



Oldcastle Primary School

Inspire ★ Motivate ★ Educate

Mr Jeremy Malessa-Thompson

Headteacher

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Minutes FGB Meeting 17.3.21 – Virtual Meeting due to Covid-19

Present -

Barrie Lewis, Ceri Littlewood, Sara Peters, Clare Davies, Nerys Sales, Rachel Evans, Lyn Walters, Heather Holder, Nia Vaughan, Damian Faulkner.

1. To receive apologies for absence

For Information	
Apologies –Jane Hughes.	Absent – Martha Ace, Neil Harris and David Heyburn.

2. To confirm the minutes of the FGB meeting

For Information	To be Actioned
• FGB 1/11/20 • Extraordinary FGB meeting 7/10/20 • Extra Meeting FGB 1/2/21	• AGREED by FGB Present. • AGREED by FGB Present. • AGREED by FGB Present.

3. To confirm minutes of any committee meetings

For Information	To be Actioned
• Finance 27/01/21 • Curriculum 13/01/2021 • Covid 4/1/21 • Covid 10/2/21	• AGREED by FGB Present. • AGREED by FGB Present. • AGREED by FGB Present. • AGREED by FGB Present.

4. Matters Arising

For Information	To be Actioned/Comments
• An update was provided around operational guidance and the children's return to school. All children are now back and there is no longer a requirement for foundation phase desks to be forward facing. • Face masks are worn as per the guidance and lateral flow tests are being used as directed by all qualifying staff members. • Parents have been very supportive and there is a good community feel around the school. • Following the death of a parent due to Covid, the school plans to incorporate a remembrance garden into the area behind the canteen. Pupils, staff and parents can take time to sit, reflect and remember the events of the last year. This will be communicated to the school community this week.	• Governors commented that the return was very well organised, meticulously planned and considerate. • A governor suggested the chair of governors write to repeat offenders with regard to Covid regulations. However it is felt the school is managing the situation very well, reminders are sent out frequently and there is only so much the school can do.

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5. To consider governing body vacancies

For Information	To be Actioned
- Clare Davies and Martha Ace are opted back on to the FGB until the LA provide further guidance. - Lyn Walters LA Governor, term ends in July 2021.	- Noted - The LA would normally make contact for reapplication, but Lyn may need to address this nearer the time taking into account Covid guidance.

6. Report from the Director

For Information	To be Actioned/Noted
There is no report from the Director	Noted

7. To receive the report of the Headteacher

For Information	To be Actioned
The report is available to view in the Governor Drive. An overview was provided in the following areas, please refer to the Headteacher's report for further information. The headlines are listed below. School Development – discussion was held around the self-evaluation document, and the benefits of being able to look at what the school has already done and the areas now being worked on. School Performance – Estyn carried out a telephone question session which went very well, feedback was excellent and they now want to visit the school to see what is happening. Curriculum for Wales – The CfW@Oldcaslte website was introduced to governors, this is a website that pulls all the work the school is doing into one place, it provides a record of all core areas, provides links to key information and aids planning. The page will be available to all stakeholders so they can assess where the school is and where it is going with ease. Staffing - see confidential matters. Staff Training – Staff and governors have completed a huge amount of training during the closure period. Any governors who have not yet had a look at the training site should do so at the earliest opportunity, particularly those who are sitting on the recruitment panel.	- Governors asked how engagement was in comparison to the first lock down. The head advised there was a drop off initially and the school believes this is due to parents being furloughed the first time but this time they are working from home so it is more difficult. KS2 were more engaged this time apart from Year 6 whose work overall has been very poor. Seesaw has been very successful in FP and many more children were engaged. The year 6 drop off is being addressed in class, they have settled back in well and the pace is moving more quickly concentrating on the core subjects. - Governors commented on the professionalism of the site, the school should be very proud and should shout about it at every opportunity. The site demonstrates perfectly how and what the school is doing and how the AOLE's are working together. Congratulations should be passed to the AOLE's who put it together.

Home Learning Survey – This was really useful and positive thing for the school to do to see how parents engaged and to allow feedback. Feedback was incredibly positive and a snapshot of comments is in the report. Welsh Government Presentation – The school was asked to present on some of the projects completed in the past, celebrating our good ideas and research. The school focused on the LED light project, stand up desks and Table writing. Finance – An up to date budget was provided –Period 11. <table> <tr> <td>Budget Allocation</td> <td>£1,416,004</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Income/Carry Forward</td> <td>£404,210</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Estimated Expenditure</td> <td>£1799,805</td> </tr> </table> Estimated underspend £20,409 There is an additional estimated underspend along with income still to come in of around £42462 taking the total amount available to £62871. Other funding is coming in but the school is hopeful this will affect next year's budget The Headteacher advised that the nursery toilet refurbishment was on hold due to procurement regulations and this will be revisited in the summer term.	Budget Allocation	£1,416,004	Income/Carry Forward	£404,210	Estimated Expenditure	£1799,805	• A governor commented on the excellent video and asked the school to review the no display policy, it was felt the classroom used in the video was unwelcoming and bare with little ambiance. Discussion was held and it was agreed a review would be carried out. It was pointed out that the class used was out of use at the time and in normal circumstances the slate boards would have contained work and writing. Nevertheless, the head agreed to review the policy. • Discussion was held around the method that the LA uses to calculate budget and if the school access the information on a live basis. The school continues to work with the LA and can access some live information but not in every area. • A governor asked how much the commitment already made affect the available amount, current commitments stand at around £25,000.
Budget Allocation	£1,416,004						
Income/Carry Forward	£404,210						
Estimated Expenditure	£1799,805						

8. Nursery Provision

For Information	To be Actioned
• BCBC are planning to pilot the ECEC project which will allow parents of rising 3 children to mix and match the funding for their 30 hours of free childcare. This will mean the school can work with outside providers to make the provision work for individual parents. The current offer is 2 hours a day at Oldcastle or 6 hours a day at private provision. The pilot will allow parents to access both at the same time. The school will need to express an interest in participating in the pilot by the end of March. • The benefit to the school is that numbers could increase, thereby increasing funding and also parents who may not be able to access	• Discussion was held with a mixed response, some governors felt it would be of benefit to working families, based on their own experience. Others felt it was a good idea but had concerns around staffing and how it would work with outside private provision. • There was also concern around Covid and how this would affect the pilot with a possible third spike, and the volume of work needed to set up the pilot for September 2021. • The Headteacher advised that very little information is available at the moment, and it may not go ahead for September this year. • It was agreed by all present to wait until the second round of the pilot.

provision normally because of work commitments would have increased access.	
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9. Correspondence brought forward by the chair.

For Information	To be Actioned
None.	

The minutes are a true reflection of the meeting, the meeting concluded at 6.45pm



Clare Davies (Chair of FGB - Oldcastle Primary School)



Date