

BANISTER PRIMARY SCHOOL  
MEETING OF THE FULL GOVERNING BODY

THURSDAY 14<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020

9.00 AM

**MINUTES**

**Those Present:**

Kate Vincent (Head Teacher)  
Peter McBride (Chair)  
Vivek Kohli  
Dave Hockin  
Matthew Turpin  
Richard Congreve  
Romana Syed  
Marion Clelland  
Laura Racioppi  
Cllr. Steve Leggett  
Samantha Clough

**Apologies:** Peter Davison  
Luke Newman

**Absent:** None.

**In attendance:**

Katie Pevreall (Clerk)  
Vicky Bootham

**Notes:**

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**1. Welcome, Present and Apologies**

1a. Apologies were accepted from Peter Davison and Luke Newman.

**2. Declaration of Interest**

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

**3. Possible New Community Governor**

3a. Vicky Bootham was introduced as a potential new community governor. It was agreed governors would vote on this at the end of the meeting.

**4. Minutes and Actions of Previous Meeting**

4a. All actions were completed or were no longer relevant as a result of the pandemic except for the following which remain ongoing:

5	12a	MT to email suggested edits to PSHE policy to the school	MT
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**Q: Have there been any changes to next year's YR intake since governors last discussed it?**

**A: No.**

4b. The minutes were agreed by all, and signed by the chair.

## 5. Correspondence

5a. There was no correspondence to discuss.

## 6. Headteacher Report: Coronavirus Update

6a. Following the most recent government announcement, SLT had surveyed parents of YR, Y1 and Y6 pupils to ascertain how many parents would need their children to return to school and how many would be comfortable for their children to return to school..

6b. It was noted that the school had received guidance from DfE, and has made extensive risk assessments. Governors discussed the guidance and the impact that it would have on the children, the logistics of class sizes, pick-up and drop-off and lunchtimes, and the fact that staff and children were advised against wearing PPE. It was noted that the school would need at least a week to deep clean and rearrange the school.

6c. The school expressed their concerns for pupils, families and staff and the impact that reopening may have on them and their wellbeing.

**Q: What has the response to the survey been so far?**

**A: The school has only received 76 responses of the 173 surveys sent out. Of the response, it seems that generally parents of YR and Y1 pupils are more reluctant to send their children back.**

6d. It was noted that unions had advised teachers not to enter into discussions with their schools about re-opening at this current time.

**Q: What is the rationale behind sending YR Y1 and Y6 back first?**

**A: This has not been disclosed to schools, however other European countries have taken a similar approach.**

6e. Cllr. Steve Leggett advised governors that he would be discussing school re-opening with Derek Wiles later in the day. He agreed to share any information that he was able to with governors once the meeting had taken place.

**ACTION: SL to share information of meeting with Derek Wiles.**

**Q: Is the school aware of the response from neighbouring schools?**

**A: Yes, Kate Vincent has been in contact with the Aspire Trust who have unanimously agreed that they will not be reopening on June 1st. They have the same concerns as Banister and are looking for more scientific evidence from the government before they re-open.**

6f. The board acknowledged the need for schools to partially re-open in the near future. However, governors and staff felt that they needed more transparency about the safety implications of not being able to enforce social distancing.

6g. The school also expressed concerns about how they would provide for the other year groups who were not back in school given that almost all staff would be required for YR, Y1 and Y6.

**Q: Has the school considered alternative ways to open such as alternating days?**

**A: This has been considered however each teacher must only work with the one group that they are assigned to. Additionally, having part time weeks would cause problems for parents.**

6h. It was noted that school had to consider worst case scenarios and to question whether they could minimise the risk enough that those worst case scenarios were avoidable. Given the evidence available Banister was unable to do this.

6i. The Headteacher offered to hold a zoom meeting for parents to answer any questions that they might have.

**Q: Does the school feel that it could open to just Y6 from June 1st?**

**A: While it would be easier to implement social distancing for just Y6, it's likely that not all Y6 pupils would return which means that the school would still need to provide for them virtually at the same time. It is clear that we could not provide in class and virtually at the same time without overstressing staff. Equally staff would have to be consulted on whether or not they feel comfortable coming back into school.**

**Q: Can the school offer a better education to Banister pupils by partially re-opening or by remaining virtual?**

**A: At the moment the quality of education would be stronger if it was virtual for all.**

**6j.** It was agreed that the school would not reopen on 1st June but would look to a phased re-opening at a later date if the number of coronavirus cases in England continued to fall. The chair and head will write a ParentMail message to inform parents of the decision, and the reasoning behind it.

**6k.** The school expressed concerns over crisis guidance which had been sent out to teachers advising them on support that was available following the death of a child, a child's family member or a member of staff. Banister claimed that this was worrying for staff to receive and was having a detrimental impact on their wellbeing. Cllr. Steve Leggett agreed to raise this with Derek Wiles.

**6l.** Governors discussed whether the back gate would need to be opened in order for children and parents to safely access the school while social distancing. It was noted that a queue of parents 2 metres apart would not be possible on Archers Road. The Chair had circulated a draft letter prior to the meeting and it was agreed that he would send it to Derek Wiles as soon as the meeting had finished.

**Q: What are the potential consequences of opening the back gate if the council does not support the action?**

**A: We would have to apply for planning permission retrospectively. It could incur expenses.**

## **7. Subcommittee Reports and Matters Arising**

### **7a. GP Report**

**7ab.** Vivek Kohli informed governors that the SFVS was no longer necessary for this year, though we have completed our forms. It was also noted that plans to invest money into air conditioning had been delayed due to coronavirus.

**7bb.** Governors were informed that the budget this year was late from the LEA and will not have to be approved until June.

**7bc.** It was noted that, generally speaking, the school was spending less money due to coronavirus but that additional funding was available should the school need it.

**7bd.** The school had been facing challenges in regard to the free school meal vouchers. Additionally the committee had discussed ways in which they could reach as many children as possible with virtual learning.

**7be.** The school informed governors that the issues with free school meals had now largely been resolved. Additionally the LA had taken responsibility for providing IT to vulnerable children.

### **7b. TLC Report**

**7ba.** Governors were informed that the TLC had largely discussed the provision of teaching during lockdown. The uptake on SeeSaw was now just over 80% of pupils.

**7bb.** Additionally the committee had discussed the school’s provision for its most vulnerable children, which included identifying those children, giving money in place of meal vouchers and making sure those without internet access still had resources.

**7bc.** The committee discussed the impact of SATs being cancelled and it was noted that the mock SATs results had been really strong with a good number of children working at greater depth.

**Q: *If Banister pupils are unable to return to school before the summer holidays, will the school offer provision over the summer holidays?***

**A: *The school would definitely offer resources virtually during this time.***

**8. SEND Update**

**8a.** All governors had received the full SEND report and Peter Davison’s summary. Additionally Peter had given an update at TLC.

**9. Any Other Notified Business**

**9a.** The school had approached the chair about a potential change in the structure of SLT from September. The school proposed increasing the number of assistant headteachers at the school to three in order to fully recognise the current realities of the work being done in the SLT, to reflect the progress of phase leaders and increase the chance of retaining staff.

**Q: *Can the school comfortably afford this change?***

**A: *Yes.***

**9b.** The restructure was unanimously agreed.

**9c.** Vicky Bootham informed governors that if she was voted in she would be happy to sit on the GP committee. Vicky Bootham left the meeting.

**9d.** Governors unanimously voted to appoint Vicky Bootham as a community governor.

**ACTIONS:**

Page Number	Minute Number	Action	Person responsible
1	4a	MT to email suggested edits to PSHE policy to the school	MT
2	6e	SL to share information of meeting with Derek Wiles.	SL
3	6j	Send ParentMail to parents to inform them of the board’s decision about re-opening the school	PM & KV