

GRANTA SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY MEETING

THURSDAY 11th July 2019, 6.00pm
AT THE SCHOOL



Present:

Governors: Caroline Ilott (Chair)(CI), Lucie Calow (Headteacher) (LC), Jeff Andrews (JA), Lucinda Billington (LB), Paul Ilott (PI), Alison Walker (AW).

Ian Wilson (IW) was present until 6.30 pm.

Associate Governors: Sarah Crouch (SC), Linda Alefounder (LAF).

Ann Abineri in attendance as Clerk.

The meeting was quorate

1. **Welcome and Apologies for absence were received and accepted from:** David Jones, Chris Seaton, Paula Nixon, Tony Orgee, Vanessa Yeoman, Ian Wilson and Tanya Seaton.
2. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest:** none not already on Register.
3. **Minutes of Full Governing Body meeting Thursday 25th April 2019, including matters arising not included on this agenda**
Agreed and signed as a true record.

Matters arising

New Parent Governor election to be held in September 2019.

Action: Clerk to send Guidance Note to Headteacher.

Elaine Lewis to be invited to Away Day. **Action: Clerk.**

JA has consulted Jo Clark re heating systems.

Minibuses: LAF to review minibuses and report to Governors in Autumn term.

LC reported that there has been a Government edict that Blue Badges can only be held by individuals and not organisations. However another Special School has been able to obtain a Blue Badge so Granta will apply for one.

Budget: LAF confirmed that this was submitted.

Colleges Joint Playschemes has received funding.

5. Committees

H&S meetings 1st May & 19th June 2019

LC reported on 1st May

A Governor asked what information is required from Linton Pharmacy and LC explained that this relates to keeping emergency medication on site as is now permitted by DfE Guidance. This has been agreed in theory by the Pharmacy but not actioned yet. Emma Jennings is following this up.

Mental and Emotional Health is now a standing item on H & S Agendas.

LC reported on 19th June

Pool vacancy: there have been applicants.

A Governor asked if applicants are pool plant trained and LAF confirmed that it is desirable but training can be arranged.

Policies: LC and LAF to review all policies during summer.

Curriculum meeting 11th June 2019

The Clerk confirmed that the PMLD Standards presentation has been circulated to all Governors.

PI wished it to be recorded that throughout this academic year the Curriculum Committee have seen that there is a passion and energy for improvement within the school.

CI to attend to pass thanks on to staff on 19th July 2019.

HR meeting 11th June 2019

A Governor asked for an update on After School Club and LC replied that there has been no reply regarding transport so it is assumed that it is going ahead.

F&GP 8th July

Minutes not available.

Clerk summarised key points:

New Outreach process being explored.

Possibility of joint insurance with other Special Schools for Teacher and TA insurance being explored.

Business Continuity Risk assessment review underway.

Predicted roll for Sept 2019.

Staffing

CFR June 2019 Review

Honorarium to cover costs incurred by staff on regular Duke of Edinburgh trips agreed.

6. Governor training and briefing sessions.

JA has informed TO of training he has attended.

Clerk attended Clerks Briefing, Governors termly Briefing and Annual Governors Conference. The Clerk had circulated presentations from the Conference.

Action: Clerk to ask TO to circulate training spreadsheet to all Governors.

7. Head's Report and progress on links with other special needs schools.

Briefing on possible 6th form provision.

LC confirmed that the expected number on roll for Sept will be 142.

LC has introduced an updated reporting system for all pupils except Early Years and PMLD pupils. LB reported that feedback from staff and parents on this has been extremely positive.

A Governor asked about pupil reaction. LB stated that those who are able to communicate an opinion were proud of their reports.

LC received some very useful feedback from parents. It was noted that one parent asked for the inclusion of more data and this will be taken into account in future.

Staff well-being survey has been carried out and responses will feed into strategic planning. LC has a number of points to explore. LC thanked LB for her work on collating this survey.

LC updated on staffing with two teaching vacancies to be filled with an internal appointment and an advertisement of post.

A successful round of Teaching Assistant recruitment has taken place.

A Governor asked if matrix top-up funding has been received. LC explained that this is ongoing.

LC reported that an adjacent portacabin is being rented from LVC and renovated to use for meetings and training. Also preliminary discussions of another premises in LVC grounds and investigations into a possible Sixth Form premises in Abington.

LC reported that Duke of Edinburgh Skills award pupils had success at Cambridge Film Festival – link to be on school website. A group of D of E pupils have been awarded Gold following endeavours that included wild camping in the Lake District.

£500 donation received from the Rotary Club's Sawston Fun Run.

Two days staff training in September will be health training.

LC continues to negotiate re School Nursing service.

8. Report on CASSA and future links with Granta

LC explained that she attended this training school meeting. Granta is a hub school but LC recommends withdrawal as training related benefits to us as a school have not materialized and future benefits are unclear. Governors supported this decision.

9. Staffing structure and school expansion budget implications

Covered in item 8.

10. School Development Plan

LC is going to present this at the Away Day using an improved format.

LC is applying to join a Government Working Party on education.

11. Ofsted update

No report. Clerk circulated presentation from Governor Conference.

12. School Facebook site update

No report

13. LVC issues.

LB reported that LVC have lent Granta PE kit for pupils attending PE at LVC.

LB continues to work on links relating to pupils but has not been invited to LVC Governor meetings.

14. Friends of Granta School

CI reported that there will be a winter fair.
LB to circulate any information on future events.

15. School Council

Meeting 17th July 2019.
Class names decided for 2019-20 with a bird theme.

16. Any Other Urgent Business

Governors joining Key Stage 3 activities.

AW reported on her visit to Duxford with the Key Stage 3 pupils. She felt it was a well - organised and enjoyable day and the pupils were highly engaged and well behaved. AW explained that staff supported pupils in independent free play in the play area and pupils engaged in self-led play. CI agreed that this ethos of encouraging independence is something she has also observed on visits.

CI visited cinema with Key Stage 3 pupils and also found behaviour to be exemplary.

PI attended a Treasure Hunt in Linton with Key Stage 3 pupils.

LC thanked the Governors for all their support and hard work this year.

17. Setting dates for meetings 2019-20.

Proposed dates prepared by Clerk.

Action: LAF to confirm budget date and inform Clerk who will then finalise and circulate.

18. Date of Next Meeting: Awayday- Thursday 29th August 2019 at school 10am to 4pm.