



## VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE FGB ON MARCH 25TH 2021 AT 9.30AM

**Present:** Hilary Priest (HP), Head, Ian Stewart (IS), (Chair), Joel McIlven (JM), Sam Wilkinson (SW), Mike Waterson (MW).

**In attendance:** Debbie Horton (Clerk)

“We are a community with a lifelong passion for learning.”

### Minutes

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; apologies for absence</b> There were apologies from Neil Maslen, Claire Jones, Laura Partridge and Sam Gothard. They were sanctioned. Rob Hill was absent.
<b>2</b>	<b>Attendance &amp; declaration of interest</b> The clerk noted attendance. There were no declarations of interest.
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of last FGBM 9.3.21</b> The Part 1 minutes were <b>agreed</b> as a correct record. The Part 2 minutes were read out by the clerk and <b>agreed</b> as a correct record.
<b>4</b>	<b>Matters arising from last minutes for this meeting</b> The governors agreed that as a gesture of thanks to staff for their efforts during the pandemic, the May half – term 2022 should be extended by one day by moving the February 2022 occasional day to June 2022. That extra day, plus the June INSET day, would provide two extra days of holiday for staff.  JM asked if there should also be some gesture of thanks made this year.  The governors <b>agreed</b> that JM should join the Appeals panel.
<b>5</b>	<b>Staffing</b> The meeting went into Part 2 confidential minutes at 9.40 am. The minutes moved back to Part 1 at 9.45am.  The governors approved the change to the Clerk’s contractual hours, to 255pa, from 1.1.21.
<b>6</b>	<b>Budget 2021/22</b> The governors received the current year-end budget monitor, the budget for 2021/22 and the next four years, the CFR report and the Business Manager’s report.  There have been slight changes to the budget which are summarised in the Business Manager’s report. The changes have reduced the carry-forward slightly, but overall the figures are very healthy, with a projected carry-forward of approximately £42, 000 in the 4 <sup>th</sup> year.  The only change within the school’s control is the inclusion of an extra £3000 in the buildings repair cost centre for 2 years, bringing it to £6000. This is in response to ongoing maintenance needs.  The curriculum budget is a very healthy £23, 000.  <b>Balances-where to allocate spending?</b> The governors discussed where to spend the £42, 000 balance. Suggestions included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• subsidies for school trips and residentials.</li> <li>• school equipment, such as IT and musical instruments</li> <li>• staff training.</li> <li>• consultancy or support for Ofsted readiness.</li> </ul> The Head said that IT equipment was up-to date and school trips were a long way off, and agreed that training was a good area for investment. The school had bought into Maths and Literacy updates, and was planning to

	<p>look into current school systems next term. Once the school had settled back into a more normal routine, with a clearer view of the future, decisions could be made about the allocation of the balance. In the meantime, it could be added to the curriculum and training cost centres.</p> <p>The governors <b>agreed</b>.</p> <p><b>Bought – in services.</b> A three-year contract for an Employee Assistance Programme had been taken out, at a cost of £500 pa, to support staff well-being. Other services remained the same as last year. These were <b>agreed</b> by the governors.</p> <p><b>The budget for 2021/-22 was approved by the governors.</b> <b>The end-of-year budget monitor and CFR report were approved by the governors.</b></p>
7	<p><b>SFVS</b> The governors approved the SFVS. <b>Action: Clerk to check the date of the last benchmarking exercise.</b></p>
8	<p><b>Safeguarding</b> The governors had received a safeguarding report for the last two months with the agenda.</p> <p><b>Q: MW asked about the postponed child protection conferences.</b> <b>A: This was not in the school's control, but core groups within school are still meeting.</b></p> <p>The Head reported that the children's mental health was being carefully monitored. A RAG rated system had been set up in school to monitor for particular signs of stress, such as tiredness and withdrawal.</p> <p><b>Q: JM asked if feelings in the school community were less optimistic now, than say three weeks ago.</b> <b>A: Yes, but staff and children are tired, and after the Easter break, optimism should increase.</b></p> <p><b>Q: JM asked if the focus on mental health would extend into the summer term.</b> <b>A: Yes, the pastoral care plan and mental health work will continue. The curriculum is being re-designed, with an emphasis on fun.</b></p> <p><b>Q: JM asked if the RAG rated system was developed by the school and whether its use could be ongoing.</b> <b>A: Yes it had been. It was based on online training with Tania Byron and independent research. Sam Gothard, in her professional capacity, had also looked at the system. The tool could be developed for long term use, particularly in class reviews.</b></p> <p><b>Q: MW asked if the SENDco had seen every child that she needed to.</b> <b>A: No not yet, this was in progress.</b></p> <p><b>Q: MW asked if there had been any advice about a school roadmap out of lockdown.</b> <b>A: There hadn't been any official advice. However, the school had decided to start up PPA after Easter and staggered drop off and pick up times would continue.</b></p> <p><b>Q: IS asked if outdoor drop-off and pick-ups might continue as it seemed better practice than having parents in the school building at the beginning and end of the school day.</b> <b>A: In many ways it did seem more appropriate to carry on with the current system. However, the school is reflecting on which practices might go and which might stay.</b></p>
9	<p><b>Term dates 2021/22</b> It was proposed that the occasional day on February 18<sup>th</sup> 2022 was moved to June 8<sup>th</sup> 2022. The governors <b>agreed</b> to the change.</p>
10	<p><b>Policies</b> None for this meeting</p>
11	<p><b>Clerk's report</b> Any new developments which impact governors work? None.</p>
12	<p><b>Correspondence</b> None</p>

<b>13</b>	<b>What have we done for the children?</b> A very healthy school budget had been agreed. MW noted that he looked forward to re-connecting with the school and the children in person, as governance by Zoom could be quite disconnecting.
<b>14</b>	<b>Business brought forward by the Chair</b> IS and SL had done a Health and Safety walkabout recently. Some small items had been drawn to their attention. A facilities meeting would take place next week.
<b>15</b>	<b>Date &amp; time of next meeting</b> Teaching and Learning Committee 27 <sup>th</sup> April at 9.30am FGB 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 9.30am

The meeting ended at 10.35am.

#### Summary of actions

	To do	By whom	By when
<b>7</b>	Clerk to check date of last benchmarking exercise.	Clerk	By next FGB