**Minutes Of A Meeting Of The Full Board Of Governors Of**

**The Federation Of Boskenwyn And Germoe Schools:**

**Held At Germoe On Wednesday 18th May 2022 At 18:00**

PRESENT:

Dr Russ Monhemius (Chair)

Paula Blackburn (Headteacher)

Charlotte Overton (Clerk)

Anita Bennett

Nathan Bird

Anita Care

Jo Nicholas

Naomi Penrose (Vice-Chair)

Denise Rusga

Fliss Spiers

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|  | **APOLOGIES**  Received from Brian Toney and Katie Knight and received by the chair. |  |
|  | **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS**  No governors have anything to declare in addition to what is published on the website. |  |
|  | **MATTERS ARISING / MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**    No matters arising. Previous minutes are all agreed and signed off by the chair as a fair and accurate record of the meeting. |  |
|  | **ELECTION OF NEW GOVERNORS**  Fliss Spiers and Anita Bennett are voted in unanimously to take the position of foundation governors. Their terms of office are 18.05.2022 – 17.05.2026. |  |
|  | **POLICIES FOR REVIEW**  The admissions policy has been circulated ahead of this meeting and read by governors. Governors unanimously ratify this policy.  The Behaviour Policy is projected on screen for governors to review. There was nothing in the policy previously about threatening or sexualised behaviour. Both have been encountered this term so it is important to capture this within the policy. Parents will be contacted immediately if there is sexualised or threatening behaviour and all parties involved will receive support. Playfighting will not be allowed in school and this has been added to the policy.  Anita Care asks how do you determine what constitutes playfighting?   1. Jo Nicholas responds it is difficult to determine and playfighting is an important part of a child’s development. We have agreed the younger children can still play fight under as they are closely supervised by adults. However, with the older children it can escalate easily and children can get harmed. From a safety point of view we thought it would be better to remove playfighting at all to remove any ambiguity.   Policy changes will be discussed with the children and the reason behind why those decisions have been made.  The position on playfighting will be reviewed within the policy next year on it’s annual review.  Governors agree with the changes outlined above and ratify both policies. |  |
|  | **HEAD TEACHER’S REPORT**  This is projected onto a screen for governors to read and questions are invited.  Governors comment on the item stating free school meals in the holidays is ending as funding has now been withdrawn.  Russ Monhemius asks do we have any concerns around this not being funded for our vulnerable families?   1. Paula Blackburn replies it is difficult to know until it happens and this provision is removed but the increase to the cost of living is bound to impact our families.   Confirmed class rolls for September are outlined to governors. Class teachers will remain the same. Lewis (surname)? is newly qualified and will be staying with the school.  Reception year 1 and year 2 at Germoe may have to be combined as only 3 confirmed reception places have been received. There will be two teachers and one teaching assistant.  We will invite the local community in to play so that the nursery can get up and running again. It is not possible to keep it going financially at the current time.  Funding is not equal per pupil between the two schools. There is more funding per pupil at Germoe than at Boskenwyn.  Naomi Penrose said she has been contacted by a parent who was expressing concerns over lack of numbers and nursery provision.  Concerns have been raised about lack of signage to Germoe. Cornwall’s Council response to this is read to governors. It is agreed that a reasonable challenge in response should be raised. Governors discuss ways of raising the profile of Germoe to include updating the school prospectus and utilising social media platforms.  Naomi Penrose asks what Beth’s Reeves role will be when she returns from sabbatical?   1. She is coming back four days a week and will start off doing covid recovery work which will take a lot of pressure off of Angie Larcombe. |  |
|  | **SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**  Paula Blackburn outlines the documents. Raising standards in reading, writing and maths as well as an emphasis on attendance and punctuality is a priority. We have become strict with enforcing our policy and children will need to access their learning and upload it remotely if there is unauthorised absence.  Anita Bennett asks have parents been receptive to this?   1. They have been, but the tone of correspondence around this has been much more stringent and formal so that they understand the implications of removing children from school with unauthorised absence.   The full document will be circulated to governors post this meeting and any questions arising can be addressed at the next full governors meeting. |  |
|  | **SAFEGUARDING**  We continue to log everything with ‘My Concern’. If there are low level concerns we will wait until there are three incidents before we speak to parents. There have been two MARU referrals this term involving the same family and both times they have said no further action is to be taken.  ViST’s and Operation Encompass are explained to governors. ViST’s are often very late in being received by schools. A new IT system is being implemented which will send an automatic notification to a school/designated safeguarding lead when the police attend a domestic setting.  Section S175 is due to be completed in June. |  |
|  | **DATA**  Governors will be updated on data at the next meeting. |  |
| 10. | **ATTENDANCE**  No further updates see item 6. |  |
| 11. | **SEND**  We need to prove how our money is spent and what interventions we provide. A meeting to review SEND provisions took place earlier today. A provision map will be drafted and circulated. Russ Monhemius is currently the safeguarding governor. Governor roles and responsibilities will be reviewed at the next meeting.  There are interventions taking place for academic development. There is a lot of intervention work for mental health and wellbeing and an extensive list of children receiving 121 and small groups for emotional support including bereavement therapies. |  |
| 12. | **COMMITTEE MEETINGS UPDATE**  The budget was set at the recent finance meeting which has taken place since our last FGM. There is a deficit in year budget but that works out due to our carry over so we will still be in credit by the end of next year. We need to be mindful not to use up all our reserves. This will be reviewed next year based on pupil income.  The curriculum committee met to review the curriculum, with particular regard to progression and coverage. The curriculum has been reviewed to make coverage more explicit on the 2 year rolling programme and to show progression through the key stages. This will be screen shared with governors at the next meeting and with parents in September. |  |
| 13. | **PUPIL PREMIUM**  The report has been published and uploaded to both websites. The most valuable resource and spending of pupil premium funding is staff wages. |  |
| 14. | **HEALTH & SAFETY**  Backlog maintenance is funded 90% by the local authority and the school pays 10%. The fire alarm cost at Germoe is discussed and the 10% we would need to pay is still more than independent contractors completing the works.  Naomi Penrose raises a food hygiene concern that she witnessed when visiting Germoe recently. Governors are reassured food standards can turn up at any time. Jo Nicholas will discuss this issue directly with the catering staff.  The mining report at Germoe was discussed. Cornwall council will not fund the works required. Paula Blackburn to speak to Derek Thomas MP this week. |  |
| 15. | **ERASMUS UPDATE**  There is a group who have just visited from Croatia, Romania and Bulgaria. Governors comment on the positive experience and the evident bond between all the children.  There were visitors at Germoe and Boskenwyn in March from Ireland, Belgium, Turkey and Germany. That project is ongoing and there is a return visit to Turkey. Paula Blackburn will visit North Turkey and South Turkey during half term as part of the Germoe Erasmus project.  Another project is starting in September and is about national agencies. We will be taking part for the British Council as the project is not just school focussed. |  |
| 16. | **WHITE PAPER**  This will be circulated to all governors post meeting and reviewed in the next academic year if necessary. |  |
| 17. | **URGENT/CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**  See confidential minutes.  Anita Bennett asks has the school signposted parents/families/staff to agencies for anyone struggling with the cost of living.   1. A section can be put on the website to signpost people.   Governors discuss the likelihood of financial hardship on families increasing. The need for free school trips is recognised.  Creating a community food cupboard is considered a viable option to help families. |  |
| 18. | **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**  The need for consistency with school uniform is discussed. There has been confusion over communications but any hoodie, jumper or fleece that is plain is fine to wear. This will be clarified on the forthcoming newsletter.  Meeting concludes 20:00. |  |
| 20. | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  To be held at Germoe 6th July at 18:00. |  |
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