

BANISTER PRIMARY SCHOOL
MEETING OF THE FULL GOVERNING BODY
THURSDAY 25th MARCH 2021

9.00 AM

MINUTES

Those Present:

Kate Vincent (Headteacher)
Peter McBride (Chair)
Dave Hockin
Marion Clelland (arrived during item 3)
Samantha Clough (arrived during item 5, left during item 9)
Cllr Steve Leggett (left during item 9)
Romana Syed
Luke Newman
Vicky Boothman
Christina Spiers
Vivek Kohli
Megan Streb (left during item 9)

Apologies: Richard Congreve

Peter Davison

Matthew Turpin.

Absent: None

In attendance:

Katie Pevreall (Clerk)
Sarah Lovelock (ICT Lead) (present only for item 9)

Notes:

1. Welcome, Present and Apologies

1a. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were accepted from Richard Congreve and Peter Davison; late apologies were received from Matthew Turpin. The board was informed that Laura Racioppi would be stepping down as governor. It was agreed that a parent governor elections would be held off until September.

2. Declaration of Interest

2a. Governors did not declare an interest in any of the agenda items.

3. Minutes and Actions of the Previous Meeting

3a. The Chair agreed to sign the minutes of the previous meeting.

3b. Marion Clelland joined the meeting.

3c. All actions from the previous meeting had been completed.

4. Correspondence

4a. There was an admissions appeal and the panel was due to meet on 26th March.

5. Communications Between Headteacher and Governors

5a. Samantha Clough joined the meeting.

5b. A parent of three children at the school had recently passed away and this had affected staff and pupils greatly. Staff were being supported with 1:1 sessions with EPs as well as receiving daily support from SLT.

6. Subcommittee Reports

6a. GP

6aa. The committee had discussed the Covid recovery fund. The exact amount the school would receive was still unknown however the average primary school was set to receive approximately £6,000.

6ab. The surplus at year end would be approximately £170,000.

6ac. There were ongoing discussions about staffing for the next academic year which would be brought to GP once the school had a clear idea of what was possible and what was required.

6ad. The committee had discussed benchmarking and it was noted that the school had comparably low costs for supply teaching as well as low admin costs.

6ae. Christina Spiers and Vivek Kohli would be reviewing the SFVS. The Business Continuity Plan was in place with some minor adjustments made at the last committee meeting.

6af. It was noted that the Schools' Forum had met since the meeting and the final budget was slightly higher than expected as the original budget had been calculated with the wrong formula.

6b. TLC

6ba. It was agreed this would be postponed until the next meeting.

7. Headteacher Report

7a. At the February meeting of the Trust board, the headteachers reported on the remote learning implementation at their schools during lockdown, and the effects of remote learning now children were back at school. It was noted that all schools had taken different approaches.

7b. Other schools were reporting that it was proving difficult to reengage Y6 now they are back at school. However, Y6 at Banister was currently committed to learning.

7c. There had been a significant increase in anxiety since the last return to school and it was manifesting in a number of different ways. Some children were very overwhelmed particularly if they had been learning in a quiet household with no or few siblings.

7d. Sleep patterns had been less of a concern this time and it was noted that the new approach to remote learning had likely helped those learning from home to keep a good routine at home.

7e. Some children were suffering from screen withdrawal and the school was helping them to recognise what this was and implementing strategies to get them through. Having a lot of time outside was helping with this.

7f. Some children had not returned to school as they were in another country. The school had been chasing parents to find out where children were, when they were expecting to come back and the barriers families were facing trying to get back into the UK. Parents of these children who were requesting remote learning were being emailed once a week with the curriculum areas the school was focusing on and where possible being signposted to Oak Academy for resources.

7g. The school had to close one Y3 bubble due to a positive Covid test.

7h. One child was refusing to attend school and parents were not home educating. The school had been engaging with the EWO to ensure that home visits were being carried out.

Q: What is the school doing to support parents and children with high anxiety levels?

A: The school had identified key children and is in regular contact with parents. The school has also brought in mindfulness techniques during the day such as meditations and breathing techniques.

7i. The school had prioritised outside collaborative play to reconnect friendships. Collaboration and cooperation have also been prioritised in lessons to give children the chance to speak to each other about their experiences of lockdown.

Q: Has the school noticed if the return to school has been a particular struggle for only children?

A: Generally, it's been more of a problem for children who have had a lot of parental attention during lockdown and are now struggling with not receiving attention on a 1:1 basis.

7j. Some children were feeling overwhelmed in the lunch hall and teachers were discussing strategies with them such as ear defenders and sitting outside but still with their peers.

7k. It was agreed that Marion Clelland would cover wellbeing with Key Stage 1, previously covered by Laura Racioppi, as well as KS 2. She would meet with Tracy Price and Chris Nash early in the Summer term to discuss the progress of children's wellbeing and anxiety levels.

ACTION: MC to discuss meet with CN + TP in Summer term

7l. It was acknowledged that remote teaching had made staff especially tired this term. There was an inset day scheduled for Thursday 1st April however the school was not expecting staff to be in school, instead they had advised staff they could complete their learning at a time of their choosing.

7m. All staff had been given access to the World Education Summit. The sessions would be available on demand for the next 12 months. The school had also created a leadership library of all the key texts.

7n. The school was undertaking the Leader in Me programme and was aiming to become a Lighthouse school where they are a beacon of leadership worldwide.

8. Safeguarding Update

8a. Vicky Boothman had completed her Online Safety for Governors training and would arrange to meet with Sarah Lovelock next term.

9. Policy Review

9a. Online Safety Policy

9aa. Samantha Clough left the meeting. Sarah Lovelock joined the meeting.

9ab. The policy had been rewritten to reflect the Safeguarding policy. All systems and software used by the school had been thoroughly looked into to ensure they are compliant with the Safeguarding and Online Safety policies. The rewrite of the policy had highlighted the need for some other policies which the school was in the process of writing.

9ac. Steve Leggett left the meeting.

9ad. Sarah Lovelock was a member of two hubs, one for ICT and another for Primary School ICT Leads. It was noted that this allows her to keep up to date with social media updates and other relevant changes to legislation and guidance.

9ae. Megan Streb left the meeting.

9af. It was agreed that Victoria Bootham and Sarah Lovelock would discuss Online Safety next term.

ACTION: VB and Sarah Lovelock to discuss Online Safety

9ag. Sarah Lovelock left the meeting.

10. Governor Week Planning

10a. The next governor week was scheduled for the week commencing 14th June. It was agreed planning would take place at the next FGB meeting.

11. AOB

11a. None

ACTIONS:

Page no.	Item	Action	Person Responsible
3	7k	MC to discuss wellbeing with CN + TP in Summer term	MC
3	9af	VB and Sarah Lovelock to discuss Online Safety	VB