

Reason for Meeting:	Start:	End:
FGB meeting	15/10/2020 16:15:00	15/10/2020 18:50:00

Governing Body: Sean Pond (Chair), Sarah Edwards (Headteacher), Paul Addison, Gemma Cardwell, Sarah Daggett, Caitlin Hughes, Shelagh Morris, Andrew Palmer, Andrew Sudron

Core Functions of the Governing Body:

Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils

Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

Strategic Objectives

- Provide an excellent educational experience and outcomes for each pupil
- > Invest in the career development, skills, and wellbeing of our staff
- > Engage closely with the Local Authority
- Strive to achieve financial sustainability without compromising the quality of education

Agenda

Item	Description	Led by
------	-------------	--------

	PROCEDURAL	
	Welcome	Chair
FGB.21.20	To receive apologies and record the acceptance of apologies	Clerk
FGB.22.20	To remind Governors to declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests	Clerk
FGB.23.20	To remind Governors of the need for confidentiality and to determine if any part of the minutes needs to be a confidential item and excluded from the minutes to be made available for public inspection	Clerk
FGB.24.20	To declare the notification of any other business to be discussed later in the meeting	



FGB.25.20	To approve and sign the minutes (including a confidential minute) of the meeting held on the 24th September 2020	Clerk
FGB.26.20	To discuss any matters arising from the minutes	
	A bid to the Hargreaves Foundation to be made.	HT
	The Clerk to contact the Governor Support Service to request another candidate – completed	Clerk
	The Chair to check the relevant governor websites for prospective applicants	Chair
	The Clerk to email a copy of the RoV form to all governors for information – completed	Clerk
	The Clerk to send the Link Governor information from The Key and NYCC on compliance – completed	Clerk
	 All governors to electronically complete and sign the documents and return to the Clerk via email. 	All
	 All governors to have read at least part 2 of the document and The Key Summary that was sent out at the same time and confirm by email to the Deputy Headteacher by Friday 2nd October that they had done so. 	All
	 The Chair and Finance Link Governor to meet to discuss the declaration with the School Business Manager and bring back to the next FGB for approval 	Chair/ Finance Link Gov./ SBM
	 The Deputy Headteacher to speak to the SBM to look at realistic spending on training and identify any possible underspend that can be vired to another budget. 	DHT/SBM
	The Headteacher to look at if more can be done for the two pupils who cannot come to school for medical reasons	нт
	The Chair to report back following the meeting on Federation	Chair
	The Headteacher to personalise the Virtual Attendance policy	нт
	The Safeguarding Link Governor and the Deputy Headteacher to meet to go through the policy to ensure governor responsibility compliance	Safeguarding Link Gov./DHT
		Clerk Page 2 17



	Clerk to check the availability of the Introduction to Governance course, parts 1 & 2	
FGB.27.20	To agree unallocated Link Governors roles	Chair
	BUSINESS	
FGB.28.20	To receive a Budget update	SBM
FGB.29.20	To review	Dep. Headteacher
FGB.30.20	To receive a verbal update from the Deputy Headteacher	Dep. Headteacher
FGB.31.20	To review Curriculum Development	Dep. Headteacher
FGB.32.20	To receive the Data Dashboard	Headteacher
FGB.33.20	Website Review	Link Governor
FGB.34.20	 To approve the following policies Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions Medication Policy 	Dep. Headteacher
FGB.35.20	Governor Training update • Feedback from training undertaken since the last meeting	All
FGB.36.20	Governor visits update	All
FGB.37.20	AOB	
	Date of next meeting – Thursday 19th November 2020 at 4.15pm via Skype	



Minutes

Present: Sean Pond (Chair), Andrew Sudron (Deputy Headteacher), Paul Addison, Gemma Cardwell, Shelagh Morris, Andrew Palmer

Also present: Sandra Searle (NYCC Clerk) & Yvonne Heyes (School Business Manager SBM)

Item

	PROCERUINAL	
	PROCEDURAL	
	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the new Co-opted governor Andrew Palmer. The Governors present all introduced themselves	
FGB.21.20	To receive apologies and record the acceptance of apologies	
	Apologies had been received from the Headteacher and Caitlin Hughes and these were consented to. Apologies for joining the meeting late were received from Shelagh Morris, this was unavoidable Apologies for needing to leave the meeting early were received from Gemma Cardwell, again this was unavoidable.	
	No apologies were received from Sarah Daggett so they could not be consented to	
FGB.22.20	To remind Governors to declare any pecuniary or non-	
	Pecuniary interests None were declared	
FGB.23.20	To remind Governors of the need for confidentiality and to determine if any part of the minutes needs to be a confidential item and excluded from the minutes to be made available for public inspection The Clerk reminded the meeting of the need for confidentiality.	
FGB.28.20	To receive a Budget Update	
	A copy of the September budget monitoring report and the Capital Deficit Request had been sent out prior to the meeting.	
	The SBM went through the monitoring report in detail explaining the reasons for the variances	



Income

- Delegated by the LEA additional pay grant received
- SEN Increased funding due to additional pupils that had been expected in September, this will be clawed back
- Pupil Premium additional funding received
- Other income refund for Covid-19 costs reimbursed.
 Catch up funding will be received in the autumn term
- Community Focused reduced due to lock down in the summer term

Expenditure

- Increase in teaching costs are due to the summer camp
- Supply savings due to the lockdown
- > Teaching support additional hours used to cover pressure points, sickness and Covid related absence
- Admin/clerical increased due to additional work undertaken by the SBM, new posts (Behaviour Support & Job Coach roles) – some of this will be recoded to the teaching support budget.
- Other savings due to the non-appointment of a Site Manager (most of these duties are being covered by the SBM and It's Clean, the school cleaning company). Site Manager post to be advertised around Easter time.
- Premises costs will increase as utility bills are now due for the new building (109 High Street)
- Learning Resources adjustments needed to transfer ICT costs for 109 High Street
- Capital Financing this also needs to be adjusted when final building costs are known
- Balance to be carried forward is shown as a deficit of £19.5k at present
- Capital Project Management for 109 High Street has now been taken over by NYCC and a management fee of 15% will be due. Costs shown are cautious

Question: The ICT costs for 109 High Street, what are they for?

Answer: Dell computers (19) for the computer room, large screens, video conferencing equipment. I am monitoring the equipment as it arrives and can provide governors with a list if required.



Question: For the equipment that has already arrived there is nothing we can do but we need an overview of how much ICT is needed for the building on the day of opening. Can the Deputy headteacher and the Head of 6th Form review this?

Answer: The hardware and software has already been delivered but the infrastructure has not yet been put in place.

Action: The Deputy Headteacher and Head of 6th form to meet to discuss and agree what is needed

Question: We need a project management level plan for

Answer: Since the end of September we have been chasing The Capital Projects Manager for final costings for the building so we can approach the FMS team and discuss how we manage the deficit.

Question: The summary shown, what is that based on? Answer: It is based on the known position at 30th September. It will be prudent to go back to NYCC as there are additional costs for the new building, less pupils have started at school than predicted but the staffing for them was put in place. There are 5 new roles from 1st November to be factored in

Question: Was that the conversation we had yesterday at the Pay Committee?

Answer: No, they were different posts. These are not significant costs & are fixed term contracts which will ensure supply will not be needed in future and cover for a maternity leave from December. We are trying to recruit a support post with someone who has a teaching qualification to make savings and have inhouse support. The 5 roles are 1 GTA (General Teaching Assistant), 1 PT GTA, 2 PSA (Pupil Support Assistants) & 1 PT PSA and will only be 3 new people.

Question: Have we had many new pupils apply to the school for the Spring term?

Answer: We have had 3/4 consultations recently but have had to say to the LA that we are unable to accommodate them due to the limited space. As the new building wasn't available from September as expected we have had to accommodate one class in the hall, a teaching space that was due to be shared across the whole school is also now being used as a classroom.

Question: When is the new building due to be open? It sounds like it is going to significantly overrun and be over budget, which makes it very difficult to sign off the Capital Deficit Request. The project management by the LA has not been very good at all.

DHT & Head of 6th form



Answer: The school was responsible for the project management until the LA took over in July. We are still waiting for building regs. to be approved and the listed building status has held things up.

- The Deputy Headteacher has met with the LA to discuss the building and has passed on the schools' apologies for the way the project was initially managed. The LA are aware of the pressing need for space and working with the school, but the new building will not be available in the short term
- Further meetings with the Capital Projects Manager Chris Pearson and the Deputy Headteacher will take place but there is positivity that the outcome will be a space that is the right provision for pupils

Question: Given the deficit and the fact this will run into next year I think it is prudent that we get a full update from the LA with a real indicator of when the building will be ready and the challenges faced.

Answer: Hopefully this will come through soon as a project plan from the LA. When we have better information we will be able to pull together a more realistic Capital Deficit Request and move forward

Shelagh Morris joined the meeting

- Governors noted that Harrogate Borough Council were also involved due to the Listed Building Status.
- The SBM explained the adjustments between the revenue and capital budgets that were needed but confirmed it would be better to wait until all the updated figures had been received to do this and then provide revised revenue and capital budgets

Question: Is the September increase for staff included in the figures?

Answer: It does not include additional increments not yet approved so this may change after the pay committee meet but it does include increments due and the pay award of 2.75%

Action: The Dep. Headteacher and SBM to meet and cost proposals put forward at the Pay Committee meeting with scenarios where possible

• The SBM recommended a benchmarking exercise with other similar schools be undertaken to give governors a clear picture to compare with.

Question: Are we saying the revenue surplus has been understated by £40k by transferring to the capital account & ICT costs have been absorbed into revenue?

DHT / SBM



Answer: £5.2k has now been put into the revenue account for the computers to support staff but the rest is still in the capital account

Question: My reading is ICT budget of £17k, £5k has been spent so £12k left, why is there an £11k contribution from revenue?

Answer: The recent change of FMS Officer has meant a change in the way the funding is coded within the revenue and capital accounts and transfers are being made. We buy the equipment from Schools ICT and they are very slow in passing charges through to the school, items bought in Feb/Mar have still not been charged for. Question: Is the £17.5k budget for equipment for the new building? We do need to know the separate ICT costs for the school and for the new building so we know the actual overspend on the project.

Gemma Cardwell left the meeting at this point

Question: We really need the full conversion costs for the new building as well as the ICT costs, without the muddying of the transfer of the costs between the two accounts. Is there a way of showing these on a completely separate line on the budget?

Answer: That cannot be done on the summary report from BPS, a spreadsheet could be drawn up to show this. Question: There is a more detailed BPS report can it be

shown separately on there?

Answer: I don't think it will be possible as we have to use specific CFR codes for income and expenditure, as directed by the DfE but I can look into it.

Question: It would also be useful to know what the one-off costs for the conversion are and which will reoccur each year.

Answer: The computers will not be replaced for at least 3 years.

Question: If it is not possible could the costs of the new building be shown in the comments box for that budget line

Answer: Yes, I can do that.

The SBM was thanked for all her hard work on the budget and she left the meeting

FGB.24.20

To declare the notification of any other business to be discussed later in the meeting

There was none



FGB.25.20	To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 24th September 2020	
	The main meeting minutes were approved with the following amendment: -	
	Item FGB.12.20 – Aerosol Generating Procedures, the second bullet should read	
	"The majority of pupils in school are working at the level of EYFS descriptors/ SEND statements/ Year 1 descriptors."	
	They will be signed off by the Chair as soon as it is possible to do so	
	The confidential minute from the meeting was approved without amendment and will also be signed by the Chair as soon as it is possible to do so.	
FGB.26.20	To discuss any matters arising from the minutes	
	 A bid to the Hargreaves Foundation to be made. 	
	The Chair reminded the governors who the Hargreaves Foundation were, who they wanted to support and the process for submitting a bid to them.	
	The governors discussed what bid should submitted & if it was better to submit one larger bid or two smaller ones. It was agreed the bid should include as least: - > Fencing around the primary playground > Additional projects or equipment for 109 High Street that would benefit the pupils & help support the teaching of independent living.	
	Action: Dep. Headteacher to meet with Head of Sixth form to agree a bid to Hargreaves Lansdown that supports pupils in 109 High Street Action: Dep. Headteacher to arrange for the bid to be	Dep.HT / Hd of 6 th form Dep.HT
	drawn up	
	Question: Where is the Hargreaves Foundation, if they are local we could ask them to visit the school to encourage support? Answer: I think they are in Bristol.	
	 The Clerk to contact the Governor Support Service to request another candidate – completed 	



The Chair to check the relevant governor websites for prospective applicants

The Chair reported he had checked two websites, there was a possible candidate with extensive IT experience on one site who might be suitable

Question: Is there a skills set somewhere to check against?

Answer: We did a skills audit a while ago and filled many of the gaps, IT was one area outstanding

- The Clerk to email a copy of the RoV form to all governors for information completed
- The Clerk to send the Website Link Governor information from The Key and NYCC on compliance completed
- All governors to electronically complete and sign the documents and return to the Clerk via email.

The Clerk reported 2 sets of forms had been returned so far and the others would be chased up

 All governors to have read at least part 2 of the document and The Key Summary that was sent out at the same time and confirm by email to the Deputy Headteacher by Friday 2nd October that they had done so.

All governors had confirmed they had read the relevant documents either by email or verbally to the Dep. Headteacher.

 The Chair and Finance Link Governor to meet to discuss the Capital Deficit Declaration with the School Business Manager and bring back to the next FGB for approval

As previously discussed, this would take place once the amended figures were available

• The Deputy Headteacher to speak to the SBM to look at realistic spending on training and identify any possible underspend that can be vired to another budget.

A breakdown of the training budget spend to date & budget had been sent out prior to the meeting.

It was agreed these would be discussed when the SBM next meets with the Finance Link Governor

Action: SBM and Finance Link Governor to discuss at the next monitoring review

Fin. Link Gov / SBM



	 The Headteacher to look at if more can be done for the two pupils who cannot come to school for medical reasons The Dep. Headteacher reported he had discussed this with another special school in a similar situation to see how they were supporting their pupils, he was waiting to hear how the outreach work they had put in place was organised and if it was successful. Action: Dep. Headteacher to feedback to the next meeting The Chair to report back following the meeting on Federation The Chair reported that the meeting had been cancelled at short notice, work had begun on the new structure and a 	DHT
	 meeting with the Chair and Headteacher of the other school was to be held next week. The Headteacher to personalise the Virtual Attendance policy 	
	Action: The Clerk to check if this had been done and complete and resubmit if not.	Clerk
	The Safeguarding Link Governor and the Deputy Headteacher to meet to go through the policy to ensure governor responsibility compliance	
	Deferred to the next meeting	
	Clerk to check the availability of the Introduction to Governance course, parts 1 & 2 - completed	
FGB.27.20	To agree unallocated Link Governors roles	
	The following new links were agreed: -	
	 Pupil Outcomes, Pupil Premium & Data – Andrew Palmer Equalities - Chair School Council, Pupil & Parent View – Gemma Cardwell (tbc) 	
	Question: What is Equalities? Answer: It is the statutory obligation on an organisation to ensure equality for all within the organisation. Places with less than 150 staff do not need to report on it. All organisations must set out their equality objectives and revise them each year, in a special school this revolves around all pupils having equal access to education & the curriculum regardless of their disability. For example, due to their medical conditions the configuration of the	



building is preventing 2 pupils being able to access school at the moment. We need some quality objectives to support those pupils who are prevented from attending school in getting access to education. Ouestion: I am interested in how outcomes are measured Answer: Following recent changes by Ofsted Pupil attainment measurement is changing this year towards a focus on SEND and EHCP statements. In the Sixth Form pupil outcomes are focussed on preparing pupils for leaving school and independent living. **BUSINESS** FGB.29.20 To review Pupil Progress Review of KS/exam assessment results Pupil Premium & Sports Premium outcomes 2019/20 Governors noted that due to the lock down in the summer term schools were not asked to make year-end assessments for the last academic year. Assessments had been undertaken by the school at the beginning of March for its own information. Question: Is it possible that the next assessments can be done over a two year period as an alternative? Answer: Up until the end of the July 2020 term a statutory assessment system was being used but we have now moved away from that and make assessments against the curriculum. We have a very bespoke personalised curriculum here and have used the opportunity of the new Ofsted Framework to focus on getting the right curriculum. We now have to focus on setting up the right assessment system. We are moving towards using the SEND statements on our online assessment system (Tapestry) as they link to the new curriculum and will continue to assess against the outcomes in each pupil's EHCP. Question: I am interested in the outcomes from the Speech & Language team (SaLT) work and how that impacts on progress in Answer: SaLT outcomes form part of the Communication and Interaction section of a pupil's EHCP. Some communication outcomes may come through the curriculum & others from the therapists. Outcomes are monitored and measured by teachers in the same way as they are for other EHCP areas. Teachers discuss progress towards these outcomes with SaLT. FGB.30.20 To receive a verbal update from the Deputy Headteacher The Dep. Headteacher gave a brief verbal update on current

school operation



- Very few absentees from school due to Covid, a couple of people waiting for test results for family members
- The HR Manager is strictly monitoring Covid timescales for both pupils and staff & sending the information through to the LA

Question: In relation to bubbles, what would be the position if there was a positive test result, would you send home the whole bubble?

Answer: We have discussed this several times but not had to take any action so far as we have not had a positive test reported. There is a useful flowchart available that shows what action should be taken and there would be discussions with the Public Health Department. There are 2 main bubbles in school, primary/secondary & 6th form, we feel that we would not need to close both bubbles if there were a positive test from one of them. Question: I am confused about the transporting of pupils to & from school & the fact that pupils from different bubbles can be mixed on transport

Answer: Transport is a different case, there would have to be discussions about what other close contact had taken place. If we have to close a bubble we may also have to ask the other pupils on the transport to stay at home.

Question: Are the school responsible for the transporting of pupils?

Answer: No, the LA has that responsibility through IPT (Integrated Passenger Transport).

Question: Are we confident in their safeguarding procedures? Answer: They are a Stakeholder organisation with the LA, they recently sent a representative to school to quality assure their Covid safe practises, checking the correct PPE was being worn etc Question: In the case of a positive result would we give the LA details of all close contacts in the last 48 hours, the approach being not to send everyone home immediately? Answer: We are talking hypothetically at the moment, the

Answer: We are talking hypothetically at the moment, the organisation in school means the classes in the bubbles for primary and secondary do not mix except possibly in the playground, 6th form classes do mix in the afternoons. Staff do mix between classes within the bubbles as they might work across the whole departments. If several staff need to self-isolate because they have been working in a particular class that closes that may have more of an impact if we are unable to staff the classes that remain open.

FGB.31.20 To review Curriculum Development

A presentation on the Curriculum and Subject Development had been sent out prior to the meeting

The Dep. Headteacher gave governors a brief overview of the presentation.



- There is a focus on the new Ofsted Framework, mirrors EHCPs and links to the SEN Code of Practice.
- The new curriculum will be implemented after the half term holiday
- Links to EYFS assessment and a broader SEN assessment
- Tapestry will continue to be used

Question: It is a very good framework, it was easily understood, are we pioneering this or do other schools use it too?

Answer: We are not pioneering it, other schools are using a similar approach. By focusing on the 7 areas of learning as highlighted in the EYFS we are using a developmental approach that is relevant even for many of the older pupils we have. The lock down has given us the chance to step back and look at building something better

Question: Are there lessons we can learn from the other schools? Answer: Yes, we are in communication with them, but they are not using Tapestry as their assessment system

Question: This was an easy document for governors to access but how are you engaging with parents on this?

Answer: Parent feedback tends to focus around the EHCP meetings, they are positive about the link between the EHCP and the work done in the classroom. This has been driven by the teachers so far but the next step is share with parents and get some feedback.

Question: This seems to have a primary/secondary focus what is happening with the 6th form?

Answer: 6th form staff have been working for the last couple of weeks on the curriculum, the 2nd slide shows the EHCP areas and the 6th Form are working on how their curriculum links to the 4 main EHCP areas and the fifth area, preparing for adulthood and independence. A focus in 6th Form is accreditation and qualification. As well as functional English and maths qualifications, students study towards ASDAN accreditations, Duke of Edinburgh Award, NCFE & John Muir awards. Question: Is it possible after a conversation with the Head of the 6th form to do the same for the 6th form that has been done for primary & secondary in the spring term. It would be very useful if he could come and talk it through with the governors. Answer: The work done with primary & secondary has been shared with him and he is aware we want something similar for the 6th form.

FGB.32.20 **To receive the Data Dashboard**

This had been sent out prior to the meeting.

Governors were asked to send questions directly to the Dep. Headteacher

ΑII



	Action: Governors to send questions to the Dep. Headteacher	
	Question: There are a lot of acronyms on this document, a glossary would be very helpful Answer: The document did used to have a key at the bottom of the pages, I will check where they went	
FGB.33.20	Website Review	
	The website review conducted by the Link Governor had been sent out prior to the meeting.	
	The Link Governor explained there were significant gaps in the reporting of Pupil Premium and suggested the review be repeated in a months time to allow the school to update the website.	
	The Chair suggested that some of the missing information may be embedded in parts of the website and that it needed to be lifted out and given more prominence	
	Action: Dep. Headteacher to arrange for the information to	DHT
	be uploaded to the website Action: Clerk to put on the agenda for the December meeting	Clerk
FGB.34.20	To approve the following policies	
	 Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions Medication Policy 	
	These policies had been sent out prior to the meeting	
	Question: Why are these separate policies? Answer: One is a practical policy about the administration of medication in school and the other is more strategic. Question: There is overlap in the two policies and slightly different wording which may lead to confusion. Answer: The Medication Policy is a new policy and was written to give guidance to staff who administer medication. This afternoon the 3 school nurses have been in school giving training on the management of medication	
	Action: The Dep. Headteacher to arrange for the two policies to be reviewed to ensure one is purely strategic and the other purely practical and bring back to the next meeting	DHT
	Pay Policy	



	The latest version of the NYCC model Pay Policy had been sent out prior to the meeting but required personalisation for the school.	
	The governors voted to delegate the responsibility for approving the Pay Policy and making relevant decisions to the Pay Committee to ensure deadlines were met.	
	Action: Dep. Headteacher to take costed pay proposals to the next meeting of the Pay Committee.	DHT
FGB.35.20	 Governor Training update Feedback from training undertaken since the last meeting 	
	A member of the Complaints Panel confirmed they had undertaken the NYCC complaints training on the 30 th September	
	Question: Do we have a partner school for complaints? Answer: No, if needed we would approach governors from other schools to take part in the panel. As we start to work more closely with Mowbray, they could become a partner school.	
FGB.36.20	 Governor visits update Feedback from visits undertaken since the last meeting 	
	 The Chair had met virtually with the Dep.Headteacher The Leadership and Management Link Governor had been part of a recent virtual interview panel 	
FGB.37.20	AOB	
	There was none	
	Date of next meeting – Thursday 19 th November 2020 at 4.15pm via Skype	

There being no further business the meeting finished at: - 6.50pm



Signed:			
X			
Name Governor			

Attachments for meeting below: