

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FULL GOVERNING BOARD OF WESTMINSTER NURSERY SCHOOL, CREWE ON THURSDAY 14TH JULY 2022 HELD IN PERSON AT THE SCHOOL

Governors Present:

Elizabeth Hulse (EH) Headteacher

Donna Reed (DR) Chair

Dawn Clark (DC) Vice Chair Co-opted Liz Austin (LA) Co-opted Governor

Linda Buchanan (LB) Co-opted Governor (joined the meeting at 4:43pm)

Connor Naismith (CN) Local Authority Governor

Emma Connor (EC) Staff Governor
Neil Smith (NS) Co-opted Governor

Others in attendance:

Sarah Lomas Clerk to the Governors

PART ONE - NON-CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Quorum = 5 The meeting met its quorum.

The meeting commenced at 4:25pm

ITEM					
	Prior to the meeting, NS delivered a training session on SFVS and Finance.				
1.	 APOLOGIES AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS (AOB) ITEMS a) Governors received and accepted apologies from the following: Lettitia Wooley Nathan Tice was not present and no apologies were received. POST-MEETING NOTE – Apologies were received and accepted from Nathan Tice by email to NS. The attendance register has been updated by the clerk to reflect this. Governors noted that LB would be late to the meeting. b) The following items were tabled for discussion under AOB: The Asset Register was missed off the action log and will be brought for approval under item 10. Governor learning walks. 				
2.	School website review. CONFLICT OF INTEREST				
۷.	Governors made the following declarations:				



	 DC is Chair of Governors at Pebble Brook Primary School and a member of Crewe Town Council. DR is a governor at Beechwood Primary School. CN is a Cheshire East Councillor. There were no conflicts declared with the business of the meeting.					
3.	DR was nominated for the position of Chair of the FGB. Following a vote, she was duly elected and appointed for a 1-year term of office. DC continued to Chair the meeting from this point.					
	3					
4.	ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR DC was nominated for the position of Chair of the FGB. Following a vote, she was duly elected and appointed for a 1-year term of office.					
5.	 MEMBERSHIP a) Governors noted the following change to the membership of the Board: Shakie Khatun has resigned as Parent Governor effective from 27.04.22. The following vacancy was considered by the Board: 1 x Parent Governor - the action to fill the vacancy was deferred until the autumn term when a new cohort of children will join the school. ACTION: Undertake a parent governor election in the autumn term 2022. It was noted that a staff governor election will be required in the autumn term 2022 once EC commences her role as HT. ACTION: Undertake a staff governor election in the autumn term 2022. c) Governors noted that there are no terms of office due to expire before the next meeting. d) The school confirmed their responsibility for undertaking criminal record checks for all new governors. It was confirmed that criminal record checks had been completed for CN. e) The school confirmed their responsibility for undertaking S.128 checks for all new governors. It was confirmed that a S.128 check had been completed for CN. f) The school confirmed that GIAS had been updated to reflect the resignation of Shakie Khatun. g) The Board considered the committee structure for 2022-23. The Chair confirmed the membership of committees for the 2022-23 academic year. It was suggested that the Board consider a move away from subcommittees with a flat governance structure of two FGB's per term. 	DR/EC				
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changes where the expectation is that all governors know the detail of all areas of governance. It was countered that some schools who have a flat structure find that it does not work effectively because there is too much to cover in one meeting and the meetings are very lengthy.

LB joined the meeting at 4:43pm.

DC shared with governors a potential meeting schedule whereby each FGB has a separate focus such as one on Curriculum and one on Finance and Resources as a suggested model for the Board to consider. Meetings could also be planned around specific deadlines for finance for example.

It was emphasised that at the last Ofsted inspection governors were interviewed without staff present and the weight of responsibility on governors has significantly increased from previous years.

It was commented that the Board would need to decide to implement a change in structure immediately or postpone and review at the end of the next academic year as such a change could not be implemented mid-year.

Concerns were expressed regarding attendance of governors along with the feeling that the expectation to know all areas of school governance could be overwhelming. Support was expressed for the change from new governors as they felt they do not have the working knowledge at present to answer Ofsted questions and to have a fuller understanding would be beneficial.

Governors noted that feedback from some other schools is that schools feel more empowered using a flat structure because all governors can see the links from all areas.

Q: Is the suggestion that there would just be FGB's which would focus on certain areas as per a specified agenda schedule?

A: Yes. It would alternate a Curriculum and Finance focus with the flexibility to change the timetable as required to meet deadlines.

The Board took a vote on changing the structure of committees. The vote was carried at 4 to 3 in favour of retaining the current structure. An agreement was made to review this at the end of 2022-23.

Governor Comment: As the Board is retaining the current structure, the skills audit must be analysed to assess how governors can be upskilled over the course of the year.

ACTION: Add review of the committee structure to the summer term 2023 FGB agenda.

Clerk



Governors noted that summaries of all committee meetings are brought to FGB to raise governors' awareness.

The committee membership for 2022-23 was tabled as follows: Curriculum – DR, LA, DC, EC, Parent Governor, Staff Governor (NS to minute)

Finance – NS, NT, CN, EC, DR Premises – LA, NT, LB, EC Chair's – EC, DR and LA HTPMP – DR, DC and LA

Link Monitoring Roles were tabled as follows:

Training Governor - LB

Pupil Premium - DC

Health and Safety – LA

Safeguarding and Cared for Children – DR

SEND – this role was considered following the parent governor resignation. LB was briefed on the role and agreed to become SEND link governor from September 2022.

6. PART ONE MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

a) The part one minutes of the spring term board of governors meeting on 16.03.22 were confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Governors **approved** the minutes. A copy was signed by the Chair and retained by the school.

- b) The action list from the last FGB meeting was reviewed and the following items were noted:
 - The asset register was to be approved under Item 10.

All other actions were marked as complete or underway.

7. CHAIR'S MEETING

The Chair provided a verbal summary of the meetings on 27.04.22 and 11.07.22.

27.04.22 – Staffing matters were discussed with confirmation given of the appointment of a TA for the summer term 2022. The parent governor vacancy was also discussed with the decision taken to defer the election until the autumn term. A review of the SDP and Governor Development Plan was also undertaken.

11.07.22 – The cycle of meetings for 2022-23 was reviewed along with a discussion around the governor section of the school website.

Pupil admissions for September 2022 were considered and it was noted that numbers are now increasing following the pandemic and it is anticipated that numbers will increase further over the summer holidays



for a September start. The numbers detailed in the report are now out of date as continuous enquiries are being received. The school confirmed that an afternoon 2's session may be added as was the case pre-covid due to the increase in numbers.

The skills audit was discussed which will be covered under Item 16 of this meeting. It was confirmed that LB and DR will meet during the summer to finalise the analysis of the skills audit. The Governor Development plan was also reviewed.

The SDP was reviewed, and praise was given to the HT for the detail within the SDP.

The end of term newsletter was discussed, and governors noted that the previous newsletter had communicated the change in Headteacher to parents.

8. CHAIR'S ACTION

There was no report on Chair's Actions to receive at this meeting.

9. PART ONE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPORTS FROM GOVERNORS WITH SPECIAL RESPONSBILITIES

 a) Governors acknowledged the receipt of all summer term committee minutes which had been circulated via Governor Hub prior to the meeting. A verbal update was given on all committees: Curriculum Committee (27.04.22 and 11.07.22)

The focus of the committees was on the Butterflies and Caterpillars. The highest attaining areas were reported as gross and fine motor skills with the lowest attaining area being speaking. The SDP has been revised to reflect the results.

At the latest meeting the new EYFS children and the impact on staff were discussed. The data on the leavers and the children remaining was reviewed and the outcomes showed that in literacy, speaking attainment was low. The detail of the data presented was comprehensive.

The transition of children was discussed with leavers going to 9 different primary schools and 2, potentially 3 children, attending specialist provision.

The SEN register was also considered given the high numbers of SEND and EAL. It was confirmed that the school currently has 75% EAL with differing proportions in different cohorts. The cohort moving up in September is 93% EAL which has a huge impact on teaching and expectations. In terms of SEND, there are some pupils with very complex needs requiring a significant amount of adult input and the SLT are aware of the staffing pressures. This links to the fact that Cheshire East have no specialist in Early Years provision.



Premises Committee (09.05.22)

An in person walk round took place with Health and Safety updates received. The fire alarms continue to be checked monthly along with lighting and quarterly legionella checks.

The school received its first food hygiene visit since Covid and was awarded a 5 star rating. It was noted that the school do not provide catering for children.

Q: When did the last fire drill take place?

A: Fire drills took place on the 11.05.22 and 25.05.22.

Q: Has the school undertaken invacuation drills?

A: Yes, different areas within the school have been designated safe spaces for invacuation and all staff have mobile phones to communicate with each other in such an event. Staff have practiced the procedures and children will take part when it is deemed appropriate for the cohort.

Q: What is invacuation?

A: Invacuation is where the school must effectively lock down and a find a safe place within the school building due to a danger identified outside the building whereas evacuation is where danger is identified in the building and staff and children must find a safe place outside the school.

Q: Is this part of the business continuity plan?

A: The emergency contacts are included in the Business Continuity Plan.

Thanks was given to NS for his hard work completing the outside planting works.

The hedge cutting around the school premises was discussed as the school are currently paying for these works. The school are considering not renewing the current landscaping contract as the firm are not providing a satisfactory service. NS has offered to undertake the works.

Governor Comment: Undertaking such work is not part of NS's job description and there is concern that he would not be covered by insurance.

It was confirmed that NS has agreed to that the works could be carried out over time after the school day. Governors requested that this proposal be risk assessed.

ACTION: Carry forward the potential for NS to undertake landscaping works for discussion at the next Chair's meeting in autumn term 2022.

DR



Q: Could the school obtain three quotes from alternative companies for the hedge cutting works to be undertaken twice yearly?

A: Hedge cutting may only be required once per year due to the bird nesting season. The removal of the cuttings was the most significant issue as the current provider has not been able to complete the job due to the volume of cuttings and are due to return before October half term 2022 to complete the works.

ACTION: Obtain three quotes for hedge cutting and add this as an item to the premises agenda.

NS

Q: Could the question be asked of ANSA who is responsible for the hedgecutting?

A: Yes, this would be helpful.

ACTION: Enquire about ANSA cutting the hedges around the perimeter of school.

CN

Finance Committee (04.07.22)

The consideration of not renewing Cropper's Landscaping contract was discussed.

The appointment of an additional teacher was considered along with cost implications.

It was confirmed that the SFVS had been submitted in line with the 31.03.22 deadline.

ChESS buy-back purchases were confirmed including insurance, clerking, HR and financial support. The committee discussed the current sickness insurance package and the reimbursement after 15 days of sickness. The decision to continue with the option of a reduced payment rather than a higher payment was approved. All details of purchases are included within the committee minutes.

There were no financial implications on the Governor Development Plan.

There was also a discussion regarding the clerking of the meetings as NS clerks most of the committees, consideration will be given in the autumn term as to how to share this workload.

b) Governors received an update on recent link monitoring visits. SEND – As there is not currently an SEN governor in place, DR undertook a SEND visit in place of a curriculum learning walk. Both the Caterpillar and Butterfly rooms were visited, and DR met with all staff. It was clear that the impact of SEND pupils is more significant in the afternoon than in the morning sessions. There are continuous reviews of the sessions undertaken in order to try to balance the SEND and mainstream pupils, however the afternoon sessions still remain SEND heavy from September 2022. There is a pupil



potentially joining the morning sessions with significant mobility issues and a PEG feeding system which would then impact the morning sessions. There will be movement in January as children move up to Butterflies from Caterpillars.

Admissions and safeguarding were also discussed during the visit. Staff gave positive feedback about being able to speak openly to governors about their feelings regarding the needs of the children and the impact this is having on staffing.

Wellbeing – Discussions were held with staff following the appointment of EC as Headteacher from September 2022. Staff expressed concerns regarding the change in staffing and the lack of resources for SEND. DC confirmed that she had witnessed the challenging needs of the children first-hand. Staff communicated that they enjoy working at the school. It was commented that a student on a recent placement at the school enjoyed working as part of the team and was able to identify the designated safeguarding lead upon questioning which evidenced the school's training.

Internal resources – The children were outside during this visit which gave a different perspective to the visit as LB was able to speak directly with staff. Feedback from staff was that resources need to reflect diversity more for example with dolls and reflecting disabilities around the classrooms through visuals. The staff also requested more modern jigsaws.

LB spoke with EH and confirmed that finance was available for the SDP regarding investment in resources to aid diversity. The school requested that should governors see any diverse resources on overseas trips that they are able to purchase to keep the receipts and governors will be reimbursed by school.

Governors were updated on recommencement of the Bookstart project which will provide a range of culturally diverse books for families to borrow as part of a mobile library service.

Outdoor Resources – A walkabout was undertaken by LW which has been uploaded to Governor Hub.

c) The SEND report was referenced under Item 9 a).

There was no link governor safeguarding report to receive at this meeting. A school safeguarding update was provided within the HT's report.

10. FINANCIAL/COMPLIANCE MATTERS

- a) The final budget for the financial year 2022-23 was approved by the Board via email following the recommendation for approval from the Finance Committee. The final budget for 2022-23 was submitted to the Cheshire East Finance team by required deadline of 30.06.22.
- b) The staffing structure for 2022-23 would be discussed under Part 2.



- c) Regarding the purchase of annual contracts, the school had obtained three quotes for photocopying services. One quote was significantly higher than what is currently being paid and the remaining two quotes were comparable. Governors approved the decision to remain with the current provider. The grounds maintenance contract was discussed under Item 9 a). All remaining annual contract purchases are made through ChESS and have been completed.
- d) The school confirmed the purchase of ChESS services to the school including clerking provision for one FGB per term for 2022-23.
- e) Governors **approved** the asset register.

To confirm:

- The school confirmed the submission of the SFVS in line with the deadline of 31.03.22 following governor approval at the spring term FGB on 16.03.22.
- The school confirmed the completion and submission of the S175 Safeguarding Audit on 16.05.22.

11. PART ONE HEADTEACHER'S REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING

The Headteacher's report was circulated to governors prior to the meeting via Governor Hub. The requirement for governors to have read the report prior to the meeting was emphasised as the meeting was an opportunity for any questions to be raised. The HT confirmed that no questions regarding the report had been received prior to the meeting.

The HT drew governors' attention to the following pertinent matters:

Covid Update

The school confirmed that the risk assessment had been updated but not recently. There have been no significant changes and the current risk assessment will remain in place. The most significant issue remains the ability to cover staff absence due to Covid. The HT expressed their thanks to staff for pulling together and going above and beyond during difficult times. There has been minimal impact from pupil absence as children are not being routinely tested.

Pupil and Staff Wellbeing

Wellbeing remains a focus for the school and will continue to do so as the school are acutely aware that if wellbeing suffers this will directly impact the staff and their ability to undertake their duties. The SLT continue to work to give back to the staff on an informal basis to help support staff wellbeing.

Attendance

From 01.03.22 to 24.06.22 attendance rates were as follows:

2-year-olds - 95.8%

3-4-year-olds - 95.2%

SDP



13.	The clerk highlighted the following items from the summer term Director's Report to the Board: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 2.3, 2.4						
15.	ACTION: Update 2022-23 dates to remove EH's details. DIRECTOR'S REPORT	NS					
14.	CONFIRM TERM DATES FOR 2023-24 The school confirmed that the term dates for 2023-24 will follow the Cheshire East published dates with INSET days to be agreed.						
	circulate the Board for comments and approval. ACTION: Publish the statement on the school website.						
13.	GOVERNANCE STATEMENT The approval of the Annual Governance Statement was deferred until the autumn term 2022. A draft will be prepared over the summer and emailed to governors for approval in September 2022. ACTION: Update the Annual Governance Statement for 2021-22 and	DR					
	The current external advisor is Katie Tyrie. The appointment of the external advisor for 2022-23 was deferred until the autumn term 2022. ACTION: Add appointment of external advisor to the autumn term 2022 FGB agenda.						
	(HTPMR) An update on the HTPMR was provided to the Board. The HTPMR took place yesterday and the Board were informed that all targets had been exceeded.						
12.	The Board thanked the HT for the level of detail provided within the report. 12. HEADTEACHER'S PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REVIEW						
	Unfortunately, the school sports day had to be cancelled due to bad weather.						
	The Stay and Play group has also been recently reintroduced with positive feedback from parents. This initiative benefits the parents as well as the children and raises awareness for parents of potential developmental issues and also enables parents to socialise and develop friendships.						
	Governor Comment: It is positive to see that the external visitors are able to visit school now.						
	A summary of the SDP is provided in the HT report and the detailed version is also available on Governor Hub. Ongoing staff discussions trigger regular updates to the plan in tandem with the ongoing planning programme. Many actions are ongoing as they require continued implementation.						



3.2, 3.3

The clerk also highlighted the new KCSIE guidance due to come into effect on 01.09.22 and the pertinent changes relevant to governors which include:

- <u>Paragraph 81</u> New paragraph explaining how safeguarding and child protection training will help governors and trustees.
- <u>Paragraph 140/141</u> Provides clarity on the role of governors and proprietors when considering filters and monitoring and ensuring the effectiveness is regularly reviewed.

Regarding sustainability, it was commented that the school are in the process of trying to improve the separation of waste to increase recycling by separating paper and cardboard from general waste. Enquiries have been made regarding the cost implications and it is likely that charges will increase slightly.

Q: Are the school able to separate plastic as well?

A: Not currently but there is a lot of plastic waste from milk bottles that are currently disposed of in general waste.

It was suggested that the milk bottles be collected and dropped off at supermarket recycling points by staff.

16. GOVERNOR DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

 a) Governors reviewed the Governor Development Plan targets and RAG rated the targets as follows:

Priority 1

- Marketing Plan This is still ongoing as was therefore RAG rated amber.
- Engagement of the Local Community This was RAG rated green following ongoing efforts and the continued increase in pupil numbers.

As one of the actions remains amber the overall grading of Priority 1 is amber.

Priority 2

All actions under Priority 2 were RAG rated green.

It was confirmed that the plan informs governor training for the forthcoming academic year and an updated version will be circulated governors in September 2022.

ACTION: Circulate the updated Governor Development Plan to the Board.

b) A verbal update from the Training Link Governor was provided.

Governors noted that throughout the year LB updates governor training records and then a final report is issued at the end of the year. The purpose of this is that in the event of an Ofsted inspection, Ofsted would be able to clearly see the variety of training attended by governors.

DR



It was confirmed that governors can include any external training that is relevant to their governor role.

The importance of recording all relevant training was emphasised to the Board. LB confirmed that she records who was present for FGB training sessions. Learning walks can also be including in training records as these demonstrate engagement with the school.

An analysis of the skills audits received shows mainly green with a few amber ratings and very few red ratings. The red ratings are mostly linked to new governors who are developing their experience. Finance knowledge is an area that continues to be highlighted and receives amber ratings. A further detailed analysis of the skills audit will be undertaken over the summer. Governors were asked to submit any FGB training requests to LB in order that the schedule can be planned.

ACTION: Governors to consider FGB training requests and forward these to LB by 03.08.22.

ACTION: Outstanding skills audits to be completed.

All govs. All govs. as req.

ACTION: LB to analyse the skills audit in further detail and give feedback.

ACTION: Add discussion of skills audit results to the autumn term 2022 FGB agenda.

Whilst the school do not buy-back the Cheshire East Governor Training Programme, governors can request any CE courses which will be paid for by the school. It was commented that the CE Governor Finance training course was useful and was recommended to other governors.

Finance is the more abstract area for governors and is not covered by learning walks particularly. The abstract nature of finance causes nervousness in terms of rating abilities on the skills audit.

It was also confirmed that any new governors will require induction training.

- c) DC fed back on attendance at a recent Ofsted training course for governors which is where the suggestion for the change to the committee structure was obtained. The course also provided updates on the format of inspections and how school performance data held by the government will be reviewed.
- d) Governor attendance was reviewed, and it was confirmed that whilst NT had not attended any FGB's his year he was attending committee meetings. It was decided that no action would be taken at the present time.
- e) The skills audit will be undergoing further analysis and actions will be planned following this.

LB

Clerk



	f) The impact of training was positive and provided governors with the opportunities to develop their skills. Monitoring of training would continue.				
17.	SCHOOL POLICIES There were no policies requiring FGB approval brought to the meeting.				
18.	MEETINGS The meeting dates for the three FGB meetings in 2022-23 were circulated to the Board ahead of the meeting via Governor Hub. The dates were discussed and agreed as published with one change to the date of the summer term FGB as follows: • Wednesday 16 th November 2022 at 4:30pm • Wednesday 15 th March 2023 at 4:30pm • Monday 17 th July 2023 at 4:30pm All meetings will have a training session prior to the meeting commencing at 4:00pm. All meetings will continue to take place in person at the school.				
	ACTION: Update the meeting dates as agreed and circulate to the Board.	Clerk			
19.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS Learning Walk Roles The chair asked the Board to consider the following proposed roles: LA – Curriculum, communication and language, indoor environment DC – PSED NT – ICT LB – SEND CN – EAL DR – Communication and language Governors agreed the roles for the 2022-23 academic year. Website Overview The Chair requested that governors review the following designated sections of the website and submit any amendments to NS for updating. • EC – Committee attendance, minutes of meetings, photos. • LW – Current dates, holiday dates and newsletters. • DR – Policies • CN – School information including – vision statement, British values, GDPR, Ofsted and curriculum intent. • LB – All correspondence, safeguarding, EYPP and SEND.				
	 NT – Parents section including Ofsted, admissions and comments. DC – Code of practice, declarations of interest and Governance Statement. 				



	 LA – School information including Job vacancies, local offer, timetable, parent handbook and rules. It was confirmed that the new parent governor elected in the autumn term will be assigned the emotional health and wellbeing section of the website. 	
	Governors agreed the roles outlined above. It was confirmed that NS will review the website each term. NS informed governors that compliance software for the website is in place which RAG rates the compliance of the school website.	
	ACTION: Review individual areas of the school website as assigned and feedback to NS with any comments or amendments required.	All govs. as assigned
	Governors requested a summary of the roles and responsibilities be posted on Governor Hub.	20
	ACTION: Circulate a summary of roles and responsibilities to the Board via Governor Hub.	DR
20.	IMPACT STATEMENT The Board of Governors has helped to move the school forward in the following ways during this meeting:	
	 Committees have provided detailed feedback to the Board on the content of the meetings. The financial position of the school has been discussed with confirmation of the submission of the budget and SFVS. 	
	 The performance of the pupils has been scrutinised with acknowledgement of the high levels of SEN and EAL pupils and the impact on teaching and staffing. 	
	 Governor training and development was discussed with the development plan RAG rated and the skills audit analysed. Governors have offered continuous challenge through the ongoing 	
	schedule of learning walks.Governors highlighted the potential questions and challenges that may	
	 be posed by Ofsted. The potential for a new committee structure was discussed with an agreement to review this further in the summer term 2023. 	

The meeting moved to Part Two.

	 	 	 Chair
			Date