

. Beaminster School
Minutes of the Full Governing Body meeting held on
Wednesday 12th March 2025, 9.15am

Governors (11):	N Chalkley (NC), D Ennals (DE), P Fleming (PF), K Hales (KH) Headteacher , H Harding (HH), B Millwood (BM) Chair , S A Palmer (SAP), K Patten (KP), P Tanner (PT) <i>from 9.15-10.55am only</i> , R Tanner (RT) Vice-Chair <i>from 9.15-10.55am only</i> , A Taylor (AT) <i>from 9.15-11.15am only</i> .
In Attendance:	R Barnes (RB) Associate member , T Harley (TH) Clerk , D Withers (DW) Associate member , J See (JS) DOLA KS4 <i>from 10.30-10.50am only</i> , K Poole (KPo) Finance Manager <i>from 10.50-11.15am only</i> , S Dinsmore (SD) SENCo <i>from 9.50-10.32am only</i> .

Item	Detail	Actions
67.1.	Welcome & Apologies: Apologies: C Shead-Jones (CSJ), G Montague (GM), all accepted. Absent: D Baldwin (DB), A Monks (AM). Matthew Sims resigned as a Co-opted school governor on 11 th March 2025. The meeting was quorate.	
67.2.	Declaration of Beneficial Interest: None declared.	
67.3.	Minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2025 (non-confidential and confidential part 2 minutes, previously circulated): <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 BM. The governors APPROVED the confidential part 2 minutes, as a true and accurate record and they were signed by BM. 	TJH /NC – publish non-confidential minutes
67.4.	Matters arising and action list update from the minutes: The governors reviewed the minutes and actions NOTING: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 66.4 The meeting with Initio had been confirmed for 5pm on 30th April, 2025. All governors were encouraged to attend, and a reminder would be sent prior to the meeting. 66.4 Transgender guidance; school guidance included in papers. 66.12 Link meeting agendas; action outstanding. 65.9 Risk register – the Resources TOR had been updated, and the Risk Register was currently being drafted. All other actions were either complete, in hand or on the agenda and there were no other matters arising. 	Update action plan
67.5.	Headteachers Report: KH updated governors NOTING: AHT interviews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There had been a lot of applications, and five candidates had been invited to attend the day 1 interviews. They would meet all key staff, have meetings on safeguarding, PD curriculum, behaviour & attitudes and pastoral support, give a lesson on PSE to Y8 students and be interviewed by a student panel. It was hoped to take 3 candidates through to Day 2, where more formal interviews, with governor involvement, would take place, along with data and school improvement tasks. GQ: Who went through the applications and decided on the choices made? The SLT, using the person specification and job role published. It had taken time to reduce the numbers to 10, and then down to the 5 looking for experience in safeguarding, PD curriculum and pastoral care. Four were local, with one from Kent, three men and two women with a good age range and covering a helpful spectrum of subjects. GQ: Will you be taking staff feedback? Yes, 10+ members were involved in the interviews, including governors, and there would be time for them to meet staff informally during the process. 	

	<p>DW updated governors NOTING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparations to ensure a smooth hand-over to the new incumbent were underway with actions from the audit, formal risk assessments and the monitoring and filtering audit being completed. • A new DC Low Concern policy was being implemented but all items were already being picked up through My Concern. • A new sign-in system was being investigated for reception to ensure better efficiency and photo id badges for governors was being considered. • GQ: Was there anything major on the horizon for the new DSL? No, the next audit was due in November 2025 and our Deputy DSL was very knowledgeable. • GQ: Why is the reception area in the centre rather than at the main entrance of the school? There was an aspirational long-term plan to move the reception but following a DC survey it was noted too expensive to re-configure. There were multiple entrances to the school and the blue dots system to guide visitors to the reception area was deemed effective for safeguarding. 	
67.7.	<p>SEND annual report (SENCo annual report ppt., previously circulated): <i>SD entered the meeting at 9.50am</i></p> <p>SD introduced her report NOTING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 163 students on the SEND register, 29 more than last year. 35 had EHCP's (25 boys, 10 girls). • The latest news from Ofsted was that SEND was a bigger issue than Safeguarding with high costs but poor outcomes. 1.6million children had SEND needs in 23/24; 101,000 more than in 22/23. • Beaminster was an inclusive school and doing the best it could despite the main challenges of underfunding, high costs and lack of local and central government support. The government was due to produce a white paper on higher needs funding and SEND support. • GQ: We have a higher than national average of SEND students, why is this and does it discourage more able students, who then look elsewhere? We have a good reputation, a high number of disadvantaged students and identify well. Since Covid, Disadvantaged and SEND students have suffered most and need more support. We are oversubscribed, unlike other local schools, and our reputation for a caring environment, with happy students and good outcomes is attracting a good range of students. • There are changes happening in education and parents are aware of the challenges their children face. If you meet the needs of the SEND student, you are looking after the whole child and meeting the needs of all students. • Funding to extend the Transition TA project had not been confirmed and therefore was not able to support the primary schools as much as was hoped. • Funding for a counsellor had been secured for one year and a DC mental health team was being set up to further support our ELSA's and students with SEMH needs; a huge link had been made between autism and mental health needs. • The wellbeing hub was proving a great resource; numbers of emotional based school refusal were very small, but other schools were also struggling. • GQ: Was there good engagement from parents and how many young carers do we have? Engagement had its challenges, especially around parent expectations but dialogue was central and attendance at the coffee morning was okay. There were approximately 15 young carers, 	

	<p>but it was difficult to get information and to identify. Numbers were expected to rise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking forward – it was hoped the new SRP for communication and interaction needs would be confirmed by the LA, with agreement on refurbishment, staffing and student numbers. • The school was very positive this would provide the right curriculum, specialist teaching and funding for the identified students, as agreed by DC, as eligible for transfer. • GQ: How many places had DC agreed? DC was looking at a 15-student model across Beaminster, SJC and Woodroffe with 10 at BS, but we were asking for 12 places. There were still some questions to be answered but we were ready and keen to move forwards. • GQ: Was there a plan to re-introduce a department TA in Maths? Prior to Covid there were departmental TA's but we have not had the resources since and TA's were deployed by student need. Instead, a new initiative has been started in Maths where a small group of students were being taught separately in Y7 & 8 to support their learning. <p><i>With no further questions SD left the meeting at 10.32am.</i></p>	
67.8.	<p>Standards Committee: <i>(No meeting held since the last FGB meeting):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next meeting was set for 19th March, but due to timing issues and other commitments, RT explained that the meeting may be held on-line or cancelled. Committee members would be informed as soon as possible. 	Confirm next meeting plans
67.9.	<p>Resources Committee (draft minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2025, completed SFVS 2025, and draft 5-yr Budget plan papers, previously circulated):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AT introduced the minutes, for information, and highlighted the updated carried forward figure, putting the school in a better financial position at year end. • High Needs funding, and support for SEND students remained an issue with less being received in exceptional packages than requested and confirmation from DC on an Inclusion Hub not yet being received, which would give security for staff, students and budgeting. • A decision on extending the PAN was pending. There were currently 11 students on the waiting list for Y7 2025, with financial viability being considered. <p><i>Draft Budget Plan: KPo entered the meeting at 10.50am, RT and PT left the meeting at 10.55am</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KPo introduced the draft budget plan explaining that it did not include the new SRP, nor an increased PAN, but following the spending review guidance on inflation, figures were more realistic for the full 5 years. • The ICFP key indicators for improvement to make the budget sustainable was pupil teacher ratio and pupil contact ratio. • Changes to exceptional funding packages for SEN students reduced income by £68,000 in the first year and KPo asked governors to consider setting a deficit budget to demonstrate the impact of this. • Improvements would also be sought in other areas including dual registration and invigilator costs. • Pupil numbers were strong and income on the joint sixth form had not yet been included. • The funding workbook now included a governor budget approval page with a checklist of questions, similar to the SFVS, to be completed prior to budget approval. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The deadline for approval was 1st May and governors agreed to further review and ready the budget plan at the next Resources meeting, for final recommendation and approval at the next FGB meeting. <p>SFVS for review and approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AT asked governors if they were content with the answers and comments in the draft circulated for recommendation and approval. Governors discussed question 6, 7, 9 and 13 and asked that question 6 be changed to yes, with the comments being more explicit about flexibility. With that one change the governors, with a show of hands, unanimously approved the completed SFVS for submission to the LA. The clerk to submit updated form to DC. <p><i>KPo and AT left the meeting at 11.15am.</i></p>	<p>Review budget plan at Resources for FGB recommendation</p> <p>SFVS approved for submission to DC</p>
67.10.	<p>Chairs Report (previously circulated):</p> <p>BM introduced her report uploaded onto the SharePoint NOTING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A link to dates for the strategy WG, the Options evening and other school events open to governors was highlighted and governors were encouraged to attend. 	
67.11.	<p>Governance Committee (draft minutes of the meeting held on 10th February 2025, previously circulated):</p> <p>BM updated governors NOTING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes were circulated for information and accepted with no further comments. The Guide to Governors and Induction process review was ongoing and it was hoped they would be in place by September 2025. 	
67.12.	<p>Link Scheme:</p> <p>BM spoke to governors NOTING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No agenda questions had been formulated following the review of the Kirkland Rowell surveys and through discussion it was agreed for link governors to have a focus on the Y10 reports, as circulated. BM would ask JS to produce redacted reports for governors to refer to. The governors agreed it would be helpful to have themes each term and to formalise link agendas. KH agreed to share the Departmental meetings draft agenda to allow follow up questions from governors. 	<p>Ask for redacted Y10 reports to aid governor link meetings</p> <p>Agree link meeting agenda themes</p> <p>Share Dept. meeting agendas</p>
67.13.	<p>Clerk's Report (Clerks Report, previously circulated):</p> <p>TJH introduced the report for information NOTING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor vacancies; HH had decided not to re-apply for the staff governor post and an election was currently open to all staff, with a closing date of 14th March. If more than one staff member applied there was scope for one more staff member to join the board as a Co-opted governor. With MS resignation there were now 2 co-opted governor vacancies and 1 authority governor vacancy. DB had yet to confirm his position with TH. SAP and KP terms of office as Co-opted Governors ended in April and they were eligible to re-apply. 	
67.14.	<p>Any other business: BM asked governors if they had any other business to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None raised. 	
67.15.	<p>2024/25 Meetings,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next meeting dates NOTED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources 31st March, 3.45pm FGB 30th April 6.30pm Standards 14th May, 5.30pm 	

	With no further business the meeting ended at 11.25am.	
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Chair.....Dated.....

Item	Action	Owner	By when /report
67.3	Publish minutes.	TJH/NC	Completed
66.4	Attend meeting with Initio for 30 th April, 5pm	ALL	30/4/25
67.5	Attend Strategy WG meeting Contact JS, KS4 DOLA to attend learning walks	All Govs All	18/3/24 Asap
67.8	Confirm next standard meeting	RT	Asap
67.9	Review Budget Plan for approval recommendation at FGB Submit approved SFVS to DC	Resources TH	31/3/25 31/3/25
67.12	Ask JS for redacted Y10 reports to pass onto link governors Agree and formalise link meeting agenda themes Share Dept. meeting agendas with link governors	BM BM/KH KH	Asap