



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY
 held at Grand Avenue School on
 Monday 20th March 2023 @ 7.30pm

LA-1	CO OPTED 8		PARENT -2	STAFF 2
Mrs Julie Thomas	Mrs Jenny Gresson (Chair)	Mr Richard Newman	Mrs Mandeep Rai	Mrs Margaret Barrington Co- Head Teacher (Ex Officio)
	Mrs Cath Tanner	Ms Michele Harris	Mr David Magee (VC)	Mrs Angela Dumpleton
	Mrs Archika Kumar	Mrs Hannah Newell		
	Mrs Alexis Orlovac	Mrs Leigh-Anne Smith		

Also attended:

Associate Members: Ms Anna McKenna, Mrs Shona Pitcher, Mrs Shamama-Tul-Amber

Clerk/Minutes: Miss Lucy Richards

Bold = absent

ITEM	MEETING STARTED AT: 7.30pm	ACTIONS
075	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED	
	Julie Thomas Hannah Newell Michele Harris Alexis Orlovac Cath Tanner Archika Kumar	
076	DECLARATIONS OF BUSINESS INTEREST	

Signed/Initialled (Chair of FGB Committee): 15.5.23 1

Date: 19 FGB Minutes 20th March 2023

	None	
077	OBSERVERS	
	None	
078	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 6th MARCH 2023	
	The minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting on 15th May 2023.	
079	MATTERS ARISING	
	To be discussed at the next meeting on 15th May 2023.	
080	GOVERNOR HEALTH CHECK	
	See separate document for updates.	
081	BUDGET 2023/24 AND ONWARDS	
	<p>The 2023/24 budget has been presented to the R&F Committee on 13th March. The R&F Committee approved the budget and this is now for FGB to approve.</p> <p>It was noted that there will be a working party formed of parents and a past parent who will form a lobbying group to support the school during the funding crisis.</p> <p>Some members of the teaching staff participated in the strike action on 15th March. Only one member of staff was on strike on the 16th and this class was covered.</p> <p>Mrs Barrington explained the basis of how the budget was set and the guidance that was provided by the council.</p> <p>It was explained that some grants have been removed and funding included in the budget. However, this funding is less than when the grants were given as standalone payments.</p> <p>There have been many cuts to the funding that school will receive. There have therefore been reductions made in order to reduce costs. i.e.; cutting back staff costs, cleaning, grounds maintenance etc.</p> <p>For the remainder of this academic year the school will not be reducing staffing numbers. However, from September 2023, where staff may hand in resignations, the school will be unlikely to replace these staff members and may redeploy existing staff to cover.</p> <p>Governor question: Is this staff who leave mid-way through the year? Response: Usually staff will leave at the end of the academic year, some SEN support staff will leave as the children that they have been supporting leave the school, this happens a lot in year 6.</p>	

Signed/Initialled (Chair of FGB Committee):

2

Date.....*JG*.....

FGB Minutes *15.5.23*

20th March 2023

	<p>Governor question: When a member of staff is on maternity leave - how much salary is paid? Response: This pay is staggered. The school pay this for 6 months, then the payment is statutory. This is funded via a supply managed fund which the school pays into each year. The school then requests for funds to make the payments.</p> <p>Governor question: Is this capped? Response: There have been a few occasions when all schools have asked for more funds than they have paid in but some years the schools have received some money back as excess funds are refunded.</p> <p>Governor question: Does the school know if they will receive the PE grant? Response: This is expected to be received for the next 2 years but this funding is ring fenced and can only be spent on specific activities. It is the reduced amount as shown on the budget.</p> <p>Governor question: Are the estimates for staffing costs based on current staffing levels? Response: The assumption is that the staffing levels will be as they currently are. It was noted that a 4% pay increase has been included in the budget.</p> <p>Governor question: Are the school expecting a reduction in energy bills? Response: The school are in a national group scheme called Laser. The school did consider leaving the scheme however it was found that other scheme costs were higher. It was noted that the gas bill for the school had doubled in price in February. The school have used a similar amount in January as in February, it's simply as costs increased.</p> <p>Lights are being replaced for LED lights, which should provide savings. However, they are not on a PIR so everyone will need to remember to turn the lights off!</p> <p>Members of FGB eligible to vote have agreed the 2023/24 budget as proposed however need to request votes from other FGB members who were not present at tonight's meeting.</p> <p><u>Three-year budget</u></p> <p>The three-year prediction was discussed.</p>	
082	SAFEGUARDING	
	<p>Safeguarding audit has been carried out and action plan created.</p> <p>Website has been updated to include Early Help.</p> <p>Governor question: Absenteeism - how are the schools' levels? Response: Generally, this is good but there are more absences within the PPG group. The school are working with these families to support</p>	<p>Share Early Years Help information with all Governors.</p> <p>Update TORs - Leigh-Anne to</p>

Signed/Initialled (Chair of FGB Committee):/S...S. 23

3

Date...../9.....

FGB Minutes

20th March 2023

	<p>absences. It was noted that within some families this may present a safeguarding issue. AM offered review of document that tracks absence. Leigh- Anne will be the Governor responsible for absence and will look at this.</p> <p>Governor question. Do the school receive many holiday requests? Response: No more than usual. It was noted that the school doesn't fine for holiday absences.</p>	be Absence Governor.
083	ANY AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT FGB	
	Minutes of 6th March	
084	AOB	
	See Confidential minutes.	
085	SCHOOL COUNCIL	
	None Clerk advised that there is a potential date for a School Council.	Email Governors with the date of School Council meeting - 18th April.
086	MINUTES OF THIS MEETING CONFIDENTIALITY	
	See confidential minutes Governor question: Is there a hit rate of visits to the school website?	AM to check
087	CLOSE OF MEETING: 8.52pm DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 15th May 2023	

MEETING DATE	ACTION	OWNER
20-Mar-23	EY help info - share with all	AM
20-Mar-23	Update TORS - LS new Absence Governor	LR
20-Mar-23	Advise School Council date	LR
20-Mar-23	Number of hits/visits to school website	AM

Signed/Initialled (Chair of FGB Committee): *J.G.*

Date.....*15.5.23*

FGB Minutes

4

20th March 2023