



## MEETING OF THE FULL GOVERNING BOARD ON JULY 12<sup>TH</sup> 2022 AT 8.30AM

*“We are a community with a lifelong passion for learning.”*

**Present:** Hilary Priest (HP), Head, Mike Waterson (MW), Ian Stewart (IS), Chair, Sam Wilkinson (SW), Samantha Gothard (SG).

**In attendance:** Debbie Horton (Clerk),

### Minutes

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; apologies for absence</b> Rob Hill, Joel Mcilven and Jenny Barker sent their apologies. They were sanctioned.
<b>2</b>	<b>Attendance &amp; declaration of Interest*</b> The governors signed the attendance form. There was no declaration of interest.
<b>3</b>	<b>Approval of minutes of last FGB meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022</b> They were approved as a correct record.
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Matters arising from minutes of last meetings including progress made on the actions raised*</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whistleblowing information to go onto safeguarding noticeboard- HP. Done</li> <li>A working party to be set up to draft a strategic plan – IS. See item 8</li> <li>Feedback to staff about governors’ response to the adviser’s latest report – IS. Done</li> <li>Staff survey to be circulated to the board – done. See discussion in Resources committee minutes.</li> <li>Follow-up on parent survey working party and parental engagement working party – IS. See item 10</li> <li>Learning walks and curriculum visits for this half-term - done</li> <li>Health and Safety visit report – IS. Yet to do</li> <li>Contact Babcock about past curriculum training presentations – IS. Done - waiting to hear back about previous curriculum training</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<b>Committee Reports</b> Please read minutes (in folder) of Teaching and Learning Committee 5.7.22 & Resources Committee 28.6.22. There were no questions.
<b>5</b>	<b>Budget</b> The Chair of Governors reported that the budget is fine, but tight. There are a number of staff changes for September. Some TAs are leaving so the budget is a bit unpredictable at the moment.  <b>Q: Is it difficult to recruit TAs?</b> <b>A: It is and it is a national issue. Unfortunately the problem is poor pay. The government doesn’t see the value of TAs so it probably won’t be solved at government level. However, we are interviewing and recruiting highly qualified people.</b>  <b>Q: Do agencies pay TAs more?</b> <b>A: No, but the school has to pay the agency, which is a big hit for the school budget. We value our TAs highly, and ours are very highly qualified. They are invaluable in doing the social and emotional work with children. There are higher levels of pay available to TAs, but not to all.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The governors approved the CFR report and the FRS monitor.</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<b>Head’s Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governors noted that it was good to see a return to activities and social events.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are more greater depth judgments than predicted.</li> <li>• The children have caught-up after Covid.</li> </ul> <p><b>Q: How often do peers from the Primary Partnership meet to share practice?</b>  <b>A: It's variable. The literacy team has met and are planning moderation of writing. The Business Managers meet, and the Early Years team. There is still some work to do in other areas and arrangements need to be formalised. External evidence of meetings is required.</b></p> <p><b>Q: The school is oversubscribed, is there more competition for places now?</b>  <b>A: Although a lot of places are requested, many don't get taken up for various reasons, such as house moves falling through, so there have been spaces available.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted that the school could change very quickly from being oversubscribed to undersubscribed, so an eye is being kept on numbers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Q: The SATS results were very good, with writing scoring lowest. What is being done to improve writing?</b>  <b>A: The new phonics approach is successful and will help. Fewer children are falling behind now. If some of the SEND children had a scribe, marks would rise. The system doesn't allow for some children to express their knowledge and ability. Overall we are pleased with the writing results and reading is more of a priority.</b></p> <p><b>Q: Is touch typing used in the school, dictation tools or noise cancelling headphones?</b>  <b>A: Touch typing can't be used in SATS. Quiet places are provided in school, and resources to help with scribing could be explored further.</b></p>
7	<p><b>SIP</b>  A new Autumn SIP was sent round to the board. The SIP had been discussed in depth at the Teaching and Learning Committee.</p>
8	<p><b>Governors' Strategic Plan 2022-23</b>  After discussion the governors agreed target areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEND and its full implementation.</li> <li>• Parental engagement, including the parents of SEND children – with governors and with the school.</li> <li>• Equality and how protected characteristics are respected in the school.</li> <li>• School visits – these have been very useful this term, the FGB is more informed as a result and staff have got to know governors better.</li> <li>• Curriculum - its full implementation and effects.</li> </ul> <p><b>Q: One governor wasn't sure how the parent voice could come in. It would be good to see what other schools do.</b>  <b>A: Alice McShane, who leads the advisory team at Babcock, is passionate about parental engagement, and she could be asked to come to talk to the FGB at one of its meetings.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: To agree wording of strategic plan targets at September FGB meeting.</b>  <b>ACTION: To ask AM to FGB meeting to speak on parental engagement.</b></p>
9	<p><b>Governor visits</b>  There have been 6 visits - Phonics, Expressive Arts, Computing, Maths, School Dinners, Health and Safety. Visit reports are in the GovernorHub governor visits folder.  A SEND visit is taking place today.</p>
10	<p><b>Safeguarding*</b>  The latest safeguarding data collection report is in the meeting folder. The next governor safeguarding meeting in school is on July 14<sup>th</sup>.</p>
11	<p><b>Parental engagement</b>  The next step will be to contact Alice McShane (see above at 8).</p> <p>The governors discussed parental involvement further. There were themes which could be worked on, such as better communication of what governors do. Another was the setting up of procedures around SEND so that clear lines of communication would be in place for parents of SEND children.  <b>SG left at 9.30am</b></p>
12	<p><b>Policies*</b></p>

	None for this meeting. Policies will be delegated to committees where possible, and the cycle will be amended so that the 7 policies which need to be agreed by the FGB are brought to one meeting.
<b>13</b>	<b>Governor training</b> MW had completed an online safeguarding training. The handout is in GovernorHub. The main theme was that schools should have a coherent strategy which is known to all staff, which The Grove does have in place. He noted that the trickle feed, sent by email to both governors and staff, is useful.
<b>14</b>	<b>Clerk's report</b> The draft meetings timetable for 2022-23 was agreed. Timing of meetings will be kept under review, to ensure that it suits as many governors as possible.  The governors discussed the co-opted governor vacancy and agreed that ideally it should be filled by someone from the community, and not a parent, as the majority of existing governors are parents. The exception would be if the parent brought a skill that was needed to the board. SW said that it was good for staff to have experience of being a governor. The clerk reminded the board that a member of staff could apply for the co-opted position (NB: so long as the number of school employees on the board doesn't exceed one third, including the Head.)
<b>15</b>	<b>End of year reflection</b> Governors felt that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They were more in touch with the school</li> <li>• They felt more positive than this time last year</li> <li>• They knew a lot more now as the information they receive is more detailed</li> <li>• Middle leaders have helped governors to understand what is going on in the classroom</li> <li>• They feel more secure in what they do as governors</li> <li>• They feel re-energised, more effective, and more united</li> <li>• There have been good conversations in governor meetings over the year</li> <li>• The board is very functional</li> <li>• There is always a lot more to know</li> </ul>
<b>16</b>	<b>Correspondence</b> None
<b>17</b>	<b>Items brought forward by the Chair</b> None
<b>18</b>	<b>Date &amp; time of next meeting</b> FGB meeting Tuesday September 20 <sup>th</sup> at 8.30am

The meeting ended at 9.50am

- \* = standing items

#### Summary of Actions

	To do	By whom	By when
<b>8</b>	<b>To agree wording of strategic plan targets at September FGB meeting.</b>	Led by CoG	September FGB meeting
<b>8</b>	<b>To ask Alice McShane to FGB meeting to speak on parental engagement.</b>	Head	For Autumn term