Beaminster School

Minutes of the Full Governing Body meeting held on Wednesday 25th September 2024, 6.30pm

Governors	N Chalkley (NC), D Ennals (DE), P Fleming (PF), K Hales (KH) Headteacher, T Harris (TH), B	
(14):	Millwood (BM) Chair, A Monks (AM), G Montague (GM), S A Palmer (SAP), K Patten (KP), P	
	Richardson (PR), C Shead-Jones (CSJ), R Tanner (RT) Vice-Chair, A Taylor (AT).	
In	T Harley (TJH) Clerk, D Withers (DW) Associate member.	
Attendance:		

Item	Detail	Actions
64.1.	Welcome & Apologies:	
	Apologies: D Baldwin (DB), H Harding (HH), M Sims (SM), R Barnes (RB)	
	Associate member, all accepted.	
	Absent: None.	
	The meeting was quorate.	
64.2.	Declaration of Beneficial Interest: None declared.	
64.3.	Minutes of the meeting held on 3 rd July 2024 (non-confidential minutes,	TJH /NC – publish
	previously circulated):	non-confidential
	The governors APPROVED the non-confidential minutes, as a true and	minutes
	accurate record and agreed for them to be published on the school	
	website. They were signed by BM.	
64.4.	Matters arising and action list update from the minutes:	
	The governors reviewed the minutes and actions NOTING :	
	 Initio MAT; a small number of questions had been raised since the 	
	meeting and KH suggested, as a good follow up, a small group of	
	governors meet with the SJC strategy group, which KH had joined, to	
	ask about the transition and other specific questions.	
	GQ: Have there been any known impacts on BS with the joint sixth	
	form? KH answered that it was too early to say and that it would be a	
	good question to ask.	
	GQ: Are we interested in talking to them, do we want to pursue	
	joining them? As a board it had been agreed to keep a watching brief,	
	be informed and keep close to the baseline for joining an academy but	
	not to go forwards unless it was right. Joining Initio was not on the	
	agenda at this time.	MAT WG; draw
	BM, TH, CSJ and PR agreed to join the MAT strategy WG with KH.	up questions &
	Questions would be drawn up and shared with the FGB before the	meet with Initio
	meeting.	
	ClassCharts; KH shared a presentation of the ClassCharts software	
	which staffed used in conjunction with SIMS for classroom	
	management with seating plans, behaviour management reward	
	points, safeguarding and SEN information, attendance register and	
	homework setting. Information was sharable with students and	
	parents and the analytical data was very useful.	
	GQ: Did staff engage well and find it useful? KP confirmed it was very	
	useful, gave good snapshots of tutor groups/students, was good for	
	setting homework and sending information to parents and was much	
	easier to use than SIMS. The only criticism was the time it took to	
	input data and find analytical data.	
	Student Services; DW introduced and took governors through the ppt.	
	(previously circulated) explaining the expectations, monitoring,	
	interventions and thresholds for using the 6 week programme and the	
	next level interventions when students do not make progress.	

- **GQ:** How many students on average are under BSS at any one time? Approx.. 5-6 in each year group. It is not necessarily a negative move for students but a way to access more support when barriers to learning cannot be overcome.
- All actions were either complete, in hand or on the agenda and there were no other matters arising.
- 64.5. **Headteachers Report:** (Confidential Dorset exam data, FFT data and SIP summary, previously circulated): KH introduced the reports **NOTING:**
 - **Dorset Data;** The 36% 5+ English & Maths was still an area to watch but overall the results were satisfactory, but had been hit hard by the 9-10 students (2 left before exams, 2 with significant medical issues, 5 at learning centres) who had not taken a full set of exams.
 - GQ: Why do we have such a low KS2 score? It is just our demographics and probably our good reputation for SEN and inclusion. KS2 Maths has been low in Dorset for a number of years, our attainment was solid, but progress at 5+ is still a focus.
 - GQ: Ferndown had a similar KS2 score but better attainment, do you
 try to learn from schools that do better? Ferndown are an urban
 school. KH had worked closely with their HT with good support on
 raising achievement for boys and the SLT met regularly with other
 schools, including 3 visits to outstanding schools this year.
 - It was noted that MAT schools in Weymouth had not done so well (though challenging circumstances), Initio had performed similarly to us and only 5 schools remained maintained.
 - **Early FFT data;** Early indications for P8 was +0.06, but if the 9 students are included this will reduce to -0.10.
 - GQ: RS is low on the FFT report but not highlighted as an area of concern? All students are entered for RS and only have 3 hours a fortnight rather than 5. There is a commitment to teach the subject, and it is felt entering students for the exam boosts its value and through detailed analysis 20% of pupils benefited by getting all 8 subjects for P8 with RS. It was understood that RS was not high on students list for revision and there was a lot of content to cover but the KS3 curriculum was currently being reviewed to hopefully improve commitment.
 - 2024 Exam data; Subjects of note included: Triple Science; two groups this year with more mixed ability students. English, Maths and Science were fairly solid, and Geography and Food tech had done very well. Computer Science and Music now had new teachers, students had settled, and good work was being produced. Media Studies had had only 6 students and 3 had dropped out. Drama: further analysis was needed as grading had dropped from that expected. PE had low grades which were linked to course work and extra-curricula work. All Y10 parents would be contacted about supporting students to make progress and documenting portfolios. The 16% of students gaining grades 7-9's was very encouraging, with this remaining a focus, and there was much to celebrate.
 - **GQ: How was marking since Covid?** A bit harsher this year, with grade banding up about 5%, which did impact our estimates, and balancing out from the Covid years was ongoing.
 - **GQ:** Why such low numbers for Media Studies? This was not really known, there had been 20+ students in 2023 and the same again this year, but due to the results it was felt to run the course for one more year and unpick and decide whether to continue after.

	School Improvement Plan summary: KH introduced the one-page summary	
	report prepared for staff and asked for questions (previously circulated)	
	NOTING:	
	 GQ: How aware are staff on targets? All staff know the attendance 	
	target of 97% and all targets are regularly reviewed by the SLT and	
	shared as appropriate.	
	 GQ: Is Gifted & Talented still an initiative? Not in itself, but all more 	
	able students should be provided with an ambitious curriculum, and	
	all students should be encouraged across all subject areas.	
64.6.	Safeguarding Update (Safeguarding & KCSiE ppt, draft guidance on youngsters	
	questioning their gender and Premises work ppt., previously circulated):	
	DW updated governors on current issues NOTING :	
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	KCSiE; the main changes were language and a sharper focus on	
	attendance and unexplainable or deliberate absence from education.	
	 All staff had completed required training, and the DC audit was due in 	
	November.	
	 GQ: the remit seems to have increased for the team, do you have 	
	capacity? Yes, with the DOLA's and BSS support, the Teams capacity	
	had increased sufficiently.	
	 There were links within the ppt. for governors to explore issues 	
	further.	
	 Transgender guidance; DW had pulled together guidance using 	
	publications and information from supporting agencies and felt the	
	draft was responsive and rational and honed in on students	
	questioning, allowing the school to support students but not	
	compromise others in a noncommittal way.	
	 The framework provided by the DfE allowed for freedom to explore 	
	without encouraging or locking in and parents should be engaged	
	unless there was a safeguarding issue.	
	 GQ: It is disappointing there is not any reference to the Christian 	
	ethos of the school in the guidance. It's a secular document but does	
	not reflect a flavour of BS. Could a Christian element/reference to	
	the curriculum of learning be included? DW agreed, this was a fair	Include school
	point and he would put something into the document to reflect the	ethos /curriculum
	schools background and curriculum.	info in document
64.7.	SEND update:	
	KH updated governors on current issues NOTING :	
	Finance was still a real challenge and getting the funding needed was	
	proving very difficult.	
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64.0	support and 20 students with additional autism/ADHD needs.	
64.8.	Standards Committee: (draft committee Terms of Reference, previously	
	circulated):	
	 ToR; With a show of hands the GB unanimously approved the ToR, 	
	with no further changes or comments.	TOR approved
	 Delegation to HT for non-financial matters; With a show of hands the 	
	GB unanimously authorised the day-to-day operational duties such as	Delegation to
	changes to the curriculum, teaching arrangements, appointment of	Head approved
	staff, sessions etc to the Headteacher, without the need to go	
	through the GB in the first instance.	
64.9.	Resources Committee (draft committee Terms of Reference, previously	
	circulated):	
	 ToR; With a show of hands the GB unanimously approved the ToR, 	TOR approved
	with no further changes or comments.	. ,
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	 Delegation to HT for financial matters; With a show of hands the GB unanimously authorised the Headteacher to spend or vire without the need go through the GB in the first instance, up to £10,000, as 	Delegations to Head approved
	long as in budget.	
	 Higher needs funding – Responses had been given and the school was still working to secure adequate funding. 	
64.10.	Chairs Report (previously circulated):	
	BM introduced her report for information NOTING :	
	KH had met with the new MP for West Dorset.	Attend
	 Governors were asked to attend the Presentation evening on 3rd 	Presentation
	October and to inform NC for seat reservations.	Evening
64.11.	Governance Committee (Strategy ppt. draft committee Terms of Reference,	
	previously circulated):	
] .	AT led the Strategy ppt. presentation NOTING :	
	 AT had agreed to support the GB in a consultancy capacity to help 	
	develop the strategy work.	
	 The ppt. reflected on what strategy was, the role of the GB, gave 	
	suggestions on how to achieve the goals and further reading.	
	 Next steps agreed: SLT and GB WG members to meet (next available 	Strategy WG
	SLT Tuesday meeting) and discuss next steps and Road Map. Consult	meeting with SLT
	staff at the Nov or Jan Inset Day.	to take strategy
	SAP updated governors on the self-review outcomes NOTING :	forwards
	 The questionnaires had been collated and shared with Richard Howes 	
	with a follow up Teams meeting between SAP, BM and RH.	
	 There were 5 questions that felt needed addressing and a GB action 	
	plan to run alongside the SIP was being prepared with levels of risk	
	and a best practice guidance pack, including training expectations,	Governance
	induction and how to raise awareness of governors in the school.	agenda item
	 GQ: Does the school have a Risk register? Not at the moment, but 	
	this work will remedy that.	
	ToR; With a show of hands the GB unanimously approved the ToR,	TOR approved
	with no further changes or comments.	Τοιν αρριονέα
	Link Scheme (School Council report, previously circulated):	
	BM spoke to governors about the scheme NOTING :	
	The meeting agenda focus would be set at the next FGB meeting, following the partners of property agents agents agents. The meeting agenda focus would be set at the next FGB meeting, following the partners of property agents agents agents. The meeting agenda focus would be set at the next FGB meeting, following the partners of property agents agents agents agents. The meeting agenda focus would be set at the next FGB meeting, for a set of the partners of the par	Daview egende
	following the outcomes of exam review meetings.	Review agenda foci
	RB would set the exam review meeting dates and circulate these to all link review are in the providence.	Set Exam review
	link governors in the next few weeks.	meetings
64.13.	 The link meeting report was accepted. Clerk's Report (updated Policy review schedule, Clerks Report, previously 	meetings
	circulated):	
	TJH introduced the papers NOTING:	Canvas for new
	A vacancy remained on the HTPM review committee. SAP explained	HTPM committee
	the role, stated Richard Howes was the School Improvement Partner	Member
	who also attended the meetings and training was planned for the	
	committee members.	Complete
	 Diversity data; the GB agreed to complete the questionnaire and have 	diversity
	the data published on the school website again this year.	questionnaire,
	 The policy review schedule was accepted with no further comment. 	collate and
	 Training; most governors had completed the required safeguarding 	publish
	training and BM would be contacting those that still needed to	
	complete the annual certificate.	Complete
	All governors were reminded to review and re-sign their Business	required training
	Interests forms.	on S/G

64.14.	Any other business: BM asked governors if they had any other business to discuss:
	 KH stated Rose Rychnovsky, Science teacher, thanked governors for allowing her to have a one-year sabbatical and had now returned to work.
64.15.	2024/25 Meetings,
	Next meeting dates NOTED :
	 Standards 9th October, 5.30pm
	o Resources 4 th November, 3.45pm
	o FGB 27 th November, 6.30pm
	o Governance 9 th December, 5.00pm
	With no further business the meeting ended at 8.40pm.

ChairDatedDated

Item	Action	Owner	By when
			/report
64.3	Publish minutes.	TJH/NC	Completed
64.4	Draw up questions and meet with Initio (WG; BM, TH, CSJ, PR, KH)	MAT WG	Asap
64.6	Transgender guidance – include info on school ethos/curriculum in	DW	ASAP
	document		
64.8/9	Update TOR and delegations for 2024 /25	TJH	Completed
64.10	Attend Presentation Evening; RSVP NC	All GB	3/10/24
64.11	Take strategy work forwards with WG and SLT meeting	KH/RT/AT	Asap
	GB Review outcomes: Action Plan, Best Practice guidance	SAP	9/12/24
	Update TOR for 2024/25	TJH	Completed
64.12	Review link meeting agenda focus	BM	27/11/24
	Set exam review meetings and invite link governors	RB	Asap
64.13	Canvas for HTPM committee member	SAP	Asap
	Complete diversity questionnaire; collate data and publish	GB – TJH	Asap
	Complete required safeguarding training for 2024; BM to remind	BM	Asap