

THE GOVERNING BODY OF FAIRFIELD SCHOOL

Minutes of the meeting of the Governing Body held virtually at 6.00pm on Tuesday 16 March 2021.

PRESENT

Ms M Farrar, Ms L Hall, Ms A Helie, Ms D Johns, Mr C Molyneux, Mr M Neild, Mr J Page, Miss K Press and Mr A Pruchniewicz.

In Attendance

Mrs J Aurangzeb (Minute Clerk)
Ms T Ilyas (Family Welfare Manager)
Miss L Roche (Associate Member)
Mr S Walsh (School Business Manager)

58. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, CONSENT AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Mr G Denison, Ms R Holmes, Mrs J Proctor and Ms L Watts (all with consent).

There were no declarations of interest.

59. NOTIFICATIONS OF ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT UP UNDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following item would be raised under any other business:

- Approval for authorisation to dismiss.

60. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 FEBRUARY 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2021 were distributed to Governors prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman subject to the following amendments:

Present: Add Mr C Molyneux.

Minute 47: Correct the question, "Why have you not explored some staff working at home remotely to reduce transmission rates?".

Minute 48: Correct the spelling of Manager.

Minute 48 – third paragraph: Correct the wording as "assumption that less would take place".

Minute 48 – Benchmarking: All the figures should be removed.

61. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

62. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:Resources Committee held on 16 March 2021

The Chair provided an overview of the Resources Committee meeting held prior to this meeting. The main items of business were the review of the Benchmarking Report and the Budget Report. There were discussions around funding. Period 11 was discussed and the Governors were informed that the deficit would reduce substantially by the end of the financial year. The new balanced in-year budget for 2021/22 would be available for all Governors at the next Governing Body meeting.

63. LEADERSHIP REPORT AND GOVERNORS' QUESTIONS

The Head Teacher had circulated his Leadership Report to all Governors in advance of the meeting. The following items were highlighted:

Covid 19 update

Kirklees was asked to clarify guidance for all staff and stakeholders to ensure correct risk assessment procedures were followed. The school had received home testing kits for all the staff. The plan was for all staff to carry out home testing twice a week and phase out on site testing. On site weekly testing would continue for pupils. Parents would be encouraged to carry out home testing for children. Most people were booked for their second vaccinations. Recommendation for staff was to carry out home testing over Easter and results were to be sent to school to allow the school to follow up with the correct risk assessments.

Since January there had been 2 positive cases, 1 pupil and 1 staff member and this resulted in a bubble closure. A bus driver was self-isolating resulting in those children travelling on the bus to also self-isolate. Three members of staff were on COVID related long term sick.

Catch-up Funding

School funding was being prioritised for supporting 'lost' opportunities in learning. Funds were allocated on a range of resources that included reading/library resources; new eye gaze set ups around the school; bicycles for outdoor exercise; Soundbeam 6; supplementing FSM vouchers for those shielding and sensory equipment to help support mental health and well-being.

School would continue to follow any changes that came from Government advice and would continue to review and update its risk assessments.

Q Has there been any feedback from parents on why they refuse to take lateral flow tests?

A: Parents have shown concern over the process of testing children and whether testing causes more trauma.

Recovery Action Plan

The school continued to focus on remote learning and to support families of children who were shielding. A survey had provided positive feedback from teachers. This information provided good evidence of the impact of strategies and practices and had linked well with the personalisation of each individual pupil.

More children were expected to return to school after Easter, although this was dependent on the relaxation of the shielding restrictions.

Teaching & Learning

Spring Monitoring had focused on the impact of personalisation and pupil progress. Virtual lesson observations had been conducted for all teachers and HLTAs. Feedback meetings with teachers and HLTAs provided an opportunity to discuss strengths and weaknesses and how the personalisation and remote learning were having an impact.

The focus was on the well-being of children and getting them settled and back in to a routine and helping them be happy and engaged.

Staffing

One staff member had resigned to take up a new job. Governors were asked for approval for two members of staff who had requested leave. One staff member had requested a 12 month sabbatical from September 2021 – August 2022. The other staff member had requested an unpaid extension to maternity leave until August 2021.

RESOLVED: That both leave requests be approved.

Safeguarding

Ms T Ilyas provided an overview of safeguarding. There were 123 children on roll. There was 1 child subject to a Public Law Order and the same child was on a Child Protection Plan. There were 3 LAC, 36 Children in Need Plan, 46 Families on a Short Break Plan and 2 families on a single assessment. There were 10 referrals made to Children with Disabilities, 1 to Duty & Advice and 4 reports submitted to Single Assessment. It was noted that currently there were no children absent from school who should be attending school.

The Safeguarding Audit had been sent out to all Governors for their approval.

RESOLVED: That the Safeguarding Audit be approved.

Ms M Farrar had visited the school to oversee safeguarding procedures. She had shared her report with the Governors. She was satisfied with all the procedures that were in place to keep the children safe and showed appreciation towards Ms Ilyas for all her hard work.

Spensorough Trust

The Head Teacher confirmed that a meeting was held last week with all the trustees to share experiences and to provide support. Mr S Walsh (SBM) had carried out the audit for the trust fund accounts. An INSET day for Trust Schools was confirmed as Friday 22nd October depending on the COVID situation.

CPD

An INSET day was scheduled for Monday 12th April to focus on the School Development Plan/CEOPS, online Safeguarding Training and Safer Handling Training. Safer Handling training was available to everyone. Head Teacher had requested the Governors to email him if they wished to take part in the training. First Aiders were being reviewed. Soundbeam 6 online training had taken place.

Mental health & Well-being

Spensborough Hub had funded the Mental Health First Aid Training and nine members of staff had completed the training. This had now been extended to all staff. A “Bring Your Whole Self to Work/School Day” event had been organised to support and promote student and staff well-being. Activities were to take place such as hokey-cokey, webinars, dance-a-thon and staff/pupil selfies to support mental health and well-being.

Q: How would you do the hokey-cokey socially distanced?

A: We are doing it on Teams and a link has been sent out to all classes so it will be held virtually and we will be able to see each other.

Careers

A successful virtual Careers Week had taken place. Students participated in various activities that included taster sessions, dragons den and videos from people of different occupations. These were done within class bubbles.

Policies

The Pupil Attendance Coronavirus Addendum Policy and Pupil Attendance 2021 Policy had been sent out to all Governors.

RESOLVED: That the Governors approve the following policies:

Pupil Attendance Coronavirus Addendum Policy
Pupil Attendance 2021 Policy

Health & Safety

Covid had been covered earlier in the report. A lockdown test and fire drill was planned before the Easter holidays. Mr S Walsh reported that a Health & safety report would be provided at the next Governors’ meeting that would highlight issues other than Covid related to avoid the danger of them being left out.

Q: Some mainstream schools are starting swimming lessons, what is happening with the hydro pool?

A: This had been re-considered in the Autumn term 2020, but not discussed this term. We will see what other schools are doing. The general consensus is to wait until social distancing ends. We need to consider the capacity of staff. There is no rush to use the pool.

Premises

Mr S Walsh confirmed that the break-out room would be completed this week. The sensory pod was planned to be completed by Easter. The railings installation in the playground was also planned for Easter. The work on the Meadow development was planned for the summer holidays. The carpet flooring was going to be replaced by wooden vinyl to allow easy access for wheelchairs and this was planned for the summer.

Events

Many upcoming events were planned which included a carnival, Autism Awareness Week and Deaf Awareness Week. Events that had taken place were Children's Mental Health Week, Sculpture Day, Italian Week, Chinese New Year, Careers Week and World Book day. All events were a success. The Governors were encouraged to see photos on the website and to follow Twitter to view pictures of projects. The Head Teacher informed the Governors that a phone call was received from the DfE asking permission to use a photo of a student that was tweeted by a member of staff with the hashtag "back to school" for them to use on their website. This was a nice acknowledgement from the DfE.

64. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

This item had been covered in Minute 62 above.

65. BENCHMARKING

This item had been covered in Minute 62 above.

66. SAFEGUARDING

This item had been covered in Minute 63 above.

67. POLICIES FOR REVIEW BY FULL GOVERNING BODY

RESOLVED: That the Governors approve the following policies:

Attendance Coronavirus Addendum Policy
Pupil Attendance Policy

68. HEALTH & SAFETY

This item had been covered in Minute 63 above.

69. SPENBOROUGH CO-OPERATIVE TRUST

This item had been covered in Minute 63 above.

70. ACADEMY DISCUSSION

The Chair had written to Angela Williams and it was suggested that a face to face meeting would be the best way forward to talk things through once restrictions had been lifted.

71. GOVERNOR TRAINING AND GOVERNOR SCHOOL VISITS

Ms M Farrar had visited the school regarding safeguarding. This had been covered in Minute 63.

The Head Teacher reminded the Governors to email him if they wished to take part in the Safer Handling Training.

72. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Approval for Authorisation to Dismiss

RESOLVED: That the Governors approve the Head Teacher's request for authorisation to dismiss.

73. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS

RESOLVED: That future meetings of the Governing body be held on the following dates:

Tuesday 11 May 2021
Tuesday 29 June 2021

74. AGENDA, MINUTES AND RELATED PAPERS – SCHOOL COPY

RESOLVED: That no part of the agenda, minutes or related papers be excluded from the copy to be made available at the school, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.