

Held on Monday 29th April 2024 1830 hours Virtual

Governors:	Richard Wielechowski (RW) Chair, Rachel Snape (RS) Matt Butler (MB), Barney Cox (BC), Tom Dowdall (TD), Bayan Parvizi (BP, Mary Williams (MW), Sophie Hare (SH), Laura Monk (LM) left at 18:56, Collette Harrison (CH) (Joined at 19:00), Mike Bleazard (MBI), Sonia Ilie (SI), Sandy Skelton (SS)
In attendance:	
Clerk:	Meleena Walsh (Camclerk - MW)

	Discussion	Decisions Made / Actions Agreed
1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>The GB was quorate based on the number of governors in post.</p> <p>The meeting started at 18:33.</p>	
2. 2i. 2ii	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Received apologies for absence:</p> <p>Non Attendance – Rosie Humphreys, Priscilla Canizares-Martinez</p> <p>Consent/Non-consent to absence: Priscilla Canizares-Martinez (apologies received)(accepted) Rosie Humphreys (no apologies received) (The Chair to check on RH)</p>	
3.	<p>Declaration of direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any of the following items</p> <p>nil</p>	No declarations for items on this agenda were made.
4. 4i	<p>School Budget 2024/25 approval</p> <p>The documents supporting the school budget were made available on Governor Hub prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The Resources Committee met on 22nd April 2024 to discuss the budget in depth and form the basis of the documents and discussion for the meeting. The Resources Committee moved to approve the budget and it was present to the full governing body for final checks and ratification.</p> <p>Headlines</p> <p>Income has increased (potentially) by 1% since last year (2023/24). However, this is being checked and it may transpire that this has not been the case due to the government directed increase to teachers pay rise (2023). The amount of funds that have come in from central government to support the increase the rise in teachers' pay has now ceased and the teaching salary rise will be supported by the school in the next financial year (2024/25). This</p>	

<p>is equivalent to £60,000 (worked out as an overall cut of 3.2% for the next financial year) that needs to be allocated from the school budget (2024/25).</p> <p>It was also noted there has been a steady increase in the cost of all services i.e. gas, electricity, rates (estimated services and utilities increase by 20%).</p> <p>It is anticipated that there is going to be a shortfall of £93,000 for the financial year 2024/25. There are reserve funds in place, but these will have to be used to manage the short fall in the budget. It will leave the school's budget reserve at £130,000 at the end of 2024/25.</p> <p>The Head informed that governors that this was the situation across most schools across the CB4 cluster. There is a notable downturn in funds coming into schools nationally in general.</p> <p><i>Q./ A governor asked – Could you clarify that the figures that have been offered by central government are an increase?</i></p> <p>A./ The Chair of Resources informed the governors that after in depth analysis (of the budget) it has become more apparent that the increased costs (gas etc) outweigh the funding stream that is coming in to the school from central government.</p> <p>A governor raised a concern that trend will continue, and moving forward the budget will not be able to be compared (with previous years) on a like for like basis. It was noted that this trend is likely to continue.</p> <p>A governor noted - Moving forward there may be tough decisions to be made around how the school is spending its funding and it was essential that the teaching and support staff are fully supported moving forward in the medium term.</p> <p>It was noted that 78% of the funds coming in to the school is spent on teachers, teaching assistants and other staff.</p> <p>At the Resources committee it was asked if the school were at capacity for EHCP funding.</p> <p>The Head responded – All EHCP funding had been sought (and continues to be sought) but this is still part of the challenge, the EHCP funding is not a quick fix to the school budget. In relation to an EHCP, the school is required to fund the first £6,000 of a teaching assistant post and the funding coming in (from the LA) is £10,000. With the current salary of a teaching assistant being around £20,000 per year, this still leaves the school with an additional £4,000 to find for each EHCP. The Head said that going forward the mind-set would need to change that an EHCP is an entitlement for a child to be assigned a Full Time 1:1 TA. The legal responsibility the LA has of the EHCP is to ensure that the objectives are met in Section F of the document.</p> <p>The governors were given the opportunity to ask questions.</p> <p>A governor commented that the breakdown and headlines of the budget were very well explained. A concern was raised around the potential loss of teaching assistants in future years to relieve the pressure on the budget.</p> <p>A./ The Head responded – this is something that is already being discussed</p>	
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	<p>and in line with other Heads in the cluster, in order to avoid redundancies there may be consideration given to asking teaching assistants to reduce hours as a collective. The teaching assistants that have been employed in recent recruitment rounds have been taken on, on temporary contracts to allow for movement on hours and posts in the future.</p> <p><i>Q./ A governor asked - What happens if a school goes bankrupt?</i> A./ The Head responded - The County comes in and takes over the running of the school budget and it becomes a complex and difficult situation for the school.</p> <p>The Head advised the governors that there will be discussions around increasing the revenue coming into school by looking at the Charging and Remissions policy in the next Resources meeting.</p> <p>The governors were in unanimous agreement with the approval of the budget and that it could now be submitted to county.</p> <p>The governing body gave their thanks to R Snape, C Bretton, M Fritz and M Bleazard for their work on the budget.</p>	
5.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>SI clarified that the committee meetings were taking place on 7th May 2024 (virtually)</p> <p>The governor day is on 22nd May 2024 (pm). All governors were encouraged to attend the session or to ensure that they had undertaken a visit into school to meet with their subject lead. All visits made by governors must be followed up by a written monitoring report.</p>	
6.	<p>The meeting closed at 19:13pm.</p> <p>Future meetings - 20th May 2024 8th July 2024</p>	