. Beaminster School

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

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

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 5 th February 2025 (non-confidential and	TJH /NC -
	confidential part 2 minutes, previously circulated):	publish non-
	 The governors APPROVED the non-confidential minutes, as a true and 	confidential
	accurate record and agreed for them to be published on the school	minutes
	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.	
67.4.	Matters arising and action list update from the minutes:	
	The governors reviewed the minutes and actions NOTING :	Update action
	 66.4 The meeting with Initio had been confirmed for 5pm on 30th April, 	plan
	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.	
67.5.	Headteachers Report: KH updated governors NOTING:	
	AHT interviews	
	 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	
	involved in the interviews, including governors, and there would be	
	time for them to meet staff informally during the process.	

Strategy Update led by AT:

- Good progress was being made following the staff exercise and review of the KR surveys.
- The previous WG meeting had been used to reiterate and refine what we have been done so far, and all governors were welcomed to attend the WG meeting next week with discussions on where the core and operational elements sat, how this would function and how it would all be clearly communicated to the whole school community.

A session with the School Council to receive student feedback was set for May and it was expected the key themes would be ready to share with staff at the PD Day in July, for final feedback and a launch of the strategy from September 2025, reviewed throughout the year to ensure it was right for the school.

KS4 DOLA update led by JS (*JS entered in the meeting at 10.30am*):

- JS tabled a Y11 Student Trail Exams booklet, a Y10 Report booklet and attendance data for governors to review.
- The Trial Exam booklets were given to all students to help them prepare for their GCSE's and raise expectations; attitudes and focus had much improved since their introduction. Y10's first set of trial exams were coming up and the booklets would be shared with students and parents to support revision and to raise the profile of exams.
- GQ: have you noticed an improvement in student mental health since the introduction? Yes some, although there are still a small number of students who suffer from exam anxiety.
- GQ: Are you collecting data on student self-reviews? Students are given a fuller self-review sheet after the exams, and these are compared with previous reviews completed. 'How to revise' is being built into the tutor programme and students do realise that prioritising time and distractions, especially social media, are the main issues.
- GQ: Can we not introduce a phone free week or similar? We have a no phone policy whilst in school, but this would go beyond our remit and could have safeguarding implications outside of school.
- GQ: Can you measure parental engagement? Parents have not been surveyed but we have noticed changing attitudes and support for students to attend.
- The Y10 report booklet, put together with the help of the Data Officer, was shared with all staff to help identify students who needed extra support and helped make everything more visible to all.
- GQ: Was there an action plan raised from the reports? Yes, students were highlighted and reviewed and staff held to account.

Attendance data

- We were slightly above national. Y11 was very good but a small number of girls were struggling in Y10 which had lowered those figures and JS had three meetings today to discuss attendance with those students and their parents.
- Attendance actions had dropped slightly when the Admin team had been short staffed but this was now back up a running and on target.
- The DC attendance guidance and support was working well, with issues rarely raising to DC intervention level. Children missing from education triggered a different higher-level support after 15 days absence. The definition for persistent absence was below 90% attendance.
- Learning walks and making sure every lesson was as good as it could be for all students was the next focus with a push on T&L.
- JS invited governors to join him on a learning walk. (contact JS to arrange jsee@beaminster.sch.uk) JS left the meeting at 10.50am.

Attend KS4 learning walks

Attend Strategy

WG meeting

67.6. **Safeguarding Update** DW updated governors **NOTING**:

- 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. **SEND annual report** (SENCo annual report ppt., previously circulated): *SD* entered the meeting at 9.50am

SD introduced her report **NOTING**:

- There were 163 students on the SEND resister, 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,

but it was difficult to get information and to identify. Numbers were expected to rise. 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. With no further questions SD left the meeting at 10.32am. 67.8. **Standards Committee:** (No meeting held since the last FGB meeting): The next meeting was set for 19th March, but due to timing issues and Confirm next other commitments, RT explained that the meeting may be held on-line meeting plans or cancelled. Committee members would be informed as soon as possible. 67.9. Resources Committee (draft minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2025, completed SFVS 2025, and draft 5-yr Budget plan papers, previously circulated): 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. Draft Budget Plan: KPo entered the meeting at 10.50am, RT and PT left the meeting at 10.55am 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.

	 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. SFVS for review and approval: 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. KPO and AT left the meeting at 11.15am. 	Review budget plan at Resources for FGB recommendation SFVS approved for submission to DC
67.10.	Chairs Report (previously circulated):	
	BM introduced her report uploaded onto the SharePoint NOTING :	
	 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.	Governance Committee (draft minutes of the meeting held on 10 th February	
	2025, previously circulated):	
	BM updated governors NOTING :	
	 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.	Link Scheme:	Ask for redacted
	BM spoke to governors NOTING :	Y10 reports to
	 No agenda questions had been formulated following the review of the 	aid governor link
	Kirkland Rowell surveys and through discussion it was agreed for link	meetings
	governors to have a focus on the Y10 reports, as circulated. BM would	
	ask JS to produce redacted reports for governors to refer to.	Agree link
	 The governors agreed it would be helpful to have themes each term 	meeting agenda
	and to formalise link agendas.	themes
	KH agreed to share the Departmental meetings draft agenda to allow	Share Dept.
	follow up questions from governors.	meeting agendas
67.13.	Clerk's Report (Clerks Report, previously circulated):	
	TJH introduced the report for information NOTING :	
	 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 14 th 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.	Any other business: BM asked governors if they had any other business to	
	discuss:	
	None raised.	
67.15.	2024/25 Meetings,	
	Next meeting dates NOTED: Page 2245 March 2, 45 are	
	Resources 31 st March, 3.45pm TOR 20th A . If G 20 years.	
	FGB 30 th April 6.30pm Steen deads 1.4 th May 5.30pm	
	 Standards 14th May, 5.30pm 	

	With no further business the meeting ended at 11.25am.	
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	All Govs	18/3/24
	Contact JS, KS4 DOLA to attend learning walks	All	Asap
67.8	Confirm next standard meeting	RT	Asap
67.9	Review Budget Plan for approval recommendation at FGB	Resources	31/3/25
	Submit approved SFVS to DC	TH	31/3/25
67.12	Ask JS for redacted Y10 reports to pass onto link governors	BM	Asap
	Agree and formalise link meeting agenda themes	вм/кн	
	Share Dept. meeting agendas with link governors	KH	