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**MINUTES OF THE AUTUMN TERM CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY ON 16 NOVEMBER 2021**

PRESENT: Cllr Tafheen Sharif Authority – in the Chair

Ms Jenny Ross Parent

Mr Wayne Williams Co-opted

Mrs Deborah Brown Headteacher

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Jackie Brook Staff

Mr Matthew Hartley Co-opted

Mrs Zoe Fallows Parent

Mr Nick Whitbread Parent

Mrs Rachel Lees Clerk to the Governing Board

The meeting was held virtually via Zoom Pro and would be followed by a Governing Board meeting to consider options regarding academy conversion.

**PROCEDURAL**

**1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

The Chair thanked governors for their attendance. An apology was received from Mrs Blake, Staff governor. Mr Williams would join the meeting later and Mr Leech would be able to attend the meeting after 5:00 pm.

RESOLVED: To consent to the absence of Mrs Blake

**2 Declaration of Business/Pecuniary/Personal Interest**

No governors had any business or pecuniary interest or conflict of interest.

3 Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2021 as a true and

correct record

3.1 Matters Arising

@ 1 – Governing Board

Mr Barry had resigned in the summer term and two new governors had been appointed. They would be appointed to Committees at the Governing Board meeting in December.

@ 8 – 360 feedback summary

The feedback had been completed. Helen Woodward was due into school on 17 November to talk to the staffing team about their input into the 360 feedback and to bring solutions to problems.

**TERMLY MONITORING**

School was now using One Drive which was a learning process for the Headteacher. She was finding it increasingly difficult to find time to send information to governors prior to meetings and felt that it would be much more practical for governors to have a shared Teams access area so she could upload documents when available and then governors could look at them when they were ready.

1. **School/Partnership Development Plan (SDP)**

The Headteacher shared the SDP and asked governors to refer to the document to prepare questions for the Governing Board meeting.

The Partnership were due to meet on 17 November. The Headteacher shared the completed improvement plan for 2019-21 with each priority further broken down into intent, implementation and impact, but the Partnership were not working in the same way due to the pandemic. However, school still continued with Hot Maths for Y6 children on a Friday morning for six children which started in September. This was delivered by the Mossley Hollins High School (MHHS) teacher who planned the lessons, which were delivered by various teachers. The Headteacher wanted more Buckton Vale children to go to the maths lessons but the Partnership lead was following the secondary-based scheme for the entire year. Data had not been provided as the tests were not due until the end of November, but the data would be shared with the local secondary schools to identify gaps.

Debates had recently been recorded for the Y5 children as some were experienced and could help support the rest of the children. This was sent to MHHS and all children had received certificates. School had managed to complete the Mossley Olympics in July: teachers got the children to do tasks and collated scores to get the winners. Buckton Vale was very sporty and successful with PE, participating in and winning football matches. Children had completed cross country.

*Mr Williams joined the meeting at 16:33*

Mr Williams had taken children to The Cliff sports ground (used by Manchester United) for an enjoyable day out. He was proud that Y4 had won the football tournament, competing against schools from different Manchester boroughs.

RESOLVED: That the Headteacher share the School Development Plan and Partnership

Development Plan after the meeting

1. **School Recovery Curriculum Plan**

The Headteacher would provide an update at the next meeting.

**6 Outcomes for Children and Learners**

The Headteacher had emailed governors with data analysis from July 2021 in relation to reading and writing, as well as assessment charts for September 2021. In response to a governor’s question, the Headteacher confirmed that the data related to autumn 2020 and summer 2021 as tests were delayed until the end of June. Testing for autumn would take place at the end of November 2021.

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| Q | Is maths of concern in Y1 (current Y2)? 19% are well below and 16% just below. |
| A | 70% would not be in line with national expected standards, but the last available data was three years ago. Staff do not know what the expected standards are so we have to use previous data, therefore Buckton Vale is broadly in line with national. |
| Q | Upper KS2 seems to be the least affected by the pandemic. |
| A | There is a high proportion of GD (greater depth) in both year groups, which suggests that older children had been working more independently at home. The younger children had been more affected by the pandemic. |
| Q | How will school use the catch up funding for those children below the target and those at GD? |
| A | Staff need to include a challenge task, not just at GD but for all children. This will come through on Carol Thomas’ report as we want to make sure that staff can see that children know what is next, so when a child has finished a task then they can find a challenge task. |
| Q | The data is split – can the groups be split? |
| A | Governors need to come into school for observations if they can in the spring term. In maths, the children had red, amber and green (RAG) cups and when children were stuck on a problem and they needed some support, the teacher collected those children who were stuck and modelled another example for them. We have asked teachers to reconsider how many times they use the cups as Carol Thomas felt they should be used for every session to bring some of those embedded practices back into the classroom and get back to pre-pandemic teaching. |
| Q | Reading and writing for Y1 (current Y2) is a concern. What can we do to raise those standards? |
| A | The Covid catch up premium will be used to plug gaps in KS1. We are using a tutor from the Tutor Trust but £7,000 is not enough money. |

*Mr Hartley, Mr Whitbread and Mrs Fallows joined the meeting at 16:55*

RESOLVED: To include Outcomes for Children and Learners as an agenda item on the autumn term

Governing Board meeting

1. **Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment - monitoring**

Carol Thomas had recently visited school to complete deep dives of English, maths and geography but the Headteacher had not received her report as at the date of the meeting. The focus of the deep dives was to look at strength subjects and, in turn, where to provide support.

Geography in KS2 was very strong but Mrs Thomas had not looked in KS1 books as they were doing history. She had asked the Y6 children about geographical events to extract their knowledge and they were able to talk about sticky knowledge from the Y3 topics because of the books they were reading, so the knowledge was coming from the narrative curriculum.

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| Q | If stories bring things to life for the children, how can teachers get that into geography teaching? |
| A | Teachers are looking at connecting the curriculum using the curriculum trees. We need staff to work on the narrative curriculum and curriculum trees but there needs to be more medium term planning. The skills curriculum shows how the different skills build up, but both Mrs Thomas and the Headteacher felt the next focus needed to be medium term planning so teachers could show how the sticky knowledge of learning was connected. |

The Headteacher had reduced Mrs Thomas’ time at Buckton Vale because of the budgetary issues. However, senior leaders wanted the Governing Board to consider increasing her time so that all curriculum leads had the opportunity to do a deep dive which would, in turn, provide the Headteacher with information about the curriculum.

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| Q | What hours have we contracted Mrs Thomas for in the past and what are they now? |
| A | We had contracted her for £5,000 and now it is just under £4,000. |
| Q | It is feasible to do every subject this year and implement recommendations? |
| A | We will implement recommendations as we go, but staff feel that it is a monitoring exercise. |

The Headteacher then talked about her working week and the pressure she was under. The Vice Chair asked if she was being supported and the Headteacher responded that she was trying to support staff wellbeing but was not receiving any support herself. She understood that the LA were also under immense pressure but she did not get any support from either Tim Bowman or Jane Sowerby. The Vice Chair had been concerned about the Headteacher’s wellbeing since the beginning of the pandemic.

RESOLVED: (a) To defer consideration of an increase in Mrs Thomas’ contracted hours to the

autumn term Governing Board meeting

(b) To include the Headteacher’s wellbeing as an agenda item at the autumn term

Governing Board meeting

**8 Effectiveness of Leadership and Management**

See minute 7 above.

**POLICY REVIEW**

**9 Policy Review**

9.1 Homework Policy

RESOLVED: To defer consideration and approval of the Homework Policy to the autumn term Governing Board meeting

9.2 Marking Policy

RESOLVED: To defer consideration and approval of the Marking Policy to the autumn term Governing Board meeting

*Mrs Brook arrived at the meeting at 5:00 pm*

**ORGANISATION**

**10 Any Other Business**

10.1 Requests from Staff

Staff had requested that the Headteacher ask the Governing Board for their support over the remainder of the autumn term. School had lots of events booked, including nativity and Christmas fair, but staff were very concern about the numbers of Covid cases in Tameside but also in school. There had been 21 confirmed cases of children with Covid and a significant number of the staffing team which had led to stress and difficulties in terms of the number of teaching staff on the premises. It was very difficult to get supply staff and support staff were trying to fill the gaps which had been a significant challenge, so much so that the last six weeks had been the worst staffing crisis of the pandemic so far. Staff were also following HR attendance procedures which added to their stress.

Staff had contacted Reception parents to inform them that the Nativity would be recorded rather than inviting parents onto the premises, primarily due to lack of ventilation and staff had written a rationale for the Governing Board to consider.

The Headteacher had discussed options for the Christmas fair with the Chair of the PTA in relation to health and safety and weather issues. Staff proposed that the fair, in the form of a market, take place in the hall with a reduced number of the PTA running the event to allow children to have a Christmas experience. Parents had been very generous and the PTA had been unable to meet last week due to illness. Staff had only 10 days to plan the Christmas fair and wanted to help but did not want to be off sick. Staff had also suggested that Father Christmas visited the classrooms.

The Chair stated that governors recognised that staff were anxious and that measures needed to be put in place. Governors agreed that they needed to protect the school community from further Covid issues and agreed with staff proposals.

RESOLVED: That the Governing Board agree with staff proposals regarding events over the autumn

term/Christmas period

**11 To note the dates and times of Committee meetings 2022**

RESOLVED: To note the following dates:

* Monday 7 February 2022 at 4:30 pm (spring term 2022)
* Tuesday 26 April 2022 at 4:30 pm (summer term 2022)

A governor had requested a change to the date of the Governing Board meeting on 7 December as this clashed with a previously scheduled meeting. The Clerk would liaise with the Headteacher and Chair regarding a change of date, provisionally suggested as Monday 6 December 2021.

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| *Meeting details* |  |
| *Time started* | *1600* |
| *Time finished* | *1715* |

***ACTIONS ARISING FOLLOWING THE CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY ON 16 NOVEMBER 2021***

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| **Min** | **Resp** | **Action** | **Audience** | **Completion Date** |
| 3.1 | D Brown | Email 360 feedback | GB | - |
| 4 | D Brown | Email School Development Plan &  Partnership Development Plan | GB | - |
| 7 | D Brown | Consider increase in Mrs Thomas’ contracted hours | GB | December |
| 9.1 & 9.2 | D Brown | Marking Policy  Homework Policy | GB | December |
| 11 | Clerk | Change of date of GB meeting | D Brown  N Whitbread | December |

\*Terms of Reference – spring term agenda item