



**DRAFT MINUTES
FROM THE MEETING
OF THE MAIDEN BEECH ACADEMY
LOCAL GOVERNING BODY
HELD ON
THURSDAY 18 MARCH 2021
AT 6.00pm VIA TEAMS**

Chair: Jonathan James; Head Teacher –Carl Winch;

Actions from MBA LGB on 18 March 2021

Item Reference	Action	Person Responsible	Date Raised
1.4	FM and NM need to complete Declaration of Interest forms and return to FD	FM/NM	08/10/20
4.3	CW to arrange for cohort data to be supplied within the behaviour and exclusions reports	CW	18/03/21
4.4	CW to forward a copy of staff SEND handbook to the Chair	CW	18/03/21



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Members

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

1. Procedural Matters

- 1.1 Apologies for absence
None all Governors were present
- 1.2 Declarations of Interest – None but have outstanding declarations from CW and FM.
- 1.3 Minutes from the last meeting dated 25 February 2021
Minutes were approved
- 1.4 Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the agenda
 - FD to forward out forms to FM and NM for completion – FM and NM need to complete Declaration of Interest forms and return to FD.

FG/NM

1.5 Governor Skill Audit

This was noted by the Chair and Governors and if any training was required notification should be sent to the Chair or FD.

2 **Update on Crewkerne and Ilminster Reorganisation**

PLE shared the news that the reorganisation of the schools in the Crewkerne and Ilminster area was approved today by Cabinet and the change from a three tier system to a two tier one would be going ahead. Although the decision was disappointing and not one the Trust or MBA wanted or felt was in the best interests of the children and the community, when there were other more cost effective and less disruptive options available. However, it was now important to move forward and work with the LA to bring about this change.

There was a discussion on the possible changes to the area and what the potential impact could be on other schools. PLE advised the Trust would be supporting staff by offering redeployment and retraining. CW advised the staff team remain committed to the school, and we will work as hard as ever to provide the children with the best possible provision and education we can.

- The next steps would be to make a statement focussing on the future plans on making Maiden Beech a primary school.
- Children would be given factual information only.
- Letter to go out to parents' tomorrow.

It was asked how staff were coping with the news CW advised it is a very sombre atmosphere at the school but I have made myself available to all staff in case they wish to talk.

It was asked if staff and parents have received the promised letters from the LA.

Yes

Governors felt the news was devastating but felt it had been handled well by the CW and the whole school team.

3 **Head Teacher Report**

CW shared the report and highlighted:

Staffing

- 4 members are shielding
- EM has been appointed as SENCo and is being supported by EW and AB from the Trust.

- 4 members of staff have agreed to undertake leadership roles

School reorganisation – potential risks

- Staff leaving and not being able to recruit high quality replacements.
- Pupils leaving and the financial implications
- Admissions for this year is likely to be around 69, which is a loss of 30 places. This equates to one class which could mean a loss of 25% of teaching staff.
- Quality of provision
- Staff morale and wellbeing

General update

- A field trip to Exmoor for Year 8 in the summer term is being planned.
- Virtual parents' evenings have been set up for 30th March via School Cloud.
- The curriculum model for 2021/22 is unlikely to change
- Time tabling training has been organised by the Trust and NW will be attending.
- Potential changes to IT

It was asked what would happen to the portals if there were any changes in IT

The contract for the portals and software runs for this year but during the summer term we will look at alternative software to replicate what those portals do.

It was asked what plans are being put in place to carry out assessments on the children

There is a plan being put together to carry out testing when the children have settled back into school.

Years 6 and 7 will take a past KS2 Sat paper in English and Maths under test conditions. Reading tests will also be carried out as it is one of the school's key priorities. There will also be teacher assessments carried out during the summer term in all foundation subjects.

It was asked what comparative data will be used to ascertain where pupils are in their learning and how will it help.

CW advised this will just give us an accurate picture of the children's attainment and evidence to support our judgements and help inform our plans for catch up. However, CW pointed out that the online provision had been very good and hoped the gap was not as extensive as national thoughts had implied.

Governors congratulated CW and the staff on the work that is being carried. They were also pleased to see the increased capacity being created in the leadership roles. It was also noted that the field trip was a great idea.

CW also advised that the Trust are looking to offer a one-week residential experience using the facilities at Brymore Academy for MBA pupils in years 6 and 7. It would be at a cost of approx. £70.00 per child however, some of the catch up funding could be used to partially or fully fund the visit for FSM pupils.

Governors felt this was an exciting opportunity for children and being offered at a great cost.

3.2 **Re-opening Plan**

This was covered in the Head Teacher report.

3.3 **Catch up Funding**

CW shared how the catch up funding will be used to support pupils, however it is an amended version and will need to be approved by TG.

- Rapid Read was being used to support pupils whose reading age was 2 years or more below their chronological age
- Booster sessions in writing for year 5 and Maths sessions for pupils not making expected progress.
- Collins Revision guides provided for KS2 pupils
- After school homework club for SEND and vulnerable pupils
- Purchase and use School Cloud software to provide online parents evenings
- Twinkl resources
- Residential week

Governors felt this was a very comprehensive plan. It was asked if the leadership team is fully supportive of the plans.

CW confirmed HW had collaborated with the leadership team on the proposed plans.

4 **MBA Statutory Reports**

4.1 Behaviour and Exclusions

- Generally, there has been an increase in FTE's nationally but not at MBA. No FTE's during lockdown.
- Two pupils have been excluded this term.
- Lesson exclusions (Sept – Dec) have decreased from 48 in 2019 to 33 in 2020. However comparative data for Jan – Mar shows a reduction from 68 in 2020 to 2 in 2021. Although it is difficult to benchmark in these conditions.
- Overall we have more complex pupils in school but poor behaviour and exclusions have fallen

partly in light of more supervision, due to Covid, which is something to take forward.

Governors noted it was difficult to make comparisons but drew attention to the 2019 year 6 cohort and asked if there was a pattern likely to follow each year. CW explained what plans have been put in place to support pupils with challenging needs. Governors were pleased with the arrangements that had been put in place and felt it was a credit to the school they had been able to turn some of these issues around.

It was asked whether data could be supplied by cohort to enable patterns to be seen more easily. CW confirmed it was possible to supply this data

Action – CW to arrange for cohort data to be supplied within the behaviour and exclusions reports

CW

4.2 Attendance

- Overall school attendance for this year is 92.61%, although this has decreased due to lockdown, compared to national this figure is good.
- 108 pupils attended school at some point during lockdown with approx. 70-80 on site each day.
- Breakdown of year groups and category was provided on pupils attending school.
- Attendance since reopening has been very good ranging from 93% in year 7 to nearly 99% for year 8.

4.3 Safeguarding

- Mark Westwood-Gould has undertaken DSL training to give us more capacity
- Weekly safeguarding meetings are taking place to review the current cases.
- Safeguarding policy has been updated and now on our website
- Two referrals have been made to the Parent Family Support Advisor
- Two online safety incidents
- Notification of domestic violence incidents have increased
- Approval and review dates of relevant policies and procedures have been completed
- During lockdown welfare calls were being made.
- Governors Safeguarding Audit completed in February 2021 – only action is for CW to update DSL training.

4.4 SEN

- Support from EW has been fantastic and EM is doing a great job.
- Trust Ed Psych will be visiting MBA to assess and support three SEND pupils
- Staff re-launch of SEN has taken place
- 5 pupils on role with EHCP's
- During lockdown pupils continued to receive interventions both in school and virtually.
- A new updated timetable of interventions has been introduced.
- Weekly meetings with the LSA's continue
- 3 EHCP application for pupils in year 7 are continuing to move forward.
- Very pleased with the amount of progress that has occurred in such a short time.

It was asked is it part of the role of the ED Psych to help secure EHCP's

Yes, it is

The Chair noted that EHCP's involve a huge amount of admin and can be a very lengthy process.

CW advised EW is assisting with this. Our long term aim is to make sure these pupils are at the right point in their education for their development. Due to the systems in place now at school we are able to get that evidence together for their EHCP's.

It was asked if a copy of staff SEND handbook could be made available to the Chair.

Action – CW to forward a copy of staff SEND handbook to the Chair

CW

5.0 **Date of next meeting – 24 June 2021**

The Chair wished to compliment CW on his professionalism during this very turbulent and difficult week. The information and detail supplied in these reports is very reassuring to the LGB.