



**MINUTES
FROM THE MEETING
OF THE MAIDEN BEECH ACADEMY
LOCAL GOVERNING BODY
HELD ON
THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER 2020
AT 6.00pm VIA TEAMS**

1.2	FD to forward out forms to FM and NM for completion.	FD	03/12/20
1.3	JJ to get in touch with colleagues to ascertain if anyone would be interested in being a temp link SEN Governor	JJ	08/10/20
1.3	CW to share his notes from Quality of Education committee meeting with Governors	CW	02/07/20
1.3	CW to check the Single Equity Policy has been placed onto the school website	CW	08/10/20
1.3	NM to advice BDC when the commitment was made for the roofing project and the figure involved	NM	02/07/20
1.3	NM to ascertain from the ESFA whether the Financial Statements could be signed electronically	NM	02/07/20
1.3	NM will outline Governors concerns and request reassurance on what measures have been put in place. Governors would also like to know if an IT audit will be regularly undertaken to ensure good practice takes	NM	02/07/20
3.2	CW to forward ADP out to Governors after review meeting in January	CW	03/12/20
4.4	CW to discuss with SP whether DW could assist with safeguarding due to level of sensitivity.	CW	03/12/20



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Members

✓	Jonathan James	(JJ)	Chair
✓	Flossie McGhee	(FM)	
✓	Neville Mapstone	(NM)	
✓	Debbie Wakeman	(DW)	
✓	Carl Winch	(CW)	(Head Teacher)
In Attendance			
✓	Fran Davis	(FD)	(Clerk)
✓	Doug Bamsey	(DB)	
✓ those present			

1. Procedural Matters

1.1 Apologies Received – acceptance/non acceptance

All Governors were in attendance.

The Chair welcomed Doug Bamsey to the meeting and advised Doug would be joining the LGB on a co-opted basis for 12 months to give support as DB has been a Governor at BCA for 8 years.

DB gave a brief overview of his career and background outlining his desire to help young people achieve their potential. He looks forward to visiting MBA when possible.

1.2 Declaration of Interest – forms outstanding for FM and NM.

Action – FD to forward out forms to FM and NM for completion.

FD

- 1.3 Minutes from last meetings dated 5 Oct, 8 Oct and 9 Nov 2020.

Minutes were approved.

- 1.4 Matters arising not contained elsewhere on this agenda

Actions Outstanding:

- JJ to get in touch with colleagues to ascertain if anyone would be interested in being a temp link SEN Governor – **Outstanding**
- CW to share his notes from Quality of Education committee meeting with Governors - **Outstanding**
- CW to check the Single Equity Policy has been placed onto the school website - **Outstanding**.
- NM to advise BDC when the commitment was made for the roofing project and the figure involved – **Outstanding**.
- NM to ascertain from the ESFA whether the Financial Statements could be signed electronically - **Outstanding**.
- NM will outline Governors concerns and request reassurance on what measures have been put in place. Governors would also like to know if an IT audit will be regularly undertaken to ensure good practice takes - **Outstanding**.
- CW to find out how many pupils have engaged with online teaching and report to LGB at the next meeting. CW advised it had been difficult to obtain the necessary data on this. CW will therefore see if IT can help access this data.
- CW to share ADP at next meeting on 26 November 2020 - **Completed**
- FD to arrange a meeting and advise Governors - **Completed**

JJ

CW

NM

NM

NM

2 Update on School reorganisation in Crewkerne and Ilminster.

CW gave an update on the recent developments highlighting:

- The reorganisation is taking up a significant amount of time.
- Letter has been forwarded to Patrick Flaherty outlining concerns about consultation period and how it has been managed. The letter is on Trust Governor.
- The consultation is open until 11 December and we need to actively engage with this process.

There was a discussion about how to effectively respond to the consultation and ensure all concerns are raised with the LA. The LGB felt that the process has not been managed well and the costs not fully

explored. It was also felt that any local petitions should be formally fed into the consultation process.

It was agreed to engage fully with the process and have all interested parties – parents, school, Trust and LGB submit their reasons why this change is detrimental to all and present a united front.

A potential solution to the reorganisation was discussed:

- Two middle schools and one upper school join the same Trust.
- Deficit at Wadham could be paid off
- Less disruptive and better for pupils.
- PLE has invited CW, MW (Swanmead) and MG (Wadham) to a meeting but MG has not responded. There is a thought to put this option out to parents.

3 **CEO Reporting Requirements**

3.1 Head Teacher Report:

- Challenging term with pandemic and re organisation of South Somerset schools
- Acknowledgment that staff have done a fantastic job in difficult circumstances
- Staffing changes listed in report

Risks

- Covid plans have been successfully implemented. We have had one positive case but fortunately this did not impact greatly.
- School reorganisation has been discussed earlier.
- SEN Leadership – Although we are getting excellent support with SEN from the Trust as a matter of priority we need to recruit an excellent substantive SENCo as soon as possible.
- Leadership team will, from Jan 2021, be reduced from five to two. This places additional pressure on the Head and Deputy Head teachers, especially at a time of potential change. PLE may have a couple of people able to assist until Easter and we have had a number of colleagues here offering to 'step up'.
- Ofsted – we are due a section 5 inspection when these resume. As SEND is likely to be an inspection focus, we are very vulnerable to being judged 'requires improvement' if we do not address this issue as a matter of urgency and implement a successful plan. The

reduction of leadership capacity adds to the challenge of achieving a 'good' judgement. This could also put us in a weakened position with the South Somerset reorganisation.

It was asked what support has been given by the Trust. We have EW coming one day a week and today EW and AB have held 3 SEND meetings. We also have JB from Stanchester supporting us by assisting first school transitions. We would not be in a good position without the support of the Trust.

It was asked would there be anyone from the Trust who take this role on. Although the Trust support has been fantastic we need someone here on site every day. However, it is difficult to recruit in the current circumstances.

3.2 ADP

We will be having a review meeting for the ADP in January. When it has been agreed CW will forward out to Governors.

Action CW to forward ADP out to Governors after review meeting in January

CW

CW highlighted that the fourth priority - Reading: To ensure all children have a reading age that is no more than a six months below their chronological age was achievable.

3.3 Pupil Premium Evaluation

CW advised this was not available at this time. We have been using GL assessment testing and have invested funding into staffing. We will analyse the data and put strategies into place.

The profile of the school is changing: Percentage of pupils with PP funding:

- Year 8 16%
- Year 7 18%
- Yr 6 22.73
- Yr 5 31.78%

As you can see it is increasing, but compared to DfE national figures we are below average apart from year 5.

- FSM also indicates an upward trend.
- SEN register has increased, although it was noted that year 5 showed a lower percentage at 15.89.

CW advised there is £32K catch up funding available and when the data has been analysed, we will implement strategies to support pupils in catching up.

4

MBA Statutory Reports

4.1 Behaviour and Exclusions

- There has been a marked increase in exclusions across the secondary schools in Somerset but MBA has bucked this trend.
- The number of exclusions has fallen from nine to two and the total of days lost from exclusion has significantly dropped from 23 to three.

It was asked whether there was a pattern with the exclusions– subjects, pupils or just random. CW advised we can drill it down but unfortunately it is likely to be male SEN pupils.

- 12 children (2.9%) have received one or more exclusions. When benchmarked against the 2019 data, there has been an overall improvement.

Governors were pleased to see the trend of figures was positive.

4.2 Attendance

- Whole school attendance figure is 94.55% this compares well to national figures, which are averaging just below 90%
- Breakdown for year groups shows positive data.
- 8 pupils have not returned to school due to Covid 19.

4.3 SEN

- EM, AB and Elsa Carreras (Trust Ed Psych) spent all day (26/11) in school assessing children, gathering information and speaking to parents.
- AB has been in contact with county with regards to consultations whose deadlines had been missed. These are now being completed.
- Helen Moore, Trust counsellor, has been completing dyslexia assessments
- Staff training – four areas to be covered as set out in report.

A Governor was concerned about the amount of pressure on HT and SLT. CW advised he has received support from colleagues and MWG is also helping out.

4.4 Safeguarding

- Number of pupils being persistently absent (below 85%) is 8%. This is below national average.
- One allegations against a staff member but this did not proceed any further.
- Domestic violence abuse notifications have increased to one or two a week. We receive the notifications by police.
- 10 racists incidents
- 7 homophobic incidents
- 32 Peer on peer abuse needs unpicking.

We realise we need to do more on combating these incidents and take a stronger line however it is encouraging to see that we are creating a culture that people will talk to us more.

- There were three actions identified through the completion of the 2019/20 Somerset Governors' Safeguarding Audit.

DW advised the safeguarding forum had been very useful and informative. DW also offered help in safeguarding capacity as her training was valid and up to date.

CW thanked DW for the offer and would discuss this with SP as unsure about the level of access that would need to be given to DW and sight of some very confidential sensitive information.

Action – CW to discuss with SP whether DW could assist with safeguarding due to level of sensitivity.

CW

5 AOB

Anti-Bullying Policy

The policy was not available but will be forwarded out.

Action – CW forward Anti Bullying Policy to FD who will forward out and load onto Trust Governor.

CW/FD

Tests for 2021.

- KS1 testing has been removed.
- SPaG has been removed for KS2.
- Formal teacher assessment for science has been removed.
- All other KS2 exams will take place as usual, although the exam period has been extended until 26 May.

6 Date of next meeting - Thursday 7 Jan 2021 @ 6.00pm