

Governor Meeting 31st January 2024.

Apologies.

Jemima Harris, Matt West, Charlott K (PPG lead) J Kewley, Karen Bridgeman (clerk)

Declaration of business interests.

None.

Non Governor Participants Observers.

Matt Blow - Mariam Uteem (Mariam introduced herself.)

PPG presentation.

Mrs Utting went through the presentation explaining the approaches from the PPG strategy and giving more details.

Cultural capital- helping to make the opportunities for all children as equal as possible.

Governors questioned high quality teaching and how this was shared.

Governors questioned the impact of the PPG budget and if this had been affected by inflation and cuts. Governors discussed the budgets and Mrs Utting shared as a school how we used the funding.

The minutes were not available to see. Governors agreed to review this once minutes were available.

Matters arising. Nothing.

Verbal Report of Headteacher.

PU updated the governors on the success of appointing teachers.

Mr Southren will be joining us as an ECT in September if anyone gives notice.

Recruitment for support staff and lunch staff is still very challenging and we are not getting applications for these roles.

PU reported the challenges of the budget this financial year and the need to make cuts in the overall spend.

PU discussed ways of saving money being used in some schools.

The new build was discussed and the way it will provide income moving forward.

The local areas were discussed and the desire for new homes in the local area driving up the need for school places.

The drop in the need for school places in the current reception year was also discussed.

Resources minutes.

11th November.

Pay

Overspend of 150K

Teacher pay increase confirmed. BJS budgeted 5%. A government grant has been received to cover the difference and to cover increases in teachers' pensions.

School meals

PU gave details of recent costs relating to the kitchen. The Mayor's free school meals will continue for another year. The amount we will receive from September will increase. School still has to fund free school meals to those who are eligible and will receive 90% of the remainder. Kitchen maintenance is paid from money received, also new equipment, pumps, fat traps etc.

Voluntary contributions. PU gave details of the information sent to parents.

The SBM will give Governors a report at the next resources meeting.

CLASP building updates.

Building programme on track for January 2025.

Curriculum committee.

PE, RE and English updates from subject leaders.

This meeting was a remote meeting.

The Ofsted report was discussed.

Policies.

Tutoring policy- PU gave details of why the tutoring policy is in place.

Governors raised the question of why the tutoring policy was in place and raised that some schools do not allow staff to tutor children from their schools. Therefore they have no need to have a policy. However the BJS policy covers tutoring of pupils in the school and also those who may not be pupils.

Governors questioned how staff were informed about updates on the policies and also read them. PU explained the yearly sign off that staff undertake, links with the unions reps and also highlights that staff received when a policy has been reviewed.

Governors questioned the front page and if the statement had been agreed.

Health and Safety.

Governors mentioned the EVERY site which was an additional cost to buy into but did complete lots of the checks around health and safety.

Governors also questioned how inhalers and adrenaline injectors were checked, parents informed and then replaced. Also the use of a generic inhaler/ injectors and if required and parental permissions for this.

Page 9 - reference to a colon as if a list was followed but the list appeared to be missing.

What first aid goes on a minibus?

Lettings.

Lettings and charging are agreed with the Infants.

Governors question - Lettings - section 14 - if not clear elsewhere should we state that the charges are in advance? What is the policy on refunds if cancelled in term time and there is more than 4 weeks to run? Finally, the last time we reviewed this was 2020, should we state we will review sooner once the new build is complete and we'll have other facilities we may want to hire i.e. sports hall?

Governors raised the 'legal' agreement letters signed and the policy. Suggesting a 'tightening up' so that there isn't a conflict between the two which could be challenged.

The Christmas Fair was discussed and the safety of the children and adults in busy events in the halls.

Charging and remissions.

Passport applications and private school references were discussed.

In the policies the term Governing Body and Governor Board are used. Governors questioned if they are the same or is there a difference.

Voluntary contributions were discussed for day trips. So far the school has not stopped a trip running but there may be occasions in the future where this may be the case if parent contributions fall.

Governors questioned how much of the voluntary contributions were raised and how much is being funded by the school. This information will be brought to the Resources meeting.

Governor Visits.

w/b 20th Feb all welcome .

Governors asked for another site visit if this was possible. (22/03 and 15/04 set as dates)

CLASP building/ Permanent expansion.

The build is moving along on schedule. Children seem positive and are not being impacted by the build.

What impact are governors having?

PPG challenge questions.

Homework conversations.

Policies being reviewed and analysed.

AOB.

Governors mentioned the discussion about homework and feedback that had been seen on some parent groups. Governors mentioned the apparent inconsistencies in marking given from school staff in homework. PU to discuss with staff.

Governors discussed a way in which parents can communicate with the governors if there was something they wished to raise. There was a discussion about the types of information that would come through this communication stream.

It was agreed that this was on the website for parents to contact the school.

Next meeting 20th March.

Resources 1st March.

Curriculum 13th March

19th April Resources - to approve the budget.

Vacancy.

Mariam Uteem was voted in as a parent governor after observing a meeting.

She was voted in by Governors Campbell and seconded by Mariam Hakim. Governors unanimously agreed to the appointment.