

POWERSTOCK CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Minutes of the Full Governing Body Meeting
6.30pm Wednesday 19 June 2019 at Powerstock CE VA Primary School

Present: Louise Greenham (Headteacher) LG, Lauren Goringe LMG (Chair), Julia Stantiford JS, Anna Seal AS, Joanna Moss JM (Vice Chair), Tim Connor TC, Kate Shelley KS, David Jones DJ, Amanda Montague AM, Revd Chris Grasske CG

Apologies: Gill Butler GB, Chris Bunney CB

In Attendance: Natalie Green NG (Clerk)

Q/C = Question/Challenge

Item 1. Welcome

LMG welcomed all to the meeting and noted National Thank a Teacher Day, thanking the teachers present.

Item 2. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Gill Butler GB and Chris Bunney CB.

Item 3. Declaration of Governor's Business Interests

There were no matters to declare that would conflict with the Agenda.

Item 4. Minutes of the last meeting of 24 April 2019

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

Item 5. Matters Arising

8 Chase up notification of extinguishment of right of way – LMG reported that this had been completed and the final order was expected to be published in the Autumn 2019.

COMPLETED

11 Send new governors safeguarding training dates – COMPLETED and NG would send LMG the record of all governors who had attended Safeguarding Level 1 training.

13 AM to send NG notes on school visit to circulate – COMPLETED and in FGB pack

15 NG to resend governors local training dates – COMPLETED

15 NG to request profiles from new governors for school website – COMPLETED but two were still missing. NG would send to LMG to chase.

15 NG to send 2019/20 meeting dates to governors – COMPLETED

Item 6. Chairs Update & Correspondence

No correspondence had been received.

LMG noted that the Hut had confirmed that it would not increase rents for the forthcoming year.

She noted that the GB still carried a Foundation Governor vacancy and invited suggestions. CG added that there were no suitable candidates at present.

LMG mentioned that she had enquired with Governor Services about ceasing committee business, but it could make FGB business more frequent and more detailed than at present. She added that she, LG and JM and NG would meet shortly to discuss ways to streamlining meetings and achieve efficiencies.

Item 7. Headteacher's Report including report on SIMS and AS's Pupil Tracker

The report had been circulated previously and LG gave an overview.

Q/C Governors asked about numbers for next year - 9 children had left school in year and 7 had joined leaving a shortfall of 2 and 8 Reception children were expected to join in September 2019. There was a discussion about some home-schooled children who were not on roll but pay to participate in some activities. These children were expected to return to school in October 2019.

LG provided a list of acronyms, which was noted and appreciated by governors.

Mindfulness sessions were taking place daily for 10-15 minutes which governors noted. **Q/C governors asked how this would be reinforced when "no longer new."** AS and LG felt that the skills had been embedded and children could now do this themselves. The positives of giving a useful skill for life which prepared children for learning were noted.

SIMS issues were noted. **Q/C Governors asked how often data was inputted; this was termly.** LG tabled a sanitised example for the Y4 cohort and explained the detail, showing an improving picture in progress and development to Age Related Expectations (ARE). LG showed the Holistic Assessment Sheet designed by AS, and AS gave an overview of the tool showing not only the academic data but across a broad range of development and showing progress across school years. This was run in parallel to SIMS. **Q/C Governors asked if this was widely used in primary schools.** AS responded that it was quite innovative, and she had developed it following her Forest Schools training. She added that it linked to Ofsted suggestions for assessment of progress. **Q/C Governors asked if teachers were happy to use the tool.** AS confirmed that they were and that it was a great vehicle for professional discussion. **Q/C Governors asked if the data from it was shared with parents.** LG said that this was being considered and JS added that she felt that it would be very well received by parents. It was agreed that the data would be shared during parents evening as part of the teacher/parent dialogue.

Q/C Governors asked about relationships work. LG said that PHSE covered relationships in different ways but that this work needed to be formalised. LG would conduct some research into work done by other local schools, and this would be discussed at the next Curriculum meeting. NG would include this on the agenda.

There were no further questions.

Item 8. Attendance

LG noted that she had conducted a review of the School Development Plan (SDP) and attendance had been covered. She added that the 100% Club was very popular with children and members enjoyed additional benefits such as extended playtime.

LMG mentioned learning from her recent Safeguarding in Schools level 2 course noting that poor attendance could be the first sign of neglect. LG said she was alert to this. The overall attendance figure was now 95.1% which was very pleasing. LMG felt that the 100%ers had had a positive impact on attendance.

LG showed a sanitised example of poor attendance for two siblings. **Q/C Governors asked if this was affecting learning for these children, and LG responded that there was a direct negative correlation.** Transport had since been arranged to address issues.

LG and AS noted that the school very rarely sent children home ill. **Q/C Governors asked about late arrivals.** LG said that the register closed at 9.15am and children arriving between 9.15 and 9.30 were recorded as a late. If they arrived after 9.30am they were recorded as unauthorised.

Item 9. School Development Plan

LG tabled a review of the SDP, outlining progress at the end of Summer Term and comparing with last year's performance for each year group. It was noted that some cohorts were very small and this had a disproportionate impact on the figures. Overall the results were good but the 60% ARE target had not been achieved and had come in at 40%. A discussion followed on the emphasis on punctuation and grammar in writing to achieve ARE rather than interesting, rich writing with ambitious word choices.

Attendance would remain on the SDP next year. LG noted that her NPQH mentee would complete a project on attendance.

The GB overview of safeguarding procedures was now felt to be much more comprehensive than pre-Ofsted and LMG would consider a further governor development focus for next year's SDP.

Item 10. SIAMS/School Vision

DJ and LMG had recently attended Foundation Governor courses at the Salisbury Diocese Board of Education (SDBE). DJ noted that there was an emphasis on vision on the training, which needed to be rooted in biblical linkage for church schools. The SDBE was keen for schools to establish the 'why' in terms of their identity and sense of purpose as a church school. JM noted some examples she had shared with CG. LMG noted that the large self-evaluation form for SIAMS was now being reduced to a much more concise document. **Q/C Governors asked if there was a deadline for creating the Vision statement, and LG said that this ideally needed to be done by end of the Autumn Term.** LMG would send out a Parent Questionnaire at end of the school year and would ask for views on the Vision. The next FGB would focus on the Vision, following the business section and LMG would include some specifics of the outcomes required before this meeting. DJ noted that it was also seen as important for children to have a visual. A discussion followed on the value of SIAMS to the school in general.

Item 11. Safeguarding

LMG noted some further learning points from her recent Safeguarding in Schools Level 2 and the role of the Looked After Children (LAC) Governor. She noted that Safeguarding concerns took priority over data protection. KS noted that she had recently attended Safeguarding Level 1 and suggested reminding parents about the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) in the school newsletter. LMG added that DBS checks were required by law within 21 days for new governors. She asked NG to send the link to current Prevent elearning and LG to send her the latest Safeguarding newsletter.

Item 12. Governor Visits

LG referred to AM's notes of her visit to a good/outstanding school in Sherborne. AM noted that the school in question had a single Y6 class and a Shining Club to support children to do their homework. AS noted that Powerstock also offered this over lunch break. AM also noted that French was taught from Reception and LG outlined similar teaching at Powerstock. AM felt that Powerstock offered a richer range of extra-curricular activities.

JM and LMG had conducted a learning walk and a Pupil Premium (PP) strategy meeting which JM outlined. **Q/C Governors asked about the number of PP children – currently there were 5.** JS noted the Link Governor training she had recently attended and that there

needed to be a LAC Link Governor even if there were no LAC in school. JS would share her notes from the training with the GB.

JM said that she recently accompanied a trip with children to West Bay, which she described. The children had enjoyed the trip, but she noted two examples of poor behaviour. She felt that there needed to be a strategy such as the children concerned being accompanied by parents, or not to attend the trip.

Item 13. Committee Reports

The minutes of the last Curriculum & Staff meeting had previously been circulated with writing examples noted as a highlight, showing significant progress.

The Finance, Environment & Pay meeting had taken place on 18 June and the minutes were not yet ready for circulation. JM reported that the budget was looking better due to EHCP Tipping Point monies and increased teacher pay grant.

Item 14. Treasurer's Report

Awaiting AS to send report to NG

Item 15. Policy Adoption

The Child Protection Policy was adopted and would be recirculated shortly.

Item 16. Clerk's Notices

NG noted preparation for the October 2019 Business Meeting (Chair and VC Elections, Committee Terms of Reference, Updates to Business Interests and confirmation of committee membership and link governor roles). She said that any governor was welcome to stand for Chair and Vice-Chair and would send out a reminder of closing dates in due course.

NG had circulated the Governor training record prior to the meeting and urged governors to inform her of any training or CPD received so that it could be logged.

Item 17. Any Other Business

CG mentioned reading a UN report which noted that UK teachers work more hours than any in the world. CG asked what GB did to monitor teacher welfare. LG noted that staff looked out for each other and made sure that colleagues did not work long hours. They enjoyed collegiate working relationships formed over many years. HTs had supervision on the agenda at Collaboration meetings. LG said that she felt supported by LMG. Governors noted the risks for NQTs and new members of staff working in a small school environment with a small teacher group.

LG said that she had attended an Education Summit and shared the 250 influencers on pupil achievement with governors, which she noted as very helpful.

Item 18. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place on Tuesday 1 October 2019 at 6.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Item No	Action	By Whom	Date
5 (15)	Send profiles for school website to LMG to chase entries	NG	ASAP
7	PHSE Relationships work on next Curriculum agenda	NG	By next Curriculum meeting

10	Prepare for Vision session in next FGB	LMG	By next FGB
11	Send link to current Prevent e-learning	NG	ASAP
11	Send LMG Safeguarding Newsletter	LG	ASAP