



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

**Thursday 18 November 2021 from 5.30p.m. in Room 5**

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

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

**2021\_22/021 Apologies for absence were received and approved from\*:** Kate Murdoch (KM). The meeting was quorate.

**2021\_22/022 No pecuniary interests\*** were declared in this meeting's agenda items.

**2021\_22/023 Minutes of the last full Governors meeting, held on 18 October 2021\*** were agreed as an accurate record. These were signed by the Chair of Governors.

**2021\_22/024 Matters Arising\*** None

**2021\_21/025 Governor Business**

- a) **Governor Links (1) – English.** As this was her final meeting of the Governing Body, MG had circulated a final brief report for English. JP agreed to take on this link from next term. **ACTION: JP**
- b) **Clerks' Briefing.** MH reported that he had received notification of the next Clerks' Briefing on 25 November on the previous day. He would circulate pertinent information after the Briefing. **ACTION: MH**
- c) **Re-organisation Update.** MW reported that all staff who wished to do so had registered their interest in taking redundancy. This was being followed-up through the LA HR Officer. It was intended that final decisions would be made by 30 November 2021.

JP commented that work continued on the governance arrangements for the new school. The Swanmead Governors would remain in place to 31 August 2022 when a new Governing Body would take on the new school. He asked if any Governor wished to join the Governing Body of the new school. No one indicated that they were. JP added that KM had also given that indication. JP was aware that all Greenfyldes Governors were interested and that their current Chairman was also interested in remaining as Chairman. It was anticipated that there would be a joint meeting in late February/early March 2022 to maybe co-opt Governors. The new board could then focus on establishing the arrangements for the new school. It was also agreed that the temporary contract for MH as Clerk should be extended to 31 August 2022.

MW added that all teaching staff who had expressed interest in a new post in the new school had been successful. There had been some issues with admin and site posts, but this had been resolved. There had been some voluntary redundancies and MW was offering feedback and ongoing support.

Signed as being a true record ..... Chair

Date:.....



The Headteacher of Wadham School had visited the school and spoken to staff. There had also been the opportunity for staff to visit Wadham School. Applications for posts there would open on 6 December and close on 17 December 2021. A recruitment process would then take place. MW confirmed that he would continue to support staff through this process.

JP asked the staff members if they had received enough information during this process. In response they indicated that although there had been information provided, it was not clear what the overall staffing needs for Maiden Beech School would be. There were still uncertainties about subject specialist teachers and staff were concerned about having to compete with colleagues for vacant posts. This also applied to Wadham vacancies. This was an uncomfortable position for those concerned. MW added that the process had moved forward and would be settled by March or early April 2022.

**2021\_22/025 Headteacher's Report.** MW gave a short verbal update.

- Attendance had dropped over recent weeks. There had been some COVID cases. The school had lost two children to Holyrood School and a further one would be moving there shortly. There had been one new Year 8 pupils. The overall number remained over 300.
- Sports fixtures remained a strong feature of the school activities and enjoyed by the pupils.
- Three members of staff would be leaving at the end of this term for various reasons. An interview was being held on Monday 22 November to make cover arrangements.
- Staff reactions to the outcome of the Parental Judicial Review in favour of the LA had been mixed and challenging for some.
- Staff had received a full-day training session on Trauma.
- Lesson observations and learning walks would restart in the next week.

In response to questions about COVID, it was accepted that this was a growing issue in South Somerset. The school was officially on AMBER alert. Some measures had been put in place but only 2 pupils and no staff had been affected so far. Christmas activities had been cut-back. It was intended to produce a CD of filmed activities for future distribution and records.

**2021\_22/026 SEND**

There was nothing to report for this meeting.

**2021\_22/027 Safeguarding**

There was no report but MG reminded the meeting that the Governing Body would need to appoint a new Safeguarding Governor to replace her. This was a statutory requirement. On the proposal of MG, seconded by DM, Dean Aspinall was unanimously appointed as the Safeguarding Governor. The Governors would receive a short training update later in the meeting.

**2021\_22/028 Health & Safety**

There was no report.



## **2021\_22/029 AOB**

Thanks and a small presentation were made to MG on her leaving the Governing Body after nine years, most as Chairman.

## **2021\_22/030 Confidential Items**

There were no confidential items at this meeting.

Staff members and MC withdrew from the meeting at this point prior to the Safeguarding training session. They had already attended the same session earlier when presented to staff.

**2021\_2022/031 Safeguarding Training Session.** MW gave an on-screen presentation on Safeguarding covering the following points:

- Governors were reminded that Safeguarding was the action taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.
- The key messages remained that Governors should never keep a concern to themselves; always made a note of what they have seen or heard (facts not opinions); always communicate with the appropriate person in school (JH, DH or MW) and never carry out their own investigation.
- The presentation showed the audit tasks already completed including properly embedding the process into the 'My Concern' software. Work still remained on increasing training opportunities for staff and governors, giving children a greater role in taking an active part in keeping themselves safe and improving involvement in focus weeks relating to antibullying, eSafety etc.
- Self-Harm was becoming a major issue nationally with an increase in hospital admissions in recent years. There were 10 admissions every week nationally. The impact of COVID19 had affected the mental health of young people. The average age of beginning to self-harm was 12 years – within the current age range of the school.
- The range of emotions range from feeling frightened and anxious to wanting to end life immediately. Using national data in regard to Swanmead pupils, around 5% could be at risk.
- The two most likely factors would be lack of self-esteem and feeling angry and numb and lacking control over their lives.
- There was a short discussion on recognising the signs of self-harm. There were four stages: SUPPORT – PARENTS – REASSURANCE – MEDICAL
- Another factor was Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). The slides outlined the various adverse factors which could lead to future behaviours such as binge drinking, smoking, poor mental health, underage sex, unplanned pregnancies, involvement in violence, illegal use of drugs and imprisonment. A recent analysis found that 52% of children had no influence from ACE factors. However, 9% had 4 or more influencing factors.
- The proactive factors included a positive and supportive family; safe relationships with peers; access to a supportive community; ability to regulate emotions; acquisition of



problem-solving skills; compassionate professional responses; early interventions from services and trauma informed systems.

- The final message when dealing with a young person was - Don't ask 'what is wrong with you?', but ask 'what has happened to you?'

**2021\_2022/032 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held from 5.30pm on Thursday 20 January 2022.

The meeting closed at 6.35pm.

Signed as being a true record ..... Chair

Date:.....