE, HEALTH & SAFETY

The SBM reported in the current year, 2020-2021, the figures had altered and showed a reduction of £7000 in the deficit overspend bringing it to (£21898) which in turn reduced to an overspend of (£6993) in 2021-22 increasing to a larger deficit of (£16218) in 2022-21. The School still had a brought forward balance of £73054 which included the £27197 committed to spend on the Multi Use Games area (MUGA.) The SBM highlighted, due to lockdown, the finances had improved, some expenses in IT had been reduced and they had estimated that energy costs would increase by around £1,000 every year. A governor asked if the energy costs were impacted due to ventilating the building, the SBM responded this could have an effect on the energy bills moving forward and if it did they would report this to the DfE.

A governor queried the supply teacher insurance and if it was a set amount that the school paid, the SBM explained the insurance was to cover any absences and after ten days the school would receive money back for a teacher's absence. The Chair **challenged** that the school was in the highest 20% for their energy use, which was high considering the school had a new boiler. The SBM responded the school was in the lower end of the amber rating and the building was old with high ceilings. The recent energy efficiency test had moved the school to a D grading since having the new boiler fitted and the finance committee had discussed the energy usage in depth in their last meeting.

The SBM informed the governors the staffing costs had increased, teaching resources had been higher due to IT equipment needed but most data on the SFVS was in line with similar schools. The SBM requested a governor to check the SFVS with her before submitting it to the LA, Mr M Snowden agreed to check the SFVS with the SBM.

The Chair thanked the SBM for all the hard work on the finances, SFVS and saving the school some money. The Chair requested thanks be passed onto the rest of the team.

6.30pm – The SBM left the meeting.

5. HEADTEACHER REPORT

Updated Risk Assessment

The Headteacher informed the governors the staff had a training day on Monday 4th January, therefore no children had been into school before lockdown was imposed and they had prepared learning packs in case they needed them, which had been lucky. Since opening to key worker pupils, vulnerable pupils and children who did not engage as well in the last lockdown, they had kept the bubbles as small as possible for safety. The families had been very supportive, only sending in their children where absolutely necessary.

The Headteacher reported they had 84 children in school throughout the week which is 27% of the school community. In KS1 a HLTA was taking a smaller group of children making the bubbles smaller and the group would make good progress. It felt safe in school and any staff aged over 60 years were not carrying out face to face teaching. The Headteacher explained the online learning was excellent and the staff had been amazing. Interventions were in place both in and out of school, guided reading sessions for

the higher attaining pupils, friendship groups met on Google Meet, peer assessment and class stories were taking place. The staff were starting and ending the school day with Google Meet sessions and teachers were being proactive in ringing families where needed. Early Years (EY) held a zoom for all pupils, a parent governor added the EY coffee morning via zoom had been great too.

The Headteacher informed governors paper packs had been given to children who needed them, KS1 children could swap their reading books after school and they had bought more chrome books and loaned some out to pupils. The staff governor added they were purchasing more chrome books and had organised a partnership with Spark in York to engage with the community.

The Headteacher reported monitoring had been carried out on the quality of the lessons on Google Classroom and shared some examples with the governors. The staff governor added the staff had been upskilled using Google Classroom and they were uploading pre-recorded lessons onto it. The Headteacher reported all the monitoring showed high quality lessons, many strengths and they could signpost staff to best practice. The Chair **challenged** if the teachers carrying out three times the amount of work with teaching face to face, online teaching and videos, the Deputy Headteacher explained the staff were working as a team to cover the workload. She explained, when a teacher was teaching face to face, the other teacher was covering the online learning and planning was shared between the team also. The workload could change daily but it was not as physically demanding and the system was settling with all teachers completing the different elements. The Deputy Headteacher added parents who were working and supporting their children were doing an amazing job. The staff governor added staff preferred to be in school and the workload was calming down after a busy start. He added staff were driven to produce high quality online work and wanted to keep the children engaged.

The Chair questioned what was happening for the Free School Meal (FSM) pupils, the Headteacher responded they were issuing vouchers so that families could choose what they wanted and the children in school were having hot lunches. City of York Council (CYC) were going to provide vouchers for the half term holiday and the school would be providing food parcels also. A governor **challenged** if the current level of work for staff was sustainable, the Headteacher explained they had flexibility in the system at the moment and they would close bubbles if they needed to. She added the online learning could be scaled back and they could use Oak Academy and White Rose work more if needed.

A governor questioned what would happen to SATs this year, the Headteacher replied SATs were not happening this year, there would be no EY assessment, phonics check or multiplication test. The governor queried where the school could express their concerns about changing plans at short notice, as had happened in early January. The Headteacher responded the LA was in contact with the DfE and all of Headteacher's and school's concerns were being passed onto the DfE. She added unions had been involved also and governors could raise their concerns if they wished. The Chair questioned if the governors wanted to address this with the DfE a governor commented he would like the governors to write to them as the situation was not good enough.

Action: The Chair will contact governance service at the LA for some advice regarding expressing their concerns.

The Headteacher informed governors the highlighted parts in the risk assessment were updates from this lockdown, the school was losing funds due to not hiring the premises out and lateral flow tests were starting twice a week for staff. A governor questioned if they were offering wrap around care, the Headteacher responded they were not as the after school club normally had children from other schools too which would not be safe at this time. The Chair asked if the governors were happy to approve the update risk assessment.

Approved.

The Chair requested the Headteacher passed on the governors thanks for their amazing work in trying circumstances and that they were proud to be connected to Fishergate.

6. SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT TO SCHOOLS

The governing body requested the same amount of meetings and access to training as the last academic year.

7. GOVERNANCE MATTERS

Keeping in touch update

The Chair reported the LA were doing a tremendous job at keeping in touch with governors and the online training was very helpful. The Chair reminded governors to keep in touch with school through updates on the school website.

The Health and Safety governor reported they had postponed the Working Group meetings and all Health and Safety actions had been completed with only the fire training still needed. The Health and Safety Policy was due to be renewed and this could be reviewed in the March FGB. He thanked the Headteacher and SBM for all their work.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

10. Next FGB - Monday 22nd March 2021 at 6pm.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

Future FGB agenda items:

Health & Safety Policy

Approved

Ms J Hudson
Chair

22/03/2021

Date

Action Points from the extraordinary meeting of the Full Governing Body held on 20th January 2021				
Action		Item	Who	When
1	The Chair will contact governance service for some advice regarding expressing their concerns.	5	Chair	By the next FGB