



VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE FULL GOVERNING BOARD ON 21ST SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 6PM VIA ZOOM

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

Present: Hilary Priest (HP), Head, Mike Waterson (MW), Ian Stewart (IS), Chair, Sam Gothard (SG), Rob Hill (RH), Sam Wilkinson (SW), Joel Mcilven (JM)

In attendance: Debbie Horton (Clerk)

Minutes

1	Welcome & apologies for absence* There were none.
2	Attendance & declaration of Interest* There was no declaration of interest. Attendance was recorded in GovernorHub.
2.1	Business interests register Annual update. Governors checked and signed their business interest entry in GovernorHub. Paper forms will be signed at the next face-to-face meeting.
3	Governing Board Composition There are 5 co-opted vacancies following three resignations over the summer. On behalf of the governors, the Chair thanked Neil Maslen, Claire Jones and Laura Partridge for their contribution to the school. Chris Grimshaw, an experienced governor, is willing to stand for one of the positions. He was unable to be at this meeting. The clerk has registered the school with Inspiring Governance, but there are no volunteers there. She will register vacancies on the Governors in Schools website. The Totnes Directory and the Totnesian Facebook page were suggested as places to advertise. At the moment, the board cannot form a second committee, as there aren't enough eligible governors. It was suggested that governors from the Primary Partnership might be asked to sit on this committee if necessary. IS will make contact with Chairs of governors there to establish a link in advance. MW asked what skills were needed on the board, and suggested someone with a business background. See item 13 for more on skills. RH arrived at 6.15pm It was noted that RH's office ends this academic year in April 2022 and that he intends to volunteer for a further term.
3.1	Contact details Governors were asked to check that their contact details are correct and to inform the clerk of any amendments.. ACTION: Make contact with Chairs of Governors in Primary Partnership (IS)
4	Election of Vice-Chair JM self-nominated as Vice-Chair and he was elected by show of hands for an office of 2 years.
5	Approval of minutes of last FGB meeting on 13th July 2021 They were approved as a correct record.
5.1	Matters arising from minutes of last FGB meeting including progress made on the actions raised* 5. Seesaw report (IS). To do 5. SEND website report to be checked (HP). The one on the website is dated 2020. HP is currently

	<p>checking the latest draft (2021) and it will be posted soon.</p> <p>5. Parent survey questions to be emailed to governors and survey sent out, if agreed (IS). The survey went out to parents and IS and JM will collate the results soon.</p> <p>10. Work to start on 'What governors' should know' file. (IS & MW). MW has started the file in GovernorHub, as a work in progress.</p> <p>ACTION: Parent survey collation of results (IS&JM)</p>
6	<p>General Update</p> <p>Return to school update (Covid arrangements etc)</p> <p>HP reported that children and staff had settled in well. The impact of Covid was visible, particularly in the younger children, but in terms of anxiety, throughout the school. Staff are focussed on the new curriculum, which is challenging, as every subject has changed.</p> <p>Children with Covid symptoms are sent home, bubbles now correspond to year groups, there are no extra curriculum activities after school, and pick-up and drop-off times take place over 15 minutes. Online learning is still provided for children who aren't in school for Covid reasons.</p> <p>Q: A governor asked when the extra-curricular clubs are due to start A: HP: Not this side of Christmas. HP would like to encourage external providers to set up after school clubs, as staff are so busy.</p> <p>Q: SG asked if there would be financial assistance for free-school meal children to attend clubs. A: HP: Not from the school, but the provider might assist.</p>
7	<p>School Improvement Plan (SIP) and Board objectives for the year.</p> <p>HP and SW had briefed the Chair and Vice-Chair about the curriculum changes in the school and a written summary had been included in the GovernorHub folder for this meeting.</p> <p>Q: RH asked what the rationale was for changing the curriculum so dramatically and why hadn't it been introduced before. A: A new curriculum had been planned to be in place pre-Covid, as the SLT felt that it needed a re-vamp. In response to the pandemic, a lot of educational research had taken place, which had informed some of the changes. Developments in neuroscience and educational theory had changed over the last 10 years, so the skills-based model of that time, had been replaced by other theories, in particular the knowledge-based model that the school's curriculum is now based on.</p> <p>Q: SG asked if curriculum changes of this kind were taking place nationwide? A: HP: Many schools had already moved in this direction and were way ahead, and others less so.</p> <p>Q: RH asked if Ofsted would be interested in these changes. A: HP: Ofsted are interested in the impact of these changes.</p> <p>Q: SG asked how the school assessed whether the changes were bedding in. A: HP: There is a monitoring schedule, the curriculum leads meet with the SLT, staff meetings are focussed on curriculum changes, and it is due to be discussed with the school's external adviser.</p> <p>Q: MW asked how the SLT is interacting with the individual curriculum leaders. A: HP: The SLT is picking up a lot of work so that the leaders can lead and not be overburdened.</p> <p>Q: SG asked how governors know whether the changes are effective and what does the school want to measure. A: SW noted that it was still early days, but suggested that governors talk to curriculum leads, to children and that they come into school and see what is happening in the classroom. For staff, it's about talking to children.</p> <p>Q: SG asked how these changes will be communicated to parents. A: HP: When the new curriculum is more established, the parents will be informed of the changes and the impact so far.</p>

	<p>Q: JM observed that there was a political context to knowledge-based learning, and he had two concerns with the knowledge-based model. He asked what happens to creativity and critical thinking and asked whether the school might become more discipline-based with this approach.</p> <p>A: HP: The children are taught in a creative way and if there are behaviour problems, then the curriculum isn't right. The school's version of the knowledge-based model is about growth mindset, fun, and good mental health.</p> <p>Q: JM asked how it was decided which knowledge gets taught.</p> <p>A: HP: The national curriculum is the guide, and from there, the school also decides what knowledge is important for the children to know.</p> <p>Q: RH asked about the Grove 100.</p> <p>A: HP: It's a list of experiences that the children aim to complete before they leave the school. Part of the new curriculum is about levelling- up knowledge between different cohorts of children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SLT is now made up of full-time members of staff and as a result it is much more effective. • RH observed that these changes have coincided with SW taking a full-time, non-teaching role, and saw this as an indicator of success in that move. • SG thought that the conversation about providing opportunity for all the children, whatever their background, was important and should be continued. <p>Governing Board objectives. The governors agreed that for this term, it would be to visit the school and monitor the effect and impact of the new curriculum.</p>
8	<p>Budget and staffing The current monitor and a report from the Business Manager were circulated before the meeting. RH and the Head informed the board that the budget was on track and as expected. The latest monitor was approved by the governors and will be signed in GovernorHub by the Chair. Staffing was not discussed.</p>
9	<p>Housekeeping All documents were circulated before the meeting.</p>
9.1	<p>Governors' Code of conduct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was agreed
9.2	<p>Meeting protocols</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board was reminded of the meeting protocols, in particular, the sanctioning of apologies at FGB meetings. The clerk informed governors that confidential minutes will be posted on GovernorHub but with viewing restricted to the appropriate members.
9.3	<p>Governor meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed that virtual attendance at meetings was permissible and the virtual meeting protocol was agreed. • Governors' meetings will continue to be closed to the public and the minutes will continue to be published on the school website
10	<p>Committee membership, lead governor roles and terms of reference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These were circulated before the meeting. • The terms of reference for the committees and lead governors were agreed. • SW suggested that another member of staff join the governing board. This idea was welcomed. It would require a change to the constitution. The clerk suggested that an alternative would be to use an associate governor position. This will be discussed further. • Since time was short, it was agreed that Committee memberships and lead governor roles would be arranged by email. • JM agreed to be Deputy-Safeguarding governor • Current vacancies are: Pupil Premium lead, Equality and Attendance leads. Third Pay Committee member. The First Committee membership would also be confirmed

	and the Second Committee, so far as it can be with limited governor numbers.
11	Meetings timetable 2021-22 and Annual Cycle of business 2021-22 The Chair suggested that until governor numbers rise, a new structure might be given to the current working arrangements. He would work on this and contact governors with his proposal.
12	Head's appraiser It was agreed that the Babcock service would be used.
13	Skills audit The clerk had informed governors of a new, simplified skills audit which all governors were asked to complete.
14	Policies* New child protection and safeguarding policy Sept 2021. This was agreed.
15	Safeguarding*
15.1	Governor training HP agreed to send a link to online safeguarding and safer recruitment training for governors.
15.2	Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) 2021 Governors were asked to confirm on governorHub that they had read and understood the latest version of KCSiE. ACTION: Training link to governors (HP)
16	Governor visits The Governors' Visiting the School policy was agreed. ACTION: SW and HP agreed to draft a governor visits plan for the term.
17	Governor training* Future training Governors had been informed of the Autumn training schedule. HP informed the board that the school had bought into SWIFT training which included some governor training courses. HP will send out more information about what is available.
17.1	IS is attending a training with Dawn Stabb for Chairs of Maintained schools on 30 th September 2021.
18	Clerk's report Points for governors to note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ofsted Inspection Handbook has been updated to include a new reference to the findings from the latest sexual abuse survey in schools. Governors and staff should be in the mindset that it could happen in their school so all systems must be in place and everyone aware of what needs to happen. There is a new self-evaluation tool for governing boards. It is useful in itself, but also because the risks of governance are now included in safeguarding risk assessments, and this tool will allow those risks to be assessed. New guidance for the Head's report. Equality is a focus for Ofsted. Equality objectives shouldn't be the model ones, and they need to be customised. HP said that she is working on Equality at the moment and will check the objectives and the policy. An Equality governor lead is needed.
19	Correspondence There was none.
20	Items brought forward by the Chair There were none.
21	Date & time of next meeting FGB meeting December 8 th at 8.30am in the school.

* = standing items

The meeting ended at 19.45pm

Summary of Actions

	To do	By whom	By when
3.1	Make contact with Chairs of Governors in Primary Partnership	IS	By half-term
5	Parent survey collation of results	IS & JM	By next Resources
15.2	Training link to governors (HP)	HP	By end of week
16	To draft a governor visits plan for the term.	HP & SW	Within fortnight