

VICTORIA COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL
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BOARD of GOVERNORS

FEBRUARY 2021

Together we aim for the stars

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors held virtually for Victoria School on **Tuesday 2nd February.**

Members Present via 'Zoom':

Miss Christine O'Callaghan, Chairperson
Mr David Adams
Cllr. Rhiannon Birch
Mr Marc Cahill
Mrs Rebecca Connor
Mrs Sam Daniels
Mr Simon Husband
Mrs Judith Jones
Mrs Helen Kerr

Mrs Sonia McLaughlin
Miss Jeanette Minns
Mr Mark Petherick
Mrs Helen Moreton
Ms Julie Plumb
Mrs Amanda Reynolds
Mr Grant Robson
Mr Rhys Taylor
Cllr. Mark Wilson

Apologies

Mr David Hall

Apologies were given and accepted by Governors.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 17th November 2020

The minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors held on Tuesday 17th November were approved by the Governors; proposed by **DA** seconded by **SH** and signed by the Chairperson.

Matters Arising

None

Head Teacher Update

Currently, most children are learning remotely. Staff provide 2 live sessions per day where the register is taken and there is some interaction. The lessons are in the form of voiced over power points that have been recorded. 94% are online for registration and 90% are regularly submitting work. There has been a lot of positive feedback from parents, children seem engaged and are learning independently. Some families have requested a paper copy of the work, LSA's assemble the packs and **SD** delivers them to the pupils on a Friday. If a child has not been accessing online learning, they will be contacted and additional support offered.

The school is open to children of key workers and those who have been identified as vulnerable. The numbers have steadily increased, there are approximately 40 per day. These children are split into phases and receive the same provision that they would if they were at

home i.e. they access google classroom at school. The LSA's have been split into 2 teams of 10 and work on a rota to support the children in school.

SD stated that she was proud of how resilient the children and staff were and how they had all adapted to this way of learning. The difficulty was keeping the momentum going, inevitably some year groups would drop off in their engagement and staff were working hard to adapt, motivate and support.

The GB commended **SD** on the very personal letter that she had recently sent to parents. **JM** and **MC** acknowledged that it was well received.

School Improvement Plan

The SIP had been sent to governors prior to the meeting. **SD** had received the following questions.

1. Has the current situation impeded progress of the SIP?

SD responded that yes, undoubtedly. However, some areas such as promoting bilingualism had improved, blended learning had excelled! The INSET in October 2020 had focused on blended learning all staff were now confident in google classroom provision.

Other areas of the SIP will continue next year as they are national priorities, such as the ALN Bill, new curriculum and Action Research projects.

2. Should the focus on mental health and well-being be given a higher priority?

SD confirmed that this was an on-going area of development. This was not just a national priority but a key school focus. This week the school celebrated 'Child Mental Health Week'. An 'Express Yourself' questionnaire had been sent to the children, the responses would be analysed and appropriate support could be considered.

Cllr. MW asked if the school was on track to deliver the new curriculum? **SD** advised that the curriculum was due to be implemented in September 2022 but Victoria would be trialling the new themes this year. When school reopened, the next INSET would be focused on the curriculum vision.

Cllr. RB commented that she applauded the consideration that was being given to the long-term effect of mental health and the impact caused by the lack of social interaction.

Annual Report to Parents

GB agreed that the report could be sent to parents.

Revised Redundancy Policy

GB agreed to accept and adopt

Model Safeguarding Policy

GB agreed to accept and adopt

Feedback Finance & Personnel Committee

MP advised that the above committee met in December 2020. The GB agreed to devolve decision making powers to the committee.

Safeguarding

Mrs Hall ALNCO had sent an extensive report to governors prior to the meeting. **JJ** advised that she had undertaken her safeguarding refresher training and would be attending the ACE's training in March.

Correspondence

HM reminded the GB that they had all received details of various training courses and they could sign up directly.

Any Other Business:

Cllr. MW expressed his thanks to Mrs Daniels and all staff for the exceptional hard work in these challenging times. The GB echoed his sentiments.

Matters Confidential

See attached

Next GB meeting – Tuesday 23rd March

Finance & Personnel Committee – Monday 8th February to start @ 2.00PM