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

**MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY ON 17 MAY 2021**

PRESENT: Cllr Tafheen Sharif Authority – in the Chair

Mrs Sarah Blake Staff

Mr Arron Leech Co-opted

Ms Jenny Ross Parent

Mr Wayne Williams Co-opted

Mrs Deborah Brown Headteacher

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Rachel Lees Clerk to the Governing Board

The meeting was held virtually via Zoom Pro.

**PROCEDURAL**

**1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

The Chair thanked governors for their attendance. In response to the Head teacher’s question, a governor commented that they were concerned Mr Barry was not in attendance again and that we needed committed members to the Governing Board.

RESOLVED: That the Headteacher will write to Mr Barry

**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 10 February 2021 as a true and

correct record

3.1 Matters Arising

@ 6 – Update on Third Space Learning

Mrs Blake confirmed that Third Space Learning was continuing. Children had recently completed more assessments and, following pupil progress meetings last week, teachers may change some of the children the scheme after the half term. The impact and feedback from parents, children and teachers had been very positive.

@ 7 – update on class Dojos

The Headteacher referred to Carol Thomas’ SIP report. They had visited every classroom for a morning observation spending 15-minutes in each classroom on a learning walk and revisited in the afternoon to see a range of things which were happening, such as Science and Music. All children were on task throughout the observations and many children were genuinely excited because they were so engaged with learning. The Head teacher had enjoyed being with the children and Mrs Thomas was so impressed with the behaviour throughout her visit. The behaviour for learning from the children remained outstanding: Buckton Vale children wanted to learn and be in school which was a credit to the staffing team. The Chair thanked staff for their work.

The Headteacher has sent Governors Mrs Thomas’ report at the Governing Board from her visit on 10 March 2021. The day had been so positive it was difficult to consider next steps: Mrs Thomas report indicates the school is in a very strong position, which was a massive credit to the team considering the challenges linked to the pandemic.

**TERMLY MONITORING**

1. **School Development Plan**

The Headteacher explained that the School Development Plan (SDP) would be presented at the Governing Board meeting on 13 July 2021 due to the spring term lockdown and lack of time for the SLT to complete the intentions. She anticipated that the SDP would be used to inform the Recovery Curriculum in September which she would bring to the Governing Board meeting on 13 July.

The head teacher’s partnership meeting would take place in May to prepare the Partnership plan for the next two years. She would provide an update at the Governing Board meeting on 13 July.

RESOLVED: That the Headteacher will provide an update on the School Development Plan and

Mossley Partnership Plan at the summer term meeting of the Governing Board

1. **School Recovery Curriculum Plan**

The Headteacher had updated changes to the Recovery Curriculum although the SLT would need to refresh the curriculum in mid-July, ready for September as much of it related to Covid. Staff had made good headway and the Headteacher was very proud of their efforts.

The Headteacher had emailed some work linked to the PERMA training staff had completed, as governors were unable to visit school. She had also sent a link to the website page which showed photographs from the third and final training session. She was very proud that Buckton Vale was now officially a Positive Education School, one of only three schools in the country with the qualification so far. <https://www.bucktonvale.org.uk/index.php/perma-training>

The Headteacher had a head teacher colleague contact her regarding positive education certification, which he had found through the school website, so the former had provided information to the latter. The Headteacher would consider inviting Julie Hurst to a Governing Board training meeting to talk about the sort of learning that children had done. The Headteacher had booked onto more training to finish the programme in order to be able to bring more ideas back to the staffing team to continue as much Positive Education learning as possible.

Mrs Thomas had commented that the displays around school were extremely good with a focus on mental health and wellbeing including gratitude walls.

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| Q | I note that the Homework Policy is being reviewed. |
| A | Because of the nature of the IT situation school is in, staff do not want to stop using Class Dojo and need to review the Homework Policy. The current policy is dated now as it does not include the IT links we have set up during COVID. Staff were better connected with parents during the lockdowns and online learning was very positive so we want to keep this going. A staff meeting to review the Policy is set in June 2021. |
| Q | That feeds into renewal of the LPPA Award |
| A | LPPA documentation is underway. Adam Booth had been sending out analysis questions to parents. Lots of information had been analysed and we think that homework ideas will be welcomed but will consult with parents again ready for September. |
| A | Whilst we have used CGP in the past, after the pandemic we have not found them as useful so we may look at alternatives using the Class Dojo as a platform for sharing homework. |

**6 Outcomes for Children and Learners**

The Chair looked forward to receiving data on outcomes at the Governing Board training meeting on 21 June 2021.

RESOLVED: That the Governing Board will receive data on 21 June 2021

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

A governor referred to Mrs Thomas’ report.

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| Q | Because of the focus on core subjects since children have returned to school, have the non-core subjects been amalgamated? |
| A | There were some umbrella terms in the last curriculum, such as “topic” but when Carol was asking the children what they were doing, they could not tell us whether it was a geography lesson but told us it was humanities, which needs addressing. Carol’s suggestion in the report is to come up with some simple definitions i.e. history is learning about the past. Because of the pandemic and lockdowns, and although Buckton Vale was ahead in terms of curriculum preparation, some of the old terminology was still there. |
| Q | Carol’s report was very positive and valuable. It gives us all a perspective on where we are as a school. It gives us some confidence to show that children are thriving but we can still improve. |
| A | It is good to get an external view. We have had a few visitors in school and the children ask who they are, as they know they have the right to feel safe and feel empowered to ask questions. It has been quite lovely to visit classrooms and see how the children interact with visitors. They are a credit to us. |

**8 Effectiveness of Leadership and Management**

The Headteacher explained that Helen Woodward had been in school to do 360° feedback and some governors had filled in questionnaires. The 360° feedback had created a group report for the SLT and the Headteacher asked governors if they wanted to receive the report prior to the next meeting. The SLT had since had a meeting with Ms Woodward, with the latter giving staff individual and then group feedback which had been very useful.

RSOLVED: That the Headteacher share a summary of the 360° degree feedback with governors

**9 Covid catch-up funding**

The Headteacher referred to discussions at previous Governing Board and Committee meetings. She was confident that school had done the best they could with the £23,000 allocated and no changes had been made to the plans. She noted that school needed an investment in books. Miss Woodhouse had completed an audit of books and decided that KS2 classrooms needed more book band books for reluctant readers. She had placed an order, which was approximately £2,000 as reading was a priority in school.

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| Q | With children being in bubbles, is there some difficulty with ReadWrite Inc (RWI) not being in the cohort bubble? |
| A | We have had to spend additional money on staffing. In order to ensure we are meeting the needs of the children we have put two members of staff in each bubble to meet the statutory SEND duty to support those children and ensure that SEND targets were being addressed. Teachers needed to support children in class more so those additional staff had been trained in RWI, including a lunchtime organiser who has been trained as a TA2 with online training and training with Miss Woodhouse |
| A | The Headteacher had shared some exceptional data after the first term back so this term several additional staff members were doing RWI for one to one support or support in groups. That was more problematic in KS2- spelling was challenging even with support from TAs – but staff were looking at changing that after the summer term. Spelling remains a focus area. |
| A | Mrs Thomas’ report said that writing was a strength of the school. Teachers had worked hard to get the balance between some children needing to come out of class with the TA or staying in for RWI. |
| Q | We have a training session on 21 June, but the Headteacher had explained through pupil progress meetings that assessment data demonstrates progress but that the assessment leader would explain what this meant for us in the training day. |
| A | Mrs Oldham will explain about assessment. Staff have continued to build the confidence of the children as positive psychology is very important. We have cautiously decided against any greater depth (GD) in the data as we do not have the evidence, but GD indicators were looking quite good at initial indicators with some children in each class showing GD. Early indications are positive but we will proceed with caution at this challenging time. The teaching team are ensuring children get what they need despite the challenges. |

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| Q | Can we recover any costs from the DfE? |
| A | The DfE has detailed information in terms of what school can claim for and school cannot claim for extra teachers or supply teachers. We have claimed for additional cleaning and PP equipment but cannot claim for additional supply or TA costs unless the need for them is COVID illness related. Because of the 45 PAN we don’t have enough TAs to have 1 in each classroom so we have had to draft in other staff which has had an impact on the budget. |
| Q | Have you raised that with the Council? |
| A | We have already discussed in-depth budget concerns with the council. |

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| Q | There is an annual governance survey which she has completed in relation to Covid including no way to claim TA3s. Governors can feed back into NGA survey. |
| Q | The NGA has an annual governance survey which governors can feed back on.  <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/NGAsurvey2021-social/>. It allows governors to give feedback on what the DfE have got right or wrong in education this year and will give us the opportunity to draw attention to the fact that TA3 funding is not claimable against the Covid catch-up funding. That has been particularly problematic for Buckton Vale as, due to our bigger class sizes, it has been the best way to address catching children up with their cohort whilst adhering to class bubble guidance.  There is also a section on funding where we could comment on the per pupil funding formula not helping us meet the needs of a 45-PAN where we are 15 pupils short of teacher funding in Reception compared with schools of 30 or 60 PANs. |

RESOLVED: That governors complete the NGA survey

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| Q | We wanted to focus on physical education, is there a range of sports being offered at lunchtimes? |
| A | We have spread sport across the field and playground. Y3 and 4 are swapping with Y5 and 6 every week. On the playground we have basketball, football and handball and on the field we have football, rounders and cricket. We have also had a dance coach on the playground. |
| Q | Are the boys dancing too? Sports should be gender neutral. |
| A | We have seen some boys dancing. We also have a daily mile when it is weather dependent |
| A | We have had a double dose of Bikeabilty with Y5 and 6 so we have caught up with what was missed last year. |
| Q | Are we doing a walk to school initiative? |
| A | The difficulty is that the initiative is this week and we finish on Friday, but we will look at it after the holiday. Mark Payne is looking into it. |
| Q | Walking is not just a health benefit; it has an environmental benefit too. |

**10 Pupil Premium Report**

Governors agreed that Pupil Premium had been discussed at previous COP meetings.

**POLICY REVIEW**

**11 Policy Review**

There were no curriculum-related policies which required review at this meeting. However, the Homework Policy and Marking Policy would be changed in readiness for governor consideration at the next meeting. With regard to the latter, the Head teacher commented that staff needed to look at how books could be suitably marked but reduce the workload for staff. She referred to a “less marking” document which she would incorporate into the school policy

RESOLVED: (a) That the Headteacher will send the “less marking” document to governors

(b) To include review of the Homework Policy and Marking Policy at the next

meeting

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| Q | How do we monitor staff and the Headteacher’s wellbeing? |
| A | We will put this on the agenda for the Governing Board meeting on 13 July. |

**ORGANISATION**

**12 Any Other Business**

There were no further items of business.

**13 To agree the dates and times of Committee meetings 2021-22**

All governors were welcome to attend all meetings. Governing Board and Committee meeting dates would be agreed at the Governing Board meeting on 13 July.

RESOLVED: To agree Committee meeting dates at the Governing Board meeting on 13 July 2021

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| *Meeting details* |  |
| *Time started* | *1720* |
| *Time finished* | *1835* |

***ACTIONS ARISING FOLLOWING THE CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY ON 17 MAY 2021***

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| **Min** | **Resp** | **Action** | **Audience** | **Completion Date** |
| 1 | D Brown | Contact Mr Barry regarding position on the Governing Board | S Barry | - |
| 4 | D Brown | School Development Plan  Mossley Partnership Plan | GB | 13/7/2021 |
| 6 | D Brown | Outcomes and assessment data | GB | 21/6/2021 |
| 8 | S Brown | Share 360 feedback summary | GB |  |
| 9 | Governors | Complete NGA survey | GB |  |
| 11 | D Brown | Send “less marking” document to governors | GB |  |
| 11 | Clerk | Homework Policy  Marking Policy | CSC | Autumn term |
| 11 | Clerk | Monitor HT and staff wellbeing | GB | 13/7/2021 |