

BANKS LANE JUNIOR GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

AUTUMN TERM 2021

Date: 18 November 2021
Time: 4.30pm
Venue: The School

GOVERNORS PRESENT

Mrs J Graham (Chair), Mr J Vali, Mrs A Power, Mrs J Hodgson, Mrs A Boulderstone, Mrs J Patel, Mr T Ellison, Mr D Bennett, Mr M McDermott, Mrs E Battersby, Mrs C Owens, Mr E Milner (Headteacher)

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr A Lane Governor Support Officer

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Ms J Sturch and Mr P Thomas.

The Chair welcomed Mrs Jenna Hodgson, newly elected parent governor, to her first governing board meeting.

2. **MEETING WITH SUBJECT LEADERS/SUBJECT LEADER FEEDBACK**

The following reports were made, with the issues highlighted:

D Bennett, J Hodgson (Art and Design Technology, PE, Languages):

- The involvement of UK Sports.
- The impact of Covid.
- The re-writing of the mid-term curriculum.
- The insight into the monitoring role of CB and EB provided by the report.

J Vali, A Power (Timetables, RE, British Values):

- The effective monitoring systems via book looks and Pupil Voice.
- A whole school overview of RE had been carried out in 2020.
- The challenges of not having a national curriculum assessment system for British Values
- Integrating British Values via cross-curricular themes/activities such as assemblies.
- The anti-bullying week this week.

M McDermott, T Ellison (Science, Computing):

- The challenges to learning since the whole school return.
- The possibility of liaison with external specialist technical/academic bodies.
- The sharing of and importing of good practice from other schools.

- The value of the introduction of computing days which had seen increased pupil engagement.
- The Knowledge Organisers were helping evaluate progress.

J Graham, E Battersby (Reading and Writing):

- The new Reading framework with its accent on Phonics.
- The investment in books.
- The impact of Covid on grammar, punctuation and other fundamental literacy skills.
- The role of parents in supporting their children's progress.

The Chair recorded her appreciation of staff for producing their link reports.

Mrs Patel also reported back on her regular liaison with the school SENDCO. Mrs Patel sought the HT and colleagues' views on how frequently reports should be made to the board. ***Should these be termly or annually ?*** The HT felt that an annual report would be of benefit in looking back over the past year and evaluating outcomes against the strategies which the school had initiated; this was agreed.

How are parental SEND complaints handled ? The HT explained that there was a formal process for this. In the first instance, he would address any complaints and they might be forwarded to the Chair, if the parents did not feel that they had been resolved. The HT explained that the majority of concerns were in relation to the (paucity of) SEND funding allocated to the school. Ms Power noted that the parental SEND forum was also a platform for parents to register any concerns, while Mr Bennett commented that pupil premium outcomes were also discussed at both the Resources and Teaching and Learning committees. The HT informed the meeting that the LA had recognised the school's effective SEND provision by approaching it to be a case study for an Ofsted SEND inspection.

The HT expressed his appreciation of governors for their commitment to their monitoring role through these meetings and feedback reports. He explained that it evidenced the praise of the board by the Senior School Improvement Adviser in "seeing past the Headteacher" and corroborating their own findings.

3. SCHOOL UPDATE

The HT reported that Covid had presented a significant challenge for the school. There had seldom been a single day when all staff members had been in school. There had been a spike in positive children tests in one particular class. Various Covid-compliant measures were still in place in school. The School was currently looking at arrangements for Christmas activities – there would likely be a virtual concert - and a decision would be notified to parents via the ROAR.

The school would be losing two valued teachers at Christmas. A replacement appointment had been made for Laura Daniels in Year 3 and they would bring significant experience in Year 1 and Phonics. Sharon Scott, the Maths Lead, would be replaced by Jenny Wraith extending her hours; this arrangement would be reviewed in July. There were also some maternity leaves in the offing.

In terms of building work, the new heating and lighting systems had been completed.

The new Promethean interactive whiteboards were already proving a significant teaching resource.

4. EXCLUSIONS AND RESTRAINTS

The HT reported that a small number of children were exhibiting significant challenging behaviour. There had been verbal abuse and physical violence directed at both the HT and Mrs Owens, the DHT. The school had done all it could to obtain external support, but had not been able to as it did not meet the threshold. The school had, therefore, had to identify internal measures to address this behaviour. This included an inset on Team Teach. There had been a revamp of the “Consequence Chart” and Circle Time had also been used. There had been a focus on morning routines such as when the children enter the school, while there had also been a focus on school uniform. All of this had seen a significant improvement. Governors, however, expressed, their concern at this unacceptable risk to staff safety and wellbeing and asked what could they do as a board to make representation on this.

How many exclusions had there been ? There had been five fixed-term exclusions involving three children.

The DHT reported on the statutory framework for the duration and trigger points of exclusions. Mrs Owens also explained how the exclusions were recorded on the school’s CPOMS system and how pupil returns post-exclusion were accompanied by re-integration meetings when pupils/parents were reminded of school expectations.

Were these instances of behaviour detrimental to the school ? The HT stressed that they adversely affected the other children’s quality of teaching and learning, They were also hugely demanding on staff time in terms of meetings and paperwork.

In terms of a panel of governors possibly having to meet, it was agreed that the membership of the Pupil Discipline committee should comprise Mrs Boulderstone, Mr Vali and Mr Bennett.

5. GOVERNORS’ STRATEGIC PLAN

It was noted that the Resources committee remit had been reviewed and updated. Mr Vali would e-mail this to the Clerk for circulation to the governing board – **ACTION 1**

6. AOB

The updated school pay policy would be approved via the Pay committee, staff consultation and then full board approval. The Pay committee comprised Mrs Boulderstone, Mr Vali and Mr Thomas.

With no further business to discuss, the Chair thanked governors for their attendance (as well as input into the link meetings) and closed the meeting at 6.27pm.

MEETING ACTION POINTS

ACTION POINT	ACTION REQUIRED	ACTION FOR	ACTION TIMEFRAME
1	Circulate Resources committee remit to governors	GSO	Post-meeting