

MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14TH MAY 2024; COMMENCING AT 5.30 P.M. AT WHITESTONE INFANT SCHOOL, MAGYAR CRESCENT, NUNEATON, WARWICKSHIRE.

.....

Present : Mrs. N. Green, Mr. D. Robinson, Mr. C. Atkins, Mr. M. Hartopp, Mr. P. Johnson, Mr. P. Stokes, Mrs. S. Farmer, Mrs. M. Burdett, Dr. S. Hill, Mr. S. Shaw and Miss. K. Ford.

In Attendance : Mrs. J. Webster (observer and Deputy Head), Mrs. L. Knox (Schools Business Manager) and Miss. G. Matt (Clerk).

In The Chair – Mr. D. Robinson.

1. Welcome and Apologies.

The Chair, Mr. Robinson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received and accepted from Mrs. R. Warwick and Mrs. E. Johnson.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising.

Minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 20th February 2024 and the Extraordinary Budget Deficit Meeting Tuesday 29 April 2024, were read, agreed and signed by the chair.

Tuesday 20th February 2024. ACTION The Clerk to inform the LA of Mr. Shaw's continuation for a further term as a co-opted governor, from 1st March 2024 until 29th February 2028. Action completed.

Tuesday 29th April 2024. The M1 budget submission for 2024/2025 – 2026/2027 has been produced and sent off to the LA. This has been based on the scale of the successful candidate for the teaching post, who will commence Whitestone in September 2024.

3. Declaration of Interest.

Mr. Atkins declared an interest in items relating to Chetwynd Junior School and Etone College.

Mr. Johnson declared an interest in items relating to the Stockingford Academy, Nursery Hill Primary School, Arley Primary School and Trustee of Nuneaton Foodbank.

Mrs. Farmer declared an interest in items relating to Croft Junior School.

Mrs. Burdett declared an interest in item relating to Holy Spirit MAT.

4. Headteacher's Report – including Annual report on SEN and exclusions.

Mrs. Green presented her written that had been previously circulated. Copy with original minutes.

Mrs. Green reported that Whitestone is presently full. In September 2024, Reception is full, of which three pupils have EHCPs and all these parents have asked for places in special schools, of which two have been declined by the LA.

The job advertisement in Year R, for TA will be left open as long as possible, until the actual support for SEND pupils commencing in September 2024 is confirmed. The LA has stated that Whitestone will not be left financially at risk.

Mrs. Thornicroft is due to visit school on Thursday 24th May 2024 to discuss detailed drawings for the proposed expansion of Whitestone.

At the end of the summer term Mrs. Obrey, who has been teaching at Whitestone for 21 years leaves, the staffing structure will be reviewed, prior to a replacement been appointed. Mrs. Rudd who has been teaching at Whitestone for 31 years also leaves; her 0.6 post will be replaced by 0.3 mornings. **The governors expressed their thanks to both Mrs. Obrey and Mrs. Rudd for their dedication and service to Whitestone over the years and wished them both all the best for the future.**

Miss. B. Sweet has been appointed to a full time post, M1, commencing in September 2024.

Following a recent staff meeting regarding the budget deficit actions that included shortening the MDS hours, talks are taking place with the HR at the LA and Unions.

The pupils, who joined in the Warwickshire Musical Festival, held at Nicholas Chamberlaine School, Bedworth, thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Curriculum. There has been extensive monitoring post Ofsted. Good progress has been made. Teachers plan together for the strength of the school. Displays throughout the school support the wider curriculum. Pupils know the lesson that they are in and what they are learning. Evidence in books is clear. Monitoring has been successful. Mrs. Kilburn will send the annual SEND report to the P&S committee on 2nd July 2024. The calming boxes funded by "The Friends of Whitestone" are now used in all the classrooms.

Safeguarding. Operation Encompass 2 cases. PSA involvements 8. Early Help, pathway to change 0. CIN 0. CP2, internal isolations 2. HSB 0.

There have been no suspensions, prevent, homophobic, racism, bullying cases and physical intervention cases.

SEND. 9 pupils with an EHCP currently, 1 pupil has had an EHNCA accepted for assessment. Another pupil has had their declined. The school is supporting the parent through the appeals process. Two more EHNCA applications are due for submission shortly further pupils to be assessed against the EHCP process.

Both Whitestone and Chetwynd are writing to the LA regarding the funding cuts and the impact on SEND pupils. **The governors held a focused discussion on the present funding in education, especially in the SEND area and thanked Mrs. Green for her report.**

5. Annual update on Safeguarding/Child Protection.

Annual Safeguarding Audit – March 2023 to February 2024 was submitted to the LA, by Mrs. Green on 12th March 2024.

Mr. Thomas is due to visit Whitestone in autumn 2024.

Staff understanding in the area of self-harm to be developed. Many items in the curriculum area are not appropriate at Whitestone, due to the age of the pupils; we have picked out items related to

Whitestone pupils' ages. Mrs. Kilburn, SEND Leader will work four days a week, Monday to Thursday from September.

Mr. Johnson, Safeguarding governors stated that he was pleased with the Safeguarding Audit.

6. CIC monitoring visit report.

Child in Care had a successful monitoring visit. Many questions were asked, especially regarding a pupil in Warwickshire care. Everything that Whitestone needs is in place and the Behaviour policy will be updated to reflect this. Intervention and good staff support is in place.

Governors Report – Re CIC and PCIC 2024 had been previously circulated. Copy with original minutes.

Mrs. Green reported that in the case of a CWSWever6 child, the pupil had not been suspended due to the pupil's background and circumstances. They go into isolation. Social Services and the Virtual School outreach service are to visit school to see this pupil.

7. Review Attendance.

Attendance Summary 2023/2024 had been previously circulated. Copy with original minutes.

Whole school absence 96.75%, (3.5% absence). Pupil Premium 96.00%, (4% absence).

Attendance YTD 95.35%. Authorized absence 3.71%. Unauthorized absence 0.93%. Persistence absence 10.86%.

Mrs. Green stated that Whitestone is above the national attendance, but we rigorously work to improve all pupil attendance at termly meeting. Attendance is thoroughly tracked. For persistence absence, meetings are held with parents and letters sent out monthly.

We look at the number of sessions missed, Class 1, 68 pupils missed 29 days education in April.

Governors held a discussion and stated that Whitestone is working in the right direction and undertaking all procedures allowed to improve attendance. Non-attendance in schools is a national problem that has increased since Covid.

8. Review pupil exclusions.

There have been no pupil exclusions to review.

9. Policies.

Charging & Remissions Policy and Education for Children in Care and Previously in Care, were discussed by the governors. Both these policies were agreed by the governors and were signed off and dated by Mr. Johnson.

ACTION Charging and Remissions Policy and Education for Children in Care and Previously in Care were agreed by the governors and were signed off and dated by Mr. Johnson.

10. Governor Training/Visits.

Mr. Johnson had attended both the Quality of Education and Attendance courses and also attended the Attendance and Child in Care meetings.

The Governor Day took place on Monday 22nd April 2024.

Mr. Hartopp observed the different approach of teachers teaching in the classrooms. He had enjoyed the first-hand experience of seeing the school working on a daily basis. Mr. Hartopp commented that several of the classrooms were very warm. Mrs. Knox stated that the pipes in these classrooms require lagging.

Mrs. Burdett visited the Early Years area, the environment was good. Pupils took responsibility for their own learning.

Mr. Stokes met with Mrs. Matheson to discuss mental health issues. Anxiety parent workshops have been held.

Mr. Atkins stated that Mrs. Gamblin, Music Leader is positively trying to expand music throughout the whole school.

Dr. Hill stated that the games were good. Going from class to class he experienced the different types of teaching. He talked to Miss. Pemberton regarding her Computer Leader role.

All governors noted that the acoustic level in the school hall which needs addressing, especially when pupils are eating their meal at dinner time.

Mrs. Green stated that it was important for governors to come into school to experience the working environment it first-hand and observe Whitestone pupils being happy and safe in school.

Tesco has presented the school with a cheque for £5,000 under the Tesco Stronger Starts Funding Programme.

11. Correspondence.

The Clerk has emailed the Governors Information from the L.A.

12. Meeting Dates 2024/2025.

Dates for governing body meetings 2024/2025 was circulated, these are to be confirmed. Copy with original minutes.

13. Any Other Business.

There was no any other business.

14. Dates of next meetings.

Performance & Standards –Tuesday 2nd July 2024; from 5.30 pm. until 6.30 p.m.

Pay Committee – Thursday 4th July 2024; from 5.30 p.m. until 6.30 p.m.

FRSC – Tuesday 9th July 2024; from 5.30 p.m. until 6.30 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.45 p.m.

Date Signed

(Chair)