

Beaminster School
Minutes of the Full Governing Body meeting held on
Wednesday 13th March 2024, 9.15am

Governors (14):	R Amswych (RA), D Baldwin (DB), N Chalkley (NC), D Ennals (DE), P Fleming (PF), K Hales (KH) Headteacher , H Harding (HH), A Monks (AM), G Montague (GM), S A Palmer (SAP) Vice-Chair , K Patten (KP), P Richardson (PR), M Sims (SM), R Tanner (RT).
In Attendance:	R Barnes (RB) Associate member , S Dinsmore (SD) SENCo from 9.15 – 10.00am only , T Harley (TJH) Clerk , A Longman (AL) Prospective new governor , D Withers (DW) Associate member .

Item	Detail	Actions
61.1.	Welcome & Apologies: Apologies: T Harris (TH), B Millwood (BM) Chair , C Shead-Jones (CSJ), all accepted. Absent: None. The meeting was quorate.	
61.2.	Declaration of Beneficial Interest: None.	
61.6.	SEND - SENCo's annual report: SD introduced herself and took governors through a PowerPoint presentation (attached) and tabled an 'At a glance' report (attached) NOTING: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of students with EHC Plans and those with SEN Support at Beaminster was slightly higher than National. • Attendance was slightly lower than national for EHCP, but higher for SEN and equal to national for all students, although due to the small numbers, individuals can change the figures significantly. This year several EHCP students are not in school and alternative provision is being provided, which does affect the figures. • GQ: Has there been any significant difference in the numbers over the years? Nothing significant to share but we are getting more SEN students, which is a national picture. SD agreed to forward statistical data to governors for further review. • There were currently 9 EHCP students in Y7, but it did not look like an increasing pattern, with 6 new students expected in September 2024, although more students were often identified once they started at Beaminster. • Areas of need have remained unchanged over the past several years, and the SEN department had moved towards a model employing more specialist teachers and less TA's. Some students were requiring alternative curriculums and a nurturing provision to support students still at KS1/2 level has been provided. This was working very well and the students were happy and thriving. It was hoped to develop the provision across the years but the department was very dependant on LA support to fund year on year. Funding had been received for 1:1 support for one Y8 student. • TA's – 1 supervisory, 1 wellbeing, 6 LA funded for specific student needs, 1 on maternity leave and 3 permanent classroom TA's for Science, Technology and English. • Students were supported through the Learning Hub, with TA support in the classroom, through interventions, ELSA, Clubs, work related options and external agencies. • ELSA was a priority area as there was currently only one qualified practitioner who could only offer 4 lessons per fortnight. This was not enough, and the level of need continued to rise. • GQ: What support are you receiving from external agencies? The Prout Bridge Project was used for emotional and 1:1 work for students who would be seen by our ELSA, if we had capacity. We have the voluntary services of a counsellor who sees 4 students per week and another 	Forward statistical data to GB

	<p>student counsellor hoping to also work with us. The NHS Social Prescribing service now works with young people connecting them to services in the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consulting with parents and students through regular meetings, pupil passports and learning plans, surveys and newsletters and training and information sessions. All EHCP students must have an annual review meeting and with 34, this equated to 1 per week. This has increased significantly and they require much planning and time. • Challenges included the dramatic increase in EHCP and SEN students, delivering appropriate curriculums, staffing, TA funding and planning long term support, meeting all needs through QFT, parental expectations, the continued increase in emotional and mental health needs, reduction in LA support, limited access to assistive technology and increased transition issues. • LA funding has been won to trial a Transition TA project for 1 year to support transition from primary. If this worked well the schools would look to collaboratively fund the post. • Looking forward SD would be working with the DoLA's to ensure curriculum access for SEN students, continue development of the Hub and Wellbeing provisions and campaign for more staff. • GQ: With the reduced TA support in the classroom, there was less consistency and teachers were unable to plan support. It was no longer possible to support more department TA's and there was a balance between supporting students, deployment of TA's and specialist teaching. SD was happy to supply timetables for subject teachers, so they were able to plan around TA support but during exam time (including mocks) all TA's were used to support students in their exams and were unable to support classes during this time. Budgets had been moved to provide more specialist teacher support outside of the classroom meaning less TA support should be required, though SD agreed to consider the Maths departments needs when looking at resources again for next year's plans. • A governor advised making an application to Beaminster Charities for the assistive IT equipment, as they had made similar donations to other local schools. SD confirmed she would look at this. • GQ: Looking at the Schools Aims, do more able students support less able ones? DW explained that in previous years Y10 students had Peer coached Y7, a model used for 15+ years. The DoLA's were trialling a different approach this year and DW hoped peer coaching would be back on track next year. • GQ: Did it work? Yes, all students engaged and even at its least functional it provided reassurance to students and parents but it did need more management and there was potential for younger students supporting Y7's. Currently several Y9 students were supporting a Y7 reading intervention. SD concluded that Y7 buddying was something that could be looked at with the Transition TA. <i>SD left the meeting at 10.00am.</i> 	
61.3.	<p>New Governor approval and confirmation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-opted Governor nomination; Philippa Richardson. <i>PR left the meeting at 10.02am. With a show of hands the governors unanimously approved PR as a Co-opted governor with a 4-year term. PR returned to the meeting at 10.04am</i> • Foundation Governor vacancy; TJH confirmed David Ennals application had been approved by the SDBE with a 4-year term. • Introductions were made by all, including AL, prospective new Co-opted governor. 	New governor appointment – update files and commence inductions

61.4.	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 31st January 2024 (non-confidential minutes, previously circulated):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The governors APPROVED the non-confidential minutes, as a true and accurate record and agreed for them to be published on the school website. They were signed by SAP. 	TJH /NC – publish non-confidential minutes
61.5.	<p>Matters arising and action list update from the minutes: The governors reviewed the minutes and actions NOTING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60.4; governors were reminded to arrange link meetings for the Spring term. 60.4; R Howells had been invited and would be attending the next FGB meeting. 60.6; the full-time equivalence data would be available for review at the next meeting. All other actions were either completed, in hand or on the agenda and there were no other matters arising. 	Update action list
61.7.	<p>Headteachers Report: (SIP 24-27 early draft, previously circulated): KH introduced the reports NOTING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Y11 trial exams were under way and the School Reports would be out before Easter. Exams were starting earlier this year on 9th May making for a busy truncated season straight after Easter. Y11 students usually had a last day before the exams started but was not been possible this year and a date in June was being organised for a formal farewell. The national offer day confirmed 118 new Y7 students for 2024, with 9 yet unconfirmed. Demographics suggested we would be lower and these numbers were better than expected. Mid-year admissions had been high with 7 Y9's starting now and 7 further Y7/Y9 students in the pipeline. GQ: Were these students from other local schools or families moving into the area and how are they funded? A mixture of both. Funding is received on the census figures in September each year and the government figures state in-year movement generally cancelled itself out over a 5 year period. A Good Ofsted was always helpful, as was our good reputation. There were many trips and visits going on with Stop the Clock day, sporting events, college open days and speakers visiting, to ensure students had a breadth of experiences beyond West Dorset. Thanks were given to the staff for providing these opportunities. The budget setting for the 2024 25 year was looking good, with a robust surplus being carried forward, although from 25-26 onwards income and expenditure was unknown. The second Maths teacher advert had only produced one candidate and the difficult decision not to appoint was made. There was a national shortage for Maths and Computer Science teachers and a rethink for September was needed. <p>Draft 2024 -27 SIP: KH took governors through the draft paper NOTING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current SIP included everything the school was doing to drive improvement to evidence for Ofsted and the SLT were now looking to pare it back to four key areas working in conjunction with the School Vision document currently being worked on. The new key areas included A. Ambitious and well-planned teaching, learning, curriculum and assessment, B. Behaviour and Attitudes (School Culture?), C. Personal Development (School Culture?), D. Staff wellbeing and their continuing professional development. 	All gobs - share

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governors had no further comments or questions for the resources committee. 	
61.11.	<p>Chairs Report (report, previously circulated):</p> <p>SAP introduced BM's report NOTING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new Governance guidance had been released by the government, which all governors should have a copy of for reference https://www.gov.uk/guidance/governance-in-maintained-schools There was much to celebrate, the school production of Treasure Island had been a huge success, as had the Year 8 Youth speaks competing in the district finals and our Year 10/11 Basketball team becoming the area champions. 	All gobs – read newly published Governance guidance
61.12.	<p>Governance Committee (GB Standing Orders and Code of conduct, previously circulated):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No meeting held since the last FGB meeting; accepted. TJH confirmed the new governor inductions were in hand. <p>GB Standing Orders and Code of Conduct for review and approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAP encouraged governors to read the documents, stating they were a good reminder of what being a governor was about. With a show of hands the governors unanimously confirmed they had reviewed the policies and approved them on a 3-year review cycle. 	Update policy file
61.13.	<p>Clerk's Report (previously circulated):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted, with no further comments. 	
61.14.	<p>Link Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None circulated since the last meeting. Governors were encouraged to arrange meetings this term. 	
61.15.	<p>Any other business:</p> <p>SAP asked governors if they had any other business to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DE told governors he had attended the recent Y9 Options evening, which he had found very positive, and he had been impressed with the staff commitment and classroom displays. 	
61.16.	<p>2023/24 Meetings,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next meeting dates NOTED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources 15th April, 3.45pm Governance 22nd April, 5.30pm FGB 1st May 2024, 9.15am Standards 22nd May 2024, 5.00pm 	
	With no further business the meeting ended at 10.50am	

Chair.....Dated.....

Item	Action	Owner	By when /report
61.3	New governor appointments – update files and start inductions.	TJH	Completed
61.4	Publish minutes.	TJH/NC	Completed
61.5	Review ft.eq data on staffing structure	KH	1/5/24
61.6	Forward statistical data to GB - requested	SD	Asap
61.7	Share feedback on new SIP with KH Form KR WG once data ready for analysis	ALL GOVS BM	Asap After survey
61.8	Update policy file & publish Safeguarding policy	TJH	Completed
61.11	Read newly published Governance guidance report	ALL GOVS	Asap
61.12	Update policy file & publish GB Standing orders and Code of conduct	TJH	Completed
61.14	Arrange link meetings with departments	ALL GOVS	Asap