



Minutes of Thirsk Community Primary School Governing Board held Online on Monday 14 June 2021 at 6.15pm

Present: David Duffey (DD) (Chair), Richard Chandler (RC) (Headteacher), Jason Tazzyman (JT) (Vice Chair), Stuart Mountford (SM), Jenny Buck (JB), Lucy Minican (LM), Gemma Wall (GW) Lisa Garthwaite (LG) Jane Grainger (JG)

Apologies: None

In attendance: Kate Booth (prospective governor) Sheila White (Clerk) Jane Jackson (New Clerk)

No 20/21	Item	Action
PART 'A' – Governance		
9.1	Welcome The Chair opened the meeting at 6.15pm and thanked all governors for attending. A warm welcome was extended to JG as governor, KB as prospective governor and JJ as new clerk in training.	
9.2	Apologies and determine whether absences should be consented to There were no apologies. LM joined the meeting after the start as she had been delayed.	
9.3	Declaration of Interest JG notified the board that she works for NYCC. It was agreed this is an appropriate declaration. Whilst there are no immediate conflicts of interest there is the potential for such in future topics such as finance or funding. JG will absent herself from such discussions or decisions as necessary.	
9.4	Notification of any other urgent business None	
9.5	Correspondence RC has received an expression of interest in becoming a governor from Rachel Pearce who is a teacher moving to the area to teach at the High School. It was agreed she would be a valuable addition to the board and RC will continue to liaise with her.	
9.6	Approve the Minutes from 10 May 2021 <u>Approval</u> – The minutes of the Full Governing Board (FGB) meeting held on 10 May 2021, which were circulated to all governors prior to the meeting, were deemed as a true record.	
9.7	Matters arising 8.7 RC will pursue this with Anthony Conlin and report back to the next FGB. 8.10 Expenditure was agreed. RC advised of two further developments. - NYCC's schools ICT have done another site visit and installation is booked for the summer holidays. RC has accepted an offer for the Smart system at the same price as BenQ. Staff are more familiar with the Smart system and cost was the main factor in originally choosing BenQ. GQ: There is a licence fee with Smart and not with BenQ, an additional £871. Has this been included in the offer or is it to be paid on top? A. Not sure. RC will	

Signed:

Date:

1

	<p>investigate and report back to governors prior to the next meeting so a decision is made as soon as possible. It was agreed that cost is the priority and we are not in a position to pay for an additional licence fee.</p> <p>-The PTA has agreed to cover the cost of one of the Smart boards. There is a strong possibility a new mobile classroom will be installed and, if so, the 'PTA's Smart board will be installed in the new classroom.</p> <p>8.11 The link governor reports are now uploaded.</p> <p>8.8 SM has done the safer recruitment training.</p>	Head
9.8	<p>Governor Training</p> <p>LG has done data protection, information security, safer recruitment, investigating complaints and mental health training.</p>	
PART 'B' - School Improvement		
9.9	<p>McKie Mastery Update</p> <p>RC reported that the school has signed up for a third year of McKie Mastery. The senior leadership team looked at pupils books today and can see improvements. We want to see these improvements validated and it is a pity there aren't any outside assessments this year. The school has signed up to a voluntary moderation scheme with NYCC. This is a remote assessment later this month with work uploaded to be moderated. Years 2,6 and EYFS are taking part. This moderation will provide outside evaluation of the classroom assessments.</p> <p>GQ: Is there any way of presenting the moderation data to Ofsted to ensure it is taken into account? A. No. Ofsted have stated very clearly they are interested in national and not internal data. Given the national data is now so out of date it is conceivable that inspectors may look at the data that is available but equally likely that they won't. It will be up to individual inspectors. The school is taking part in the moderation for its own sake, for us to be sure we are correct in our judgements.</p> <p>GQ: Is the moderation independent? A. Yes. The only truly independent agency is the testing and standards agency and they are not often deployed. It isn't possible to request their involvement.</p> <p>GQ: How often do staff internally moderate? A. The school currently have an emphasis on writing and this is moderated on a rolling programme at each weekly staff meeting. The subject leads moderate maths and reading.</p> <p>GQ: What exactly will NYCC moderate? A. Year 2 and Year 6 and EYFS. They will look at evidence for reading which ordinarily would be coming into school to listen to children reading but this time likely to be via uploaded videos of the children reading. Maths reading and writing are all included in the moderation.</p>	
9.10	<p>Feedback from Link Governors</p> <p>JB has been into school twice for reading. Her report is uploaded for governors to read. The main issue of note is that some children may be ready to move up a level under McKie Mastery but due to the restrictions of bubbles this can't happen. So far there has been sufficient staffing to allow the bubble to be split further. This involves three staff and is not sustainable in the long term. RC advised that the situation is under constant review. It would be useful to be able to join up year 1 and 2 for reading but if that happened a positive case would mean two school years being advised to isolate rather than one. No bubbles would impact the whole school. As Covid numbers are currently increasing it seems likely that NYCC will recommend bubbles continuing at least until the end of term and possibly into next year depending upon developments. The school has been notified of no further positive cases in pupils or their families.</p> <p>GQ: Children are missing out on so much. Their mental health must be</p>	

Signed:

Date:

2

	<p>affected? A. Yes as well as the obvious restrictions we are used to there are many things the children are missing out on. For instance it is not clear that the end of year assembly will be able to go ahead or the trip for year 6 to the new school and reception children visiting. All these things help children settle in much more quickly. It is very sad. We are doing all we can to facilitate such events. It may be that the assembly can take place outside although obviously this isn't ideal as is weather dependent.</p> <p>LG visited the school re EYFS and reported three issues of note.</p> <p>-There is a great outdoor space but there is a dogleg where children cannot easily be seen. RC has investigated and a half high gate will be installed to split the sites up. This has already been measured up and installation is imminent.</p> <p>-LG observed very good interaction between staff and children but because there are three areas to cover staff are spread thinly. There was a discussion re whether an apprentice EYFS trainee could be used and RC may pursue this. Another option is to use just two of the areas.</p> <p>-It is noticeable how confident in language many of the children are. The number of children on free school meals has increased from 22% in EYFS to over 30%. It is possible this will be 50% in the next school year. There is a long term plan in the school around vocabulary and ambitious vocabulary is highlighted by all staff. LG wondered if it is possible to restart the vocabulary lists that used to be sent out with the homework sheets. RC agreed to look into this.</p> <p>RC reported that GW was entered into North Yorkshires nursery/primary school teacher of the year. GW won the teaching category and is in the final three for the overall title which will be decided in September. All governors congratulated GW on an impressive and well deserved achievement.</p> <p>LM visited the school to see Becky re disadvantaged children. This is the first governor meeting on this topic. Becky is doing a deep dive into pupils' books so another visit will take place hopefully next week. LM has written and posted up a report of the meeting. An issue of note was the data reporting which made the spring term look as if the children had gone backwards. As has been discussed at a previous meeting this is because the data records children at ARE however much assistance and support they currently require to achieve this. It is not a given that all these children will end the year in this position. There is clearly a gulf between those managing to achieve with significant support and those who easily achieve. It highlights the necessity of knowing the children well when reading the in year data. Teachers are well aware of this.</p> <p>GQ: Does this impact on the accuracy of the spring data? A. No the data is accurate.</p> <p>Year 5 had particular difficulties engaging during lockdown despite laptops and home visits. A lot of work went into getting year 5 to engage with remote learning and many were invited back into school.</p> <p>DD visited the school re safeguarding and is back in again tomorrow. JG will take over safeguarding when DD leaves. DD raised the issue of CPOMS and whether an external audit is worth doing and also highlighted children mental health and whether the policy is sufficiently robust. RC has recently sent a message to parents and carers re Tiktok. Tomorrow's visit will be a pupil voice to check whether the pupils' perception matches that of staff. RC highlighted work within school on staying safe online as well as British values, school rules, everything around safeguarding. A member of staff has recently attended training by NYCC on safeguarding and has put together new internal guidance to support teaching teams. This identifies thresholds for referral to outside organisations such as early help and social services. RC noted there is now a greater emphasis on initial help from within the school which has training implications for staff. SM is a mental health first aid</p>	Head
--	--	------

Signed:

Date:

3

	<p>instructor and is willing to undertake training for both staff and governors if requested. All agreed this would be helpful and SM will put something together. LG reminded the meeting of the mental health and safeguarding training she recently undertook with place2be. This may be available for other governors.</p> <p>DD thanked all governors for their hard work and commitment. There have been many visits into school by governors. Staff appreciate governors taking the time to do this as reflecting on their practice and events with governors helps clarify issues. This knowledge exchange also means governors are better informed.</p>	SM
9.11	<p>Chair and Deputy Chair roles. New Governors.</p> <p>SM has agreed to become Deputy Chair from September. No one has so far stepped forward for the position of Chair. DD explained that the board needs a chair to function and that it is possible to have co Chairs if people wanted to consider that. He asked for interest in the next week or so. If someone doesn't come forward DD will investigate whether NYCC can assist in appointing a chair from outside. DD thanked all governors for their hard work and appreciates how much work governors already put in for the benefit of the school.</p>	All Governors
PART 'C' – Other		
9.12	<p>Premises</p> <p>RC mentioned at 9.7 above that a new mobile classroom may be installed. Preparatory work is ongoing and a bat survey is being undertaken on Wednesday evening.</p>	
9.13	<p>Policies</p> <p>The following policies were circulated to all governors prior to the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collecting children from school • Complaints procedure • EYFS behaviour • FOI Information and Publication scheme • Managing unreasonable complaints • Mobile phone • whistleblowing <p>All the above policies were approved by governors. The school business manager (SBM) had provided a policy review status list which was extremely helpful and time saving for governors. All governors asked RC to thank the SBM for producing this commentary.</p>	Head
9.14	<p>Safeguarding / Child Protection</p> <p>RC will report to DD at tomorrow's meeting the child protection cases and safeguarding concerns at the school.</p>	
9.15	<p>How has this meeting impacted on the welfare and progress of our pupils?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governors shared feedback from their in school monitoring • Governors approved developments in the EYFS area of school • Governors continued with work on safeguarding children's mental health 	
9.16	<p>AOB</p> <p>- RC reported early plans to develop a forest school area in school grounds. The PTA are working on this and there are many offers of help.</p>	

Signed:

Date:

4

	- The development of a multiuse games area on the back field is being investigated. Again this is at a very early stage. Investigations are ongoing into possible funding from a number of sources. It is possible with the correct alignment of community use and funding the scheme could be self-financing or even become an income stream. RC invited governor involvement in developing the proposal and LG volunteered to be the governor link.	
9.17	Confidential staffing/school update There were no confidential items to discuss.	
9.18	Date of Next Meeting 12 July 2021 at 6.15pm	
Please note: The colour coding above links to the three key roles of governance questioning; RED for 'setting strategic direction', BLUE for 'holding Headteacher to account for educational performance' GREEN for 'ensuring financial health, probity and value for money'.		

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 7.36pm

Signed:

Date:

5

OFFICIAL