



VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE FGB ON MARCH 9TH 2021 AT 9.30AM

Present: Hilary Priest (HP), Head, Ian Stewart (IS), (Chair), Sam Gothard (SG), Joel McIlven (JM), Sam Wilkinson (SW), Laura Partridge (LP), Rob Hill (RH).

In attendance: Debbie Horton (Clerk)

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

Minutes

1	Welcome & apologies for absence There were apologies from Mike Waterson and Claire Jones. They were sanctioned. Neil Maslen gave notice that he would arrive late.
2	Attendance & declaration of interest The clerk noted attendance. None.
3	Minutes of last FGBM 23.2.21 The Part 1 minutes were agreed as a correct record. The Part 2 minutes were read out at the meeting and agreed
4	Matters arising from last minutes for this meeting 4. Safeguarding presentation to RH & LP (HP) – sent. LP read. RH to do. 4. Follow-up with HR At 9.40am the minutes moved to Part 2. The minutes moved back to Part 1 at 9.45am RH and SG arrived at 9.45am.
5	Draft budget 2021/22 For consideration and approval To include approval of bought-in services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final figures haven't arrived from Devon County Council (DCC). • Income will be considerably more than last year and the carry-forward will be large, in the region of £153, 000. Since only 5% of the total budget can be carried forward, spending on the children could be increased. • Bought-in services – Sandie Lovell is awaiting HR costs and then these will be ready for approval at the next meeting. <p>Q: RH queried the budget adjustment line. A: The national formula is being levelled nationally, and this is the school's new, permanent figure, based on that formula.</p> <p>Q: JM noted the substantial increase in income from 2016/17 and asked whether this was a reflection of an increase in pupil numbers. A: In the main, yes.</p> <p>Q: IS noted only £3000 for repairs and asked if there should be more. A: This should be enough, as any improvements to the premises would come from the capital budget.</p> <p>Q: RH asked if the school had a schedule of planned maintenance. A: Yes, there is a regular servicing schedule of items like the boiler. These costs are built into the budget under the premises cost centre.</p> <p>Q: NM sent in a question asking why the teaching staff budget had gone up over £100, 000 for 21/22 compared to 20/21</p>

	<p>A: This figure includes a backdated government pay increase of 2.5%. It's a one-off cost, and in addition the figures are not yet accurate.</p> <p>The governors approved the current budget monitor. The draft budget will be brought to the FGB for approval when DCC have sent the school the final figures. .</p>
6	<p>SFVS</p> <p>The final document is awaiting budget figures from DCC. It will come to the next FGB for approval. The date of submission has been extended to May 1st.</p>
7	<p>Return to school update</p> <p>Children have been very happy to return to school, and attendance is good. No-one is absent with Covid. Two members of staff are self-isolating.</p> <p>The latest risk assessment had been circulated to governors before the meeting. Masks can be worn in school, but are not mandatory.</p> <p>Q: IS asked about drop-off and pick-up and staff well-being. A: These are running smoothly. Staff are well and pleased to be teaching the whole school again.</p> <p>HP said that mental health was central to the curriculum for the last two weeks of this term. She is the school's mental health lead. The children have started to keep a journal to help with resilience. Each class had been given a worry monster, donated by Bounce! mental health charity. The children who had been in school during lockdown were adjusting to larger class sizes and higher noise levels.</p> <p>Q: RH asked about long term mental health issues and needs. A: Ideally, the school would like to have more trauma-informed trained staff to manage issues as they emerge. Teachers could then focus on teaching. The school does have trained staff, but they are currently caught in bubbles so can't work across the school. The play therapist is currently at full capacity in the school. Her role is funded by the charity she works for, but some funds have been built into the budget in case this funding ends.</p> <p>NM arrived at 10.00am</p> <p>Q: RH asked if some of the carry-forward could be used for funding fixed-term contracts for trained staff to support mental health. A: Potentially, but this would depend on the final budget figures.</p> <p>Q: SG asked about support for staff. A: The play therapist provides in-school supervision. Chris Grimshaw, who works for the Diocese, provides useful weekly bulletins about health and relationships for both staff and children.</p> <p>Q: SG said that CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service), where she works, is currently undergoing change and asked if HP would welcome greater integration between CAMHS and the school if it were to become available.. A: It would be welcomed.</p> <p>Q: IS asked if wraparound care was back. A: Yes, it had continued throughout the lockdowns.</p>
8	<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Nothing new to report since the last FGB meeting. An additional member of staff has been trained to level 3, which has increased the safeguarding team from three to five members. HP will provide a report for the next FGB meeting. .</p>
9	<p>Policies</p> <p>The following policies were recommended for approval: Behaviour, Data Protection, Outdoor Education, and Equality. Shared Parental Leave, Staff Leave and Absence, Support Staff Appraisal, Volunteers code of practice.</p>

	<p>Behaviour Q: NM asked if the school had a separate exclusions policy. A: The school follows the DCC exclusion policy. The Head said that there had been one change in the policy as a result of Covid, and that was that children are not sent to another teacher. All interaction now remains within their bubble.</p> <p>The policies were approved.</p>
10	<p>Clerk's report Any new developments which impact governors work? Ofsted – please note that there is a spotlight on governance once again - inspections will include a judgement on whether leaders and governors are effective.</p>
11	<p>Correspondence None</p>
12	<p>Business brought forward by the Chair The meeting moved to Part 2 confidential minutes at 10.25am The meeting moved back to Part 1 minutes at 10.30am</p>
13	<p>Date & time of next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next FGB meeting Thursday 25th March 2021 at 9.30am via Zoom, if the final budget figures have been received from DCC. The meeting will be confirmed by March 18th. • Please note the meeting on March 16th is cancelled. • The Chair informed governors that meetings will go back to the original timetable next term.

The meeting ended at 10.30am