

Reason for Meeting:	Start:	End:
FGB meeting	19/11/2020 16:15:00	19/11/2020 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 b	У
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	PROCEDURAL	_
	Welcome	Chair
FGB.38.20	To receive apologies and record the acceptance of apologies	Clerk
FGB.39.20	To remind Governors to declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests	Clerk
FGB.40.20	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.41.20	To declare the notification of any other business to be discussed later in the meeting	
FGB.42.20	To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 15 th October 2020 via Skype	Clerk



FGB.43.20	To discuss any matters arising from the minutes	
	 The Deputy Headteacher and Head of 6th form to meet to discuss and agree what ICT is needed at 109 High Street as it opens 	Dep. HT / Hd of 6 th form
	 The Dep. Headteacher and SBM to meet and cost proposals put forward at the Pay Committee meeting with scenarios where possible 	Dep. HT / SBM
	 The Dep. Headteacher to meet with Head of Sixth form to agree a bid to Hargreaves Lansdown that supports pupils in 109 High Street 	Dep. HT / Hd of 6 th form
	 Dep. Headteacher to arrange for the Hargreaves bid to be drawn up 	Dep. HT
	 The SBM and Finance Link Governor to discuss the training budget at the next monitoring review 	SBM / Fin. Link Gov
	 The Dep. Headteacher to feedback on discussions with the other schools who have pupils unable to attend school for medical reasons at the next meeting 	Dep. HT
	 The Clerk to check if the personalisation of the Virtual Attendance Policy has been done and complete and resubmit if not. 	Clerk
	 Governors to send questions on the Data Dashboard directly to the Dep. Headteacher 	All
	 The Dep. Headteacher to arrange for the gaps in information to be uploaded to the website 	Dep. HT
	 The Dep. Headteacher to arrange for the two medical policies to be reviewed to ensure one is purely strategic and the other purely practical and bring back to the next meeting 	Dep.HT
	 The Dep. Headteacher to take costed pay proposals to the next meeting of the Pay Committee. 	Dep. HT
FGB.44.20	The Governing Body	Chair
	 Current vacancies Change of FGB date – 19th February 2020 	
	BUSINESS	
FGB.45.20	To receive a budget update	SBM / HT



FGB.46.20	To receive a report on school & premises issues	HT
FGB.47.20	To receive feedback from the Pay Committee	Chair
FGB.48.20	To adopt LA Financial policies and procedures	Chair
FGB.49.20	Safeguarding	Dep.HT
FGB.50.20	To discuss school surveys • Staff survey • Leavers parent survey	НТ
FGB.51.20	To approve/adopt the following policies/procedures Pay Policy ratification (S) Virtual Attendance Policy Remote Learning Policy Newly Qualified Teachers (S) Staff discipline, conduct and grievance Resolving Issues at Work Policy Collective Disputes Policy and Procedure Admissions (S) First Aid (S) Children with health needs who cannot attend school Governor Allowances	Chair
FGB.52.20	Governor Training update • Feedback from training undertaken since the last meeting • Future training needs	All
FGB.53.20	 Governor visits update Feedback from visits undertaken since the last meeting Future visits 	All
FGB.54.20	AOB	
	Date of next meeting – Thursday 10 th December 2020 at 4.15pm via Skype	

Minutes

Present: Sean Pond (Chair), Sarah Edwards (Headteacher), Paul Addison, Sarah Daggett, Shelagh Hughes, Andrew Palmer, Andrew Sudron

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



Item

	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting	
	PROCEDURAL	
FGB.38.20	To receive apologies and record the acceptance of apologies	
	Apologies had been received from Gemma Cardwell and Caitlin Hughes and these were consented to.	
	The Chair acknowledged it would have been Caitlin's last meeting as the staff governor, he thanked her on behalf of the governors for all her work on the GB & wished her well.	
FGB.39.20	To remind Governors to declare any pecuniary or non- pecuniary interests	
	None were declared	
FGB.40.20	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.41.20	To declare the notification of any other business to be discussed later in the meeting	
	 To request approval to spend over £5,000 on primary fencing 	
FGB.42.20	To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2020 via Skype	
	This will be done at the next meeting	
	BUSINESS	
FGB.45.20	To receive a budget update	
	Governors noted that the budget was particularly complex at present due to additional covid-19 expenses, new FSM changes & newly appointed staff	
	A budget monitoring summary report for October had been sent out to all governors prior to the meeting, a more detailed copy had been sent to the Chair & Headteacher	
		SBM



Action: SBM to send the detailed report to all the governors

Governors noted:-

- All known pay increases had been included including some of the recommendations from the pay committee.
- The predicted deficit had therefore increased by £7k to £39.8K
- Capital budget
 - due to the deficit it has been agreed by the new Finance Support Officer (FSO) that the expected £10k contribution from revenue would now not be available.
 - Final costs for the work to make the new building fit for purpose have still not been received from NYCC who are waiting for HBC to sign off the planned work
 - A meeting had taken place the previous week with the NYCC representative
 - There is an outstanding query on the capacity of the new teaching spaces and whether the numbers quoted include the staff. Once this is confirmed accurate costings and timings should be forthcoming
 - The new space will just be made good in the simplest possible way (no fitted furniture) to allow for maximum flexibility in its use.

Question: This project is very late and over budget, there is still not a project plan or an identified project manager. Should we be asking the NYCC representative to attend a GB meeting to allow better scrutiny

Question: What has been the impact on the school, the pupils & future admissions?

Answer: We had new consultations in half term which we were not able to respond to, Heads of Depts (HoDs) have strongly raised issues with lack of space and the challenges that poses. Some of the hold-up has been with the HBC planning dept, permissions did not come through as expected & the H&S review has led to the position we are now in.

Question: You were not able to offer places to the consultations then?

Answer: No, but these were primary consultations where space is still be an issue, they were not requests for 6th form places. I have done a lesson observation with the class in the hall and although not ideal it is working well. Covid restrictions and my absence have also been factors.

Action: The Headteacher to discuss with Chris Pearson, the NYCC Capital Projects Manager if a meeting between

Headteacher



the school (including governor representation), a representative from HBC and himself would help break the deadlock.

Prior to this meeting a paper to be prepared & sent to the NYCC & HBC reps giving information on the impact on the school now and in the future if this work does not go ahead or is delayed further.

 There is concern for places for next year especially as the school is having to give up two offsite spaces which currently store resources & provide a staff room, kitchen and PPA room.

Question: How are we going to pay the £80k deficit off? Answer: We are returning some of the IT equipment that is no longer needed due to changing way we will use the space, it is a listed building so there will be a saving due to not being able to change the windows. A 15% (£28k) management fee has been included but some of this includes work already completed & we are streamlining other work, an amended figure has been requested. Question: We need a line by line summary to show how this deficit has built up

Answer: In the more detailed report just sent out there is more information, everything is listed. The deficit is a combination of factors – the loss of a pupil which meant £30k of funding not coming to the school, one expected pupil didn't appear, we are still waiting for the funding for one other new pupil to come through. Pupil Premium funding for out of county pupils has to be claimed from the individual authorities by invoice and then wait for payment. There have been additional contractor costs due to Covid-19. Work needed to change teaching and access spaces was undertaken but this was not in the budget. A new carpet and redecoration was needed in one of the classrooms. We may be able to claim back some of the costs due to Covid-19 if another window opens. Question: Will the next budget revision include all the

updates
Answer: It will be a clearer picture in December when
new staff have been included & the potential pupil
numbers for the next couple of years have been discussed
Question: When the revised budget is drawn up will it
include a 3 year forecast, capital and a plan to pay off the

Answer: Yes, we will then have to complete and submit the capital deficit form.

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



FGB.46.20 To receive a report on school & premises issues

The Headteacher has drawn up a report using the structure around monitoring visits through Ofsted. She feels the school needs to reflect the strength of what was achieved during the lock down

The report which will be sent out shortly will include:-

Attendance

- school fully reopened in September and it has not been necessary to close any of the bubbles, even partially which is very good.
- A comparison to last year shows only a 1 or 2% drop in attendance.
- Two pupils have not able to return to school due to needing an AGP procedure as previously reported to governors. Other schools with similar pupils have not been able to accommodate their pupils either. Both pupils have a remote learning offer and materials have been sent out to them.
- There have been a few pupils showing anxiety and this has been addressed through the new Behaviour Support worker in weekly sessions and liaison with home
- There have been no Covid-19 cases within the pupil population although several pupils have had to selfisolate. A standard letter is sent out to parents confirming the dates of isolation and what the school offers as remote learning

Question: Has there been an anxiety among parents about the return to school?

Answer: Where there has been anxiety this has been addressed through contact with the school, reassurances, provision of our risk assessments to them. There is only one example of a parent who is too anxious to allow their child to return - and this was a factor pre-Covid. It shows a lot of confidence in the school

Curriculum

▶ Primary and secondary have been following a recovery curriculum which was trialled during the lock down and returns to behaviour for learning skills & working in groups and the community again. Although there hasn't been a formal assessment period, leaders have been closely monitoring pupils to ensure they have the right level of support to engage or re-engage. The 6th form have been following their usual curriculum as much as possible within the current



restrictions working on more of the class based modules to mitigate the loss of the community work.

All community visits have been cancelled except for one pupil where it would have been more detrimental to their mental health.

Assessment

Formal assessments are not an expectation following the delivery of the recovery curriculum during the first half term so teachers have taken the opportunity to address any deficits in physical skills or well being matters - reflecting that the recovery curriculum was designed to support teachers doing this once pupils returned to school. Equipment was not an issue during lock down as parents were able to collect it from school. The EHCP review system is still in operation although it is now conducted remotely, new structures in HCPs are beginning to be implemented as they come in. New accreditation from the Northern Council for Further Education (NCFE) has been introduced in functional English & maths

Staff wellbeing

- ➤ There have been 2 positive covid-19 tests among staff but neither affected their bubbles and arose from either a community or family connection.
- There is continual staff absence for self-isolating & childcare reasons. Staff usually need to leave urgently when they receive the call so contingencies have to be built in. It is testament to the staff that no provision has yet been closed or agency staff needed.

Catch up funding/Remote learning

- Catch up funding has now been received and a spending strategy is being developed. A teacher working from home is coordinating the remote learning offer and putting in place a tracking system to show what has been done & when. They will also devise an evaluation system to check effectiveness. It is a 3-part plan
 - Plan of work this is based on what is happening in class
 - 2. Set of resources heavily adapted
 - 3. Community which home learning resources will help them best, resources for well-being and planned to support a pupil in understanding why it might be that they



	need to be off (reasons related to the pandemic).	
	 FSM The government expects schools to provide a food parcel for pupils absent but entitled to a FSM. The food parcels have been reviewed and do not represent good value for money, numbers are minimal so the school will provide supermarket vouchers for whole weeks the pupil is away. They will not be provided if the pupil is just awaiting the result of a test. 	
	 School priorities Work on establishing the school priorities is ongoing, a new curriculum structure are being introduced in this half term with a complimentary assessment system. The new SBM is coordinating work in school on new classroom spaces, a new isolation space, playground snagging issues, new equipment & safe site management. Two off site spaces are being lost which is very disappointing and will further add to the issue of the lack of space in school A room storing resources at 68a High street has to be vacated by 1st December, these will now have to be housed in school. Meadowbank which has the staff room, a kitchen, archiving room and where the admin team are working at present has to be vacated by 11th January. A temporary space has been offered at 80 High Street which is on the corner of Forest Moor Lane. Action: the Headteacher to send out the written report to all governors 	Headteacher
FGB.48.20	To adopt LA Financial policies and procedures	
	The governors agreed to adopt the LA Financial policies and procedures	
FGB.49.20	Safeguarding	
	The Spring & Summer 2020 Safeguarding Report had been sent out prior to the meeting	
	Governors noted a combined report instead of the usual individual termly report had been put together due to the lock down in the summer term	



Question: Can you confirm that Keeping Children Safe in Education document revised in September has been read by all staff?

Answer: This is still to be sent out with the updated Positive Behaviour Policy due to other priorities and focus in school. It will be sent to governors at the same time as staff

Question: Due to the current restrictions it has not been possible to complete the usual termly SCR check, are there any new staff in school that need to be added?

Answer: The new staff have all been added.

Action: The Headteacher to undertake the termly SCR check in lieu of the Safeguarding Link Governor as agreed by the GB

Question: How long will the Safeguarding review visits be postponed for?

Answer: Given the current guidance that there should be no visitors in school it is difficult to say, a meeting could be

conducted remotely

Action: The Deputy Headteacher and Safeguarding Link Governor to arrange a virtual meeting

Question: The report says 16 referrals were addressed by existing social care support & 2 referrals were made, are these additional referrals?

Answer: In the spring and summer terms there were 24 concerns raised through the online form (14 in spring and 10 in summer). Of the 24 concerns, 2 resulted in referrals to North Yorkshire, both in the spring term. 1 allegation against staff was not raised through the electronic concern form, this was raised in person, addressed through discussions with the individual concerned and recorded slightly differently to concerns about pupils.

FGB.50.20 **To discuss school surveys**

Staff survey

The Headteacher reported a staff survey had not yet been undertaken as there was still a lot of staff anxiety which would make comparisons with previous years unfair and not useful.

Question: Yes, you are right in the sense of a possible pressure cooker feeling in school but we should not shy away from getting the data and then have a strategy to deal with it. Is not now the best time to do it but add a covid-19 related question to the survey?

Headteacher

Dep. HT / Safeguarding Link Gov.



Question: It will be a different result to last year but would it not help staff if they feel you care about how they are feeling and listening to them?

Answer: Including a covid related question would be useful and it is better to get engagement.

Action: The Headteacher to arrange for a slightly amended survey to be sent out to staff and report back to the January meeting

Headteacher

Leavers parent survey

A summary of the results of a leavers survey had been sent out prior to the meeting.

Question: Although this is generally very positive. There is some noise around support in the closed period, is there anything we would do differently in the future?

Answer: Yes, there were some communication issues between staff, there was a strong lead from senior leaders in the communication to home which was not always passed on to the class teacher, who were not sometimes aware the child was coming back into school. We would need the teachers to feel more involved.

Parental survey

Governors noted that the two parent governors at the Chairs request are working on a survey to be sent out to all parents

Question: What mechanism will you use to send out the survey? Answer: We have in the past used parents evenings, asking parents to complete a form while in school. I have also asked the new ARO to prepare an electronic form that can be linked to the annual EHCP.

Question Will you ask for feedback about covid?

Answer: We would want it more about the current situation and how parents feel we are dealing with the situation. A question around the remote learning offer would be useful.

Question: Surveys conducted before would have been a larger sample, would a smaller sample give richer information? It depends what you are hoping to achieve, smaller sample but do interviews rather than forms may give better feedback.

Answer: We have tried governor involvement in the past, the

Answer: We have tried governor involvement in the past, the governors at school events asking questions of parents. That is obviously not possible at present but feedback from new parents would be useful. A broad brush approach initially with the chance to deep dive into the information may be more helpful.



	so far. We need to have a plan & agree the resources Action: The Headteacher to discuss with the PE Lead and	Headteacher
	lock down? Answer: We haven't done much PE contact so far, the PE Lead is supporting teachers with what to try. The Special Schools Sports Partnership activities cannot go ahead as normal but they are doing weekly remote challenges which we have not taken part in	
	room but it is all additional workload for staff Question: PE is difficult to do remotely, how are you addressing this, the PE lead & other staff did a very good video during the	
	all pupils in the class. We will start using our YouTube channel again to upload videos (ie story telling) which will reflect things happening in the class	
	Other schools are maybe developing offers quicker than we are, but we are not doing live streaming into pupil homes as it is hard to navigate for safeguarding reasons and we must protect	
	Answer: We need to think very carefully about developing human contact remotely & virtual classrooms. Strict parameters need to be set for safeguarding reasons and we must be really clear about what teachers can do. We have only allowed phone contact from a school number or a blocked teachers number.	
	Question: Are you doing any teacher contact with pupils at home, giving personal support or trying to replicate a normal school working day?	
	Answer: We have conducted a survey to check this and every pupil has access to IT with one exception. We provided this pupil with a device while at home and will do so again if they have to self-isolate.	
	Question: There has been controversy around the availability of IT equipment for deprived households, are we aware of any issues with our pupils?	
	Remote Learning Policy	
	 <u>Virtual Attendance Policy</u> This was approved by the governors 	
	 Pay Policy ratification (S) This was approved by the governors 	
	Copies of the policies had either been sent out prior to the meeting or been made available on Springpoint.	
FGB.51.20	To approve/adopt the following policies/procedures	
	Governors noted that of the 4 returns from the leavers survey 3 sets of parents had given an email address and consent to be contacted with additional questions	



Newly Qualified Teachers (S)
 The Headteacher reported an NQT had started at school this week and the policy would be reviewed by the member of staff working with the NOT

It was agreed the policy would be uploaded to Springpoint as a draft pending the review

- Staff discipline, conduct and grievance
- Resolving Issues at Work Policy
- Collective Disputes Policy and Procedure

Question: How do you know which of these policies to use when there is an issue, one person's view of management might be another person idea of bullying, is there overlap in these 3 policies and who decides which to use?

Answer: I would always seek advice from an HR officer at NYCC as to which policy to apply, they would also help to navigate the process so I would not feel isolated.

Governors requested that the names of the policies are more precise and clearly reflect what the policy relates to. A short precis at the beginning of policy would be useful

Action: The Headteacher to check & amend the names of the policies and add the precis to the beginning

Headteacher

These were all approved by the governors

- Admissions (S)
 This was approved by the governors
- <u>First Aid (S)</u> This was approved by the governors
- <u>Children with health needs who cannot attend school</u> Deferred to the next meeting
- Governor Allowances

The Headteacher explained under what circumstances these may be appropriate.

Action: The Headteacher to remove the heading from the policy and add a claim form

Headteacher

FGB.52.20

Governor Training update

Feedback from training undertaken since the last meeting

Governors noted that day 2 of the Introduction to Governance Training had been completed by the Leadership and Management Link Governor



FGB.53.20	Governor visits update • Feedback from visits undertaken since the last meeting	
	There were none	
	<u>Future visits</u>	
	There were none planned at present	
FGB.43.20	To discuss any matters arising from the minutes	
	The Deputy Headteacher and Head of 6 th form to meet to discuss and agree what ICT is needed at 109 High Street as it opens – completed	
	The Dep. Headteacher and SBM to meet and cost proposals put forward at the Pay Committee meeting with scenarios where possible – completed	
	The Dep. Headteacher to meet with Head of Sixth form to agree a bid to Hargreaves Lansdown that supports pupils in 109 High Street & the Dep. Headteacher to arrange for the Hargreaves bid to be drawn up	
	The Deputy Headteacher confirmed he had met with the Head of the 6 th form and was working on putting the bid together. The online application process is structured in such a way that it would be more effective to submit 2 separate bids, one for the fencing for the primary area and one for the 109 High Street project as they fitted two different bidding criteria.	
	Question: When will the bids be ready for submission? Answer: The primary fencing bid can be done very quickly as it is much simpler, the 109 bid will take a bit longer as research into appropriate furniture and equipment is needed.	
	The SBM and Finance Link Governor to discuss the training budget at the next monitoring review The meeting had been arranged but had to be cancelled at the last minute, a new date is still to be agreed.	
	Paul Addison left the meeting due to a lost connection	
	The Dep. Headteacher to feedback on discussions with the other schools who have pupils unable to attend school for	



medical reasons at the next meeting

The Headteacher reported she had received a range of responses from schools, some like here were unable to accommodate the pupils on site, some had found group work was effective and sometimes the parents had been asked to do the AGP procedure, some had risk assessed the pupils and concluded the procedure would not be needed during the school day.

There had now been a change in legislation which would allow the two pupils to return to school

- The Clerk to check if the personalisation of the Virtual Attendance Policy has been done and complete and resubmit if not – completed
- Governors to send questions on the Data Dashboard directly to the Dep. Headteacher
 None had been received
- The Dep. Headteacher to arrange for the gaps in information to be uploaded to the website
 This was still an outstanding action as priority had been given to reviewing policies
- The Dep. Headteacher to arrange for the two medical policies to be reviewed to ensure one is purely strategic and the other purely practical and bring back to the next meeting
 This was deferred to the next meeting as work was still

This was deferred to the next meeting as work was still ongoing

• The Dep. Headteacher to take costed pay proposals to the next meeting of the Pay Committee - completed

FGB.54.20

AOB

Request for funding for fencing around the primary outdoor space

Governors noted this was also the subject of one of the bids to the Hargreaves Lansdown Foundation but the fencing was needed even if the bid was unsuccessful.

The Deputy Headteacher explained the need for the fencing and confirmed the firm who had supplied other fencing around school had been approached for a quote. Remedial preparatory work would be needed before the fencing and gate could be fitted.

A quote of £6,244.76 had been received.



	Paul Addison re-joined the meeting	
	Question: Is this capital or revenue expenditure, I assume NYCC has a policy? Question: How important is it and how soon could the work be done? Answer: The early years teachers see this as a huge priority, it will take 4 weeks for the materials to be prepared so we would be looking for it to be done in the next holiday period. Hargreaves Lansdown review the bids at the end of the month so we could get the bid in for the end of November round, but we are not sure how quickly they get back to say if the bid was successful or not.	
	The governors approved the funding	
	Question: Can we map into some educational trusts in Harrogate or local entrepreneurs who sit on boards of trustees to bid for support for the school? Answer: It is something we are not very good at, we were successful at applying to Variety for support for the school but any expertise or contacts you have in that area would be appreciated	
FGB.44.20	The Governing Body	
	Current Vacancies The Chair reported the potential governor he had approached had taken up a role at another school. He would continue to check the governor websites The Clerk reported that she had contacted the potential governor put forward by the LA by email and telephone but had received no response. She had therefore contacted the Governor Support team to ask if there was anyone else available	
	 Change of FGB meeting date – 19th February 2020 	
	It was agreed to change the date of this meeting to Thursday 25 th February at 4.15pm	
FGB.47.20	To receive feedback from the Pay committee	
	The Deputy Headteacher left the meeting at this point and was not present for this item	
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This item is subject to a confidential minute	
Date of next meeting – Thursday 10 th December 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: