



**SWANMEAD COMMUNITY SCHOOL
MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING
HELD ON**

Thursday 17 June 2021 from 5.30p.m. in the school hall

Present: Marian Gamper (MG) (Chairman); Dean Aspinall (DA); Vicki Stacey-Masters (VSM); Mark Cook (MC); Andrew Whitfield (AW); Kate Murdoch (KM); Davyd Muxworthy (DM) and Mark Walker (MW) (Headteacher).

In attendance: Mel Hillman (MH), Independent Clerk to the Governing Body

2020_21/077 Apologies for absence were received and approved from*: Jesse Pattison and Duncan Perks. The meeting was quorate.

2020_21/078 No pecuniary interests* were declared in this meeting's agenda items.

2020_21/079 Minutes of the last full Governors meeting, held on 13 May 2021* were agreed as an accurate record. These were signed by the Chair of Governors.

2020_21/080 Matters Arising* Budget Update - MW confirmed that the walk round of the school had been completed in order to identify possible projects for DFCCG expenditure. Some items had been identified including the bike shed and renewing carpet at the entrance area leading to the DT area.

2020_21/081 Governor Business

- a) **Governor Links.** MC reported on Careers Education: The school was now on Kudos.... a really awesome Careers platform which sends information to the school on what the current Year 8 pupils would like to know more about and is useful in determining which organisation should be invited in next. Year 8 have had tutor times and lessons on Kudos and it will be introduced to Year 7 in the next few weeks. There is a careers and enterprise advisor who makes regular contact with the school. The school has 'ticked' a fair few Gatsby Benchmarks and is doing well. The NHS will be attending the school in the new week to speak to Year 8 pupils and it is hoped that the Royal Navy will attend before the end of term to also speak to Year 8. Contact has been made with the RNLI to ask them to attend to speak to pupils about general water safety issues as there is some evidence of children misusing water areas in a dangerous way. It is hoped that this visit can be stretched to some careers work as well. Year 8 pupils have also been looking at strengths and weaknesses through various videos and discussions during tutor times as well. The school had created a QR code for a parent survey on careers which had been uploaded to the school website. The Headteacher would include this in his next newsletter. There is also another platform where the school can log all the activities the pupils have been involved in.
- b) **Joint Working Group Feedback.** DA and MC had attended the first meeting on 16 June 2021. The independent chairman was Keith Clover, an NLG based in Wiltshire. The Terms of Reference had been agreed. There had been a discussion on the logistics of meeting the deadlines surrounding the interview process, the format of the interview day and specific areas to be covered during the interview including the ability to bring staff

Signed as being a true record Chair

Date:.....



teams together, sharing their vision with the school and the wider community. This would also include the role of the Diocese in relation to the new school. Availability was confirmed by members for the interview dates on 29th and 30th June 2021. Concerns had been raised about lack of detail on pay scales in the job descriptions and person specifications as well as confusion with return dates and address. It was confirmed that the SCC Cabinet had agreed that the new school would have the Greenfylde URN and keep the Ofsted Outstanding grade. However, the Chairman would be investigating whether this was possible. It had been agreed that the confidence of the community needed to be considered in all ways at all times and ways would be explored to ensure this happened. Two judicial reviews had been discussed and it had been agreed to keep working until such time that the Group was told to stop. The role of the Diocese in the new school would be an area to explore at interview. In answer to a question, it was confirmed that Governors should know the outcome by 1 January 2022. Current Governors terms of office would end on 31 December 2021. The Chairman confirmed that she would be standing down as Chairman of Governors at the next meeting on 8 July 2021. The current Vice-Chairman is willing to stand as Chairman until the end of December 2021. There would be a need to appoint a new Vice-Chairman. If anyone wished to stand, they should inform the Chairman asap.

ACTION: ALL

MW reported that he was due to meet with all staff in the next week to discuss the situation. He had consulted with HR as well as the Headteachers of Maiden Beech and Wadham schools. Timelines had been considered with dangers of losing staff if things were not resolved by May 2022. MW had four areas of focus i) Clarity, ii) Early deployment to roles, iii) Keeping good teachers in the system, iv) Having a long period for recruitment. He added that from 1 October Wadham school would confirm posts as would the Headteacher of the new Ilminster Primary School. In November 2022, the deployments would be agreed and final decisions made in December 2022. MW added that some of the site at Maiden Beech school would be taken over as an APEX South Centre to provide activities for pupils at risk of exclusion. MW also added that some of the changes might offer staff new deployment and career opportunities.

- c) Dates of Governor Meetings from September to December 2021 were agreed as:

23 Sept, 14 Oct, 18 Nov, (plus 9 Dec if necessary)

2020_21/082 Budget Update

Details had been circulated prior to the meeting. MW commented that following the discussion at the previous meeting to return the surplus of £20,000 to the current year budget, the new deficit position was -£79,095. MW was confident that the school would achieve a current in-year balance, although a turnover of staff due to the reorganisation requirements would be a risk. The £20,000 would be used for continuing catch-up learning costs. MW read a letter he had sent to the LA on 29 May 2021 requesting authority to retain the £20,000 but no reply had been received to date. The budget amendments were APPROVED. It was confirmed that the Pay and Performance Committee had not yet met



2020_21/083 Headteacher's Report

- a) Admissions Brief. This had been circulated to all Governors prior to the meeting and was APPROVED.
- b) Performance Data. Details were shown on-screen. There were 294 pupils on roll. The expected number from September 2021 was 302 but in-year admissions were increasing and this may rise to 305. A successful ZOOM meeting with 50+ new parents joining in had been held.

In 2022, three different year groups would leave at once due to the new structure. One Governor enquired about the transition programme that would be needed. MW replied that this would be a focus from September 2021.

Attendance remained strong with an overall average of 95.5%.

Changes to personnel were shown and noted.

The car park barrier had been installed and authorised users provided with passes.

There had been no changes to COVID19 precautions, although some pupils had been contacted through the Track and Trace System but proved negative. All had returned to school. The field was open for use at lunchtimes by Year Groups in zones. Clubs had re-opened and assemblies with Years 5 & 6 and Years 7 & 8 with gaps between them had re-started.

Catch-up activities in English and Maths continued and would also continue into the Autumn Term. Yoga had been extended to Years 5 & 6. Year 8 would have sessions in September with Year 5 after half term.

The Swanfest Day of activities on the school field had been confirmed.

The Summer School programme would be held from 26th to 30th July. Suitable children had been identified and invited. There would be separate sessions in performing arts, arts and English & Maths each day.

The Awards Evening would be held on the school field on the evening of Tuesday 20 July if possible. Social distancing would be enforced. MW hoped that this would help pull the school community together. The guest of honour would be Helen Bleazard a local professional footballer.

The data check revealed that around 905 of pupils were at or above expected levels in most subjects. The results had to be placed in the context of the current situation. In some subjects boys had outperformed girls. Providing drama data had been difficult, reflected in the lower levels recorded.

2020_21/084 Safeguarding

The Health and Safety walk through would take before the end of the term.

ACTION:MW



2020_21/085 SEND Update.

There was nothing to report for this meeting.

2020_21/086 Policy Review

- a) Governor Allowances. No suggestions had been received for an appropriate rate.
- b) Supporting Children with Medical Conditions. This had been circulated prior to the meeting and was APPROVED.

2020_21/087 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

Meeting closed: 6.50pm

Next meeting – Thursday 08 July 2021 from 5.30pm at the school

Signed as being a true record Chair

Date:.....