

**BUCKTON VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**MINUTES OF THE COVID-19 OVERSIGHT COMMTTEE**

**HELD VIRTUALLY ON 26 APRIL 2021**

PRESENT: Mr Matt Hartley Parent (Health and Safety link)

Ms Jenny Ross Parent (SEND link)

Ms Taf Sharif Authority

Mr Nick Whitbread Parent (Chair of Governing Board)

Mrs Deborah Brown Head Teacher

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Rachel Lees Clerk to the Governing Board

Due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, the meeting had been arranged virtually via Zoom.

**1 Welcome**

The Chair welcomed governors to the meeting. Apologies were received from Mrs Sarah Blake, Staff governor. John Cesarz and Wayne Williams Co-opted governors, had also sent their apologies. Mr Leech was not present and had not sent apologies.

RESOLVED: To consent to the absence of the above governors

**2 Minutes of the Covid-19 Oversight Panel meeting – 29 March 2021**

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2021

**3 Headteacher’s Update on current situation**

The Headteacher explained that school had trialled children getting their own meals at lunchtime but it had not been successful and would not be repeated. Mrs Blake and the Headteacher had met to work on lunchtime behaviour and Mrs Blake had written a lunchtime code of conduct, in partnership with the lunchtime team, which she had launched at an assembly. Active Sports came into school on Mondays and, as part of the package, the end of year treat would be virtual bowling. Lunchtime staff would give each class points per day and the class with the most points would win a special day out. Children were very excited and staff hoped that behaviour would be outstanding at lunchtimes. In response to a governor’s question, the Headteacher explained that children understood what E+R=O was (event/responsible/outcome) as lunchtime staff were using the terminology as well as LEAF work (listen/emotion/actions/follow-up). Peer mediator children were also trained in using LEAF within the Y6 bubble and, in response to a governor’s question, the Headteacher would speak to Mrs Blake about having a peer mediator in each class. New buddy benches had been ordered and would be installed shortly. These helped children to become empowered to understand and regulate their emotions.

In response to a governor’s question, the Headteacher confirmed that there were still bubbles in classes. Staff had discussed merging classes but did not feel that it was worth the risk as school was trying to prevent class bubbles closing, especially as some of the rules had relaxed and would be relaxed further on 21 June. The Headteacher had spoken to other head teachers and the general consensus was to keep things as they were until the end of the academic year. The governor asked if governors would receive assessment date in the summer and the Headteacher stated that, as children were settled in, assessments had taken place last week and another assessment would take place in June as it was needed for transition to the next class or secondary school. Mrs Oldham would present information to the Governing Board on 21 June. The Headteacher was worried that school would adhere to the budget issues instead of meeting the needs of the children and the two did not match.

A governor asked for an update on the budget situation. The Headteacher had met with Tim Bowman, Director of Education, three times but did not feel that any progress had been made. There were more complicated factors than just finance as she was dealing with a number of complaints regarding SEND, safeguarding and the school building. The Chair of the Governing Board would attend a meeting on 28 April with Mr Bowman, Jonathan Reynolds MP, Christine Mullens and Catherine Moseley. Mrs Quinn and both School Business Managers (SBMs) would also attend. The Chair would share the Governing Board’s concerns about the school’s financial position which was becoming increasingly urgent as the Headteacher and SBMs needed to plan staffing for September 2021. The Local Authority (LA) had a duty to look at the PAN (pupil admission number) with regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty 2010. The Headteacher was becoming increasingly frustrated because she was trying to prevent a crisis.

*Mr Whitbread left the meeting at 10:00 am*

A governor wanted the Chair to ask how, as a Council, Tameside were meeting the Public Sector Equality Duty if they continued to allow the children at Buctkon Vale to be financially disadvantaged against every other child in the borough? The Headteacher was particularly exasperated about the issue as it had been raised with the LA over 12 months ago and was no further on.

A governor asked the Headteacher to invite Cllr Leanne Feeley, Execuive member, to the meeting on 28 April. The Headteacher shared a letter from the Rt Hon Nick Gibb, Minister of State for School Standards, to Jonathan Reynolds MP, as the Headteacher had asked the latter to find out why Buckton Vale was unfairly disadvantaged with an historical 45 PAN. A governor commented that, at the time that the PAN had increased, the Governing Board should have asked for a pupil growth contingency budget and the LA should have flagged this as part of the PSED. According to the PSED, children (with or without protected characteristics) should have the same opportunities across the borough but Tameside had breached the PSED as Buckton Vale’s children had been financially disadvantaged since 2011, when the PSED came into law. Although the Headteacher was adamant that school’s finances were well managed, school had paid for two teachers since 2011 and she felt that legal support was needed. Governors felt that it was not just a government issue but an issue for the Governing Board. The solution was to reduce the PAN which had gone out for consultation but Tameside also needed to recognise the historical disadvantage and allocate funding.

ACTION: That the Headteacher will invite Cllr Leanne Feeley to the meeting on 28 April 2021

*Mr Hartley left the meeting at 10:15 am*

In response to governor’s questions, the Headteacher stated that, in 2011, the MLD provision had no children attending it although, on paper, the MLD provision was still open. In order to close an MLD school would have to go to consultation. There was now a massive need for SEND in Tameside. A governor suggested that the Headteacher ask local councillors to complain on behalf of the school. The Headteacher was at the point where she felt that the Governing Board might need to consider whether Buckton Vale should leave Tameside and convert to an academy. She was unable to lead the school strategically because of the number of issues which were unresolved.

Following lengthy discussion, governors agreed that they needed to write a letter to be presented at the meeting on 28 April. Governors would express their extreme concern about the lack of action on the financial issue (and therefore the inability of the Headteacher/SBM to plan staffing for September 2021); the historical PAN; enforcement of the Public Sector Equality Duty; previous support from the LA when school was in a category; MLD provision; and concerns about safeguarding, SEND and the school buildings.

ACTION: That the Governing Board will write a letter to Mr Bowman to express their concerns

regarding the lack of active response on a number of issues, including the Public

Sector Equality Duty 2011, which are impacting on the Headteacher’s capacity to

strategically lead the school

The Headteacher noted that school had three new admissions which would change plans to mixed classes in September 2021. Governors understood that, until the PAN could be reduced in 2022, school had to accept in-year admissions.

A governor expressed concern about Tameside’s proposal to re-open Buckton Vale’s MLD unit as a SEND unit. The Headteacher commented that Charlotte Finch, Head of SEND, suggested that the unit would need three adults (one teacher and two TAs). School would receive between £100=-140,000 per pupil funding but this would not meet the costs of the staffing as suggested. The Headteacher felt that at least four adults would be needed and therefore there would be additional costs to school.

**4 Review of Risk Assessments**

No changes were made to the risk assessment.

RESOLVED: To approve the risk assessment and lateral flow risk assessment

**5 Parental Queries**

There were no parental queries.

**6 National and Local Guidance**

There were no changes to local or national guidance which required changes to the risk assessment.

**7 To agree the date of the next Covid-19 Oversight Panel meeting**

The Clerk suggested that the meeting take place immediately prior to the Curriculum and Standards Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: Monday 17 May 2021 at 5:00 pm via Zoom

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| *Meeting details* |  |
| *Time started* | *0940* |
| *Time finished* | *1045* |

**ACTIONS ARISING FOLLOWING THE COVID-19 OVERSIGHT PANEL MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY ON**

**26 APRIL 2021**

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| **Min** | **Resp** | **Action** | **Audience** |
| 3 | D Brown | Invite Cllr Leanne Feeley to meeting on 28 April | - |
| 3 | J Ross | Write letter on behalf of GB for meeting on 28 April | - |
| 7 | Governors | Note date of next meeting | GB |