



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

18th May 2023

Minutes of Extraordinary Governors Budget Meeting

PRESENT: Julian Rakowski, Headteacher (JR), Philip Stark, Chair of R&C Committee (PStark), Gerard McMahon (GM), Sharon McHugh (SMH), Bittoy George (BG), Danita Rowlands (DR), Hilary Turner (HT)

Edyta Marciniuk – arrived late, not present for budget discussion or decision.

CLERK: Cath McNee

Item	Discussion	Action
1a	Meeting started with a prayer.	
1b	Apologies Anita Marshall – apologies received and accepted. Claire O'Neill - apologies received and accepted. Fr. Cristiano Braz – absent It was agreed that in the absence of Anita Marshall Philip Stark would act as Chair for the meeting.	
1c	Chair's Action and report None.	
1l	Declaration of Interest None.	
1j	AOB/Confidential items None.	
2	Governors' Purpose: visions, ethos and direction, educational performance, financial performance – Part 1	
2a	To enquire into, and approve budget for 2023/2024 The Chair reminded Governors that the 2023/24 budget and the 3-year projections had been reviewed at the 9 th May 2023 Governing Body meeting. At that meeting it was agreed that in order to make an informed decision clarification of questions raised at that meeting on the 2023/24 budget and the 3 year projections was needed from [redacted] (School Bursarial Service). The Headteacher agreed to obtain clarification from the School Bursar on the questions raised	

by Governors at that meeting and to report back to Governors, so as to enable the 2023/24 budget and the 3 year projections to be agreed.

The Headteacher noted that the revised 2023/24 budget balanced.

The Headteacher referred to the revised 2023/24 school budget plan, circulated to Governors at the meeting and explained:

- High needs top up funding is flat and does not increase because the budget ages out – it does not take in any new funding until new children join the school.
- Pupil premium grant is static, the grant cannot go up or down until new pupils are in school and we do not know the number of pupil premium children yet.
- Income is flat because we do not know what grants are going to be available, the budget is set with what we know now.
- Infant Universal Free School Meals figure does not have the PE grant included. The PE grant is only given according to pupil numbers, and we don't have the numbers.
- Admin staff, there was a mistake in the costing, this has been rectified.
- A staff member put in the wrong category; this has been rectified.
- 9% pay awards are going to make a big difference. We will have to wait and see what happens with pay rises.
- We have had a drop in pupil numbers, 43 pupils down.
- Learning resources have gone down, we had extra costs for the Little Wandle reading scheme that we introduced and other resources that cost money.

The Chair said that impact of energy costs is understood.

Governor referred to Donations and/or Voluntary Funds and asked if there is a particular reason why it's so high, would we normally have £60k? Headteacher said no. £15k is a standard figure that has been allocated.

Governor said Agency Supply Teaching costs have come down a lot. Headteacher said we couldn't recruit staff in time last year, so agency supply cost was high, staff have now been employed for September and they are included in the Teaching staff budget.

The Chair asked the Headteacher to seek clarification from the Bursar on the in-year surplus of £20,027 and asked if it should be in cumulative surplus? The Headteacher will report back.

As regards the revised 3 year projections, the Headteacher noted that the projected deficit for 2024/25 has been reduced from £293,061 to £113,274 and the projected deficit for 2025/26 has been reduced from £445,362 to £196,613. The Headteacher confirmed that the principal reasons for this were that some of the formulae must have been incorrect and some funding had been updated.

	<p>Governors thanked the Headteacher for the revised 2023/24 budget and 3 year projections and the various clarifications.</p> <p>Governors agreed and approved the 2023/24 School Budget Plan.</p> <p>PS Proposed HT Seconded</p>	
4	<p>Academies update</p> <p>The Headteacher gave an update on academisation.</p> <p>The Headteacher said the Diocese would like due diligence on academisation to start and this is a decision for Governors.</p> <p>Governor asked what the consequences are of becoming an academy. The Headteacher said if we went into special measures an academy group would be asked to take over the school, all the school property would be acquired by the academy group and no longer belong to the Diocese. The Diocese want to avoid this and want its own Catholic academy group.</p> <p>Governor asked what would happen if Governors said no to becoming part of an academy. The Headteacher said he doesn't think there is much of a choice.</p> <p>Governor asked if the Diocese is safeguarding schools' Catholic status by going into an academy. Headteacher agreed.</p> <p>Headteacher informed Governors there is a meeting on Tuesday 6th June to discuss academisation due diligence, set up and the need to get Governors on board. Chair of R&C Committee and Headteacher are attending.</p> <p>Governor asked if the Diocese have control over the school if it becomes an academy. The Headteacher said the Governing Body of the academy will have control over the school.</p> <p>Governor said there are a lot of implications to consider. Headteacher agreed.</p> <p>Governor said they feel uncomfortable with schools becoming a business. Governor said this is a power grab. The powers that Board of Governors have will change or probably disappear.</p> <p>Governor asked the Headteacher where parents fit in with academisation and whether there is a consultation process with parents or Ealing.</p> <p>The Chair of R&C Committee would welcome more Governors attending the meeting on 6th June.</p>	
	The meeting finished at 8.15pm	

APM Gould 6/7/2023

