

**RENISHAW PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**FG 130521**

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNORS HELD ON 13 MAY 21**

Present: Brian Ridgway (Chairperson); Mathew Bullock,  
Stephen Forrest, Simon Fuller, Terry Homyard,  
Michelle Lewis, Julie Meiner, Samantha Wardle,

In Attendance: John Whiteley (Clerk to the Governors)

**ACTION**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

No apologies for absence were received

**2. Declaration of pecuniary interests relevant to this agenda**

Governors were asked to declare any pecuniary interests relevant to the agenda. There were no pecuniary interests declared.

**3. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting and report on matters arising from the minutes**

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2021 be approved and signed.

**Matters arising from the minutes**

It was agreed that all actions had been completed or would be covered in the meeting

**4. Headteacher's Report**

SF presented his report and the following areas were discussed.

**Summary position**

He said that this report covers more data than before and explained that it does look as though PP children have not been affected as some other groups.

SF explained that Y4 does look a little static but many who were previously behind are now where they were expected to be.

He said that targets were set at the start of the year and that staff have witnessed rapid acceleration which shows that the actions introduced are working.

He explained that Y1 are on track for phonics which is very good

considering the higher number of SEN children in the group. He explained that they are supported by three members of staff, which is higher than would normally be expected but is reasonable because of their additional needs, and the better results show that this is working

Year 3 are looking better, however staff have identified that there is still work to do with the year 4 children.

Year 5 are moving along well and staff are preparing them for the SATS next year.

SF said that there is an ongoing issue with writing in Y6 so staff are looking to get back to basics to look at the different elements involved which seems to be having a positive effect.

He said that overall week by week staff can see the improvements being made.

**Catch up**

SF said that this is going well and was pleased to report that the engagement is brilliant. The staff are talking to each other so are able to share information about performance and any areas of concern.

The after school groups are working well within their own bubbles, which does affect numbers but helps keep children safe.

**Toddler group.**

It was explained that the toddler group starts soon and will be the subject of an article in the local magazine which is being done for free. The group also received a visit from the local MP.

JM questioned if a copy of the article when complete can go on the web site. SF said that he would check.

SF

**Safeguarding.**

SF said that there are a number of issues in the community that are affecting some children when they are in school. He said that resources to control this are limited however the staff are doing as much as they can to help and the PE coordinator is also helping staff.

He said that there is an issue with one child who keeps trying to leave the site. SW said that staff are easily contactable by radio, so can act quickly if any issues arise that would be considered a health and safety risk.

JM asked if the police would be contacted if a child managed to get over the fence. SW said that they would and agreed to share the risk assessment that covers the procedures if any incidents such as this occur.

SF

It was explained that regarding the child who tries to escape, Grace is the main point of contact however other staff are also on call as required if she is not available. The parents of this child have expressed their gratitude at what the school has done to support their child.

SW said that she is looking to get some emergency funding to help support the child in question.

**5. SEN update**

SW confirmed that she has put in a bid to get additional funding for a number of children who have different needs and require extra support. She said that there are a number of different issues which have been seen first-hand by the school Phycologist, so she feels that the bids will be successful.

She said that there are two children in the nursery who will need additional support, so applications for ECHPs will need to be prepared if the funding to cover this support is to be successful.

She explained that she has met with partners from Derbyshire SEN carers regarding support available for Y6 and now has a questionnaire to be used by staff for children who display signs of ADHD to assist them to do a preliminary check. She explained that another member of staff has done some training around autism assessment due to the current rise in numbers.

She said that any information that staff can pass on to the senior schools allows them to help the children who need support as soon as they arrive.

SW said as many transition opportunities as currently allowed have been done and it may be that some after school visits will also be allowed.

**6. School plans for next year.**

SF said that at this late stage he is not expecting any resignations so the staffing structure should be stable.

He said that consideration has been given to the two children in Y1 who require specialist support so he is proposing that a specialist P/T SEN TA be appointed to provide the required support. He said that he is not proposing that this be an apprentice as this particular situation is hands on so does not give the individual the wider opportunities to broaden their skills base required as part of their training.

He explained that the advert for a breakfast club leader and relief cleaner are out so the posts should be filled. The site supervisor has been asked to look at the cleaning arrangements in school to see if better use can be made of the resources available.

The Chair asked if the current apprentice is now qualified. It was

explained that she is and now needs to spend 12 weeks working in other areas of the school to broaden her experience.

Four inset days have been pencilled in for next year and the school will finish for Christmas on the 23 December.

**7. Academy meeting**

SF said that discussions have taken place about reapplying so a decision will need to take place around how this moves forward.

It was agreed that the vacancies on the board need to be considered and if Governors can maybe be shared with Marsh lane and the secondary school community, which may strengthen the bid going forward.

It was agreed that this needs to be revisited in the Autumn but leading up to this, the possibility of Boards working together be investigated further if it is thought that collaborative working will help going forward.

It was agreed that the thinking behind the previous bid was that it was too small so it maybe that other schools need to be encouraged to join if the bid is to succeed.

It was suggested that joining some Headteacher forums may be a way forward to attract support or at least get more information on what might be required for a successful bid.

**8. Governor vacancies**

It was noted that there are still 3 vacancies for co-opted Governors. The Chair said that he hoped that current Governors would consider extending their terms of office when it expires as the Board needs experienced Governors to support the school and help new Governors when they are appointed.

SF said that he is looking to set up a meeting with Marsh lane and Eckington to see if there is a way that the different bodies can work closer together and support each other going forward.

JM asked if there were any areas that the current group were lacking. It was agreed that somebody from the police or social care may help if suitable people can be found.

It was also agreed that maybe somebody with marketing skills would be an advantage, which could include somebody who could attract funds.

Following a question the Chair said that an advert can be put out but it would clearly need to state what particular skills/experience the school was looking for.

**9. Safeguarding incident in school**

SF said that he wanted to bring to Governors attention a recent incident which was a potential safeguarding issue and despite his best efforts, he failed to get any support from the agencies who are supposed to support schools in these type of situations.

He explained that a parent of a child at school reported that there was an argument taking place at the home of a child at this school and that she was so concerned that she phoned the police and an ambulance. SF said that once this was reported to him he rang a number of agencies including social care and starting point to see what the school staff should do about the child of this family who was in school at the time. He said that in view of the seriousness of the incident he wanted advice on the safe release of this child at the end of the school day.

He said that somebody from starting point rang at 4-30 and asked how they could help, even though he had made it clear what the problem was when he rang in the morning.

He said that while he accepts that resources are stretched he feels that there should be a priority to help schools in this type of situation.

He said that the situation was resolved the community way rather than the professional way, due to the lack of help/support that was offered.

Following a discussion it was agreed that a strong letter needs to go from the Board to express the concerns of members about the lack of available support on the day of this incident and what assurances can be given that if this situation does arrive in the future that help and support will be available.

SF agreed to draft a letter detailing the events that took place that would be signed by the Chair on behalf of the Board of Governors.

SF/Chair

The schools advisor was not satisfied with the lack of support available and agreed that a letter should go from the Governors expressing their concerns.

SF said that he followed all the schools procedures and would not release the child until he was sure it was safe, confirming that he did consult with the Chair on the day of the incident.

SF said that on a positive note the cluster of schools have agreed to pay for a shared resource, so the situation will be better going forward. He confirmed that the new staff employed will visit schools on a regular basis.

JM suggested that Governors should request an official response to answer their concerns.

**10. Approval of SFVS**

It was explained that there were some small issues identified which have now been resolved.

Governors formally approved and accepted the SFVS as circulated.

#### 11. **Presentation on SFQSL**

Sam Clark-Allen was present to deliver the presentation on SFQSL.

She gave a power point presentation which highlighted the following areas.

SF said that this has been good for Sam as she has a passion for reading.

SCA explained that she is the English lead in school and wants to bring in as many resources as possible into school to help the children with their reading. She said that the idea behind the project is to improve reading outcomes.

She said that she wants to monitor staff to ensure that they are doing as much as possible to support any mental health issues and not just covering the curriculum.

She explained that this initiative is aimed at the lowest 20% of readers to help get them where they need to be and is intended to work across all areas of the curriculum.

#### **The project covers the following areas.**

- Where reading matters to get children ready for the secondary school
  - Interventions to improve progress
  - Scarborough reading rope to look at the different areas to make a good reader
  - Quality first teaching across the board
  - Books selected to provide the biggest impact. The books selected have also made it easier for staff to understand what is needed
- System is based on whole class reading, book monitoring and the reading curriculum

SCA explained that there are 26 children in KS2 who have a mix of PP children, non PP children and children with special needs.

She explained that the school is moving away from 1 to 1 teaching and the over reliance on TAs which was the previous position.

SF explained that the TAs are on board with this way of teaching and staff have worked with them to explain what is required of them.

The following improvements have been made.

- Improved communication and better teaching of TAs
- Upskilling of teachers and TAS
- Collaboration around the barriers to learning
- The interventions required are now built into the teaching

SCA said that staff are also seeing improvements in Y6 so it does show that the interventions are working.

This is based on more strategic thinking.

### **Project x code.**

It was explained that this offers additional support to readers in years 2 and 4 although Y3 has not been included at the present time because they have not been in school for a sufficient time to make this work.

SCA said that it was a big risk to replace the 1 to 1 reading but results are showing that this is now paying off.

She said that she has personally gained the following from this project.

- Strategic thinking
- Planning changes in advance
- Planning of CPD for maximum impact and sustained change
- Collaboration with stakeholders
- More parental engagement
- Easier to assess the risks and benefits

### **Impact of COVID**

- Bubbles have made it more difficult
- Staff unable to get together
- Staff struggling with additional workload
- Home learning has been a barrier

### **Next steps**

- Celebrate short term gains
- Continue to monitor and review evidence
- Embedding of the CPD
- Explore the different ways of teaching
- Refine reading curriculum
- Investigate the use of E Books
- Look how writing fits in

### **Costs**

- Initial cost £600
- Cost of books provided to take home
- 30 mins TA time per day per group
- Cost to children 2.5 hours per week.

**Note** this is a summary of the presentation which should be read in conjunction with the full presentation which is available to Governors.

The Chair thanked SCA for the presentation and asked if there were

any questions.

JM said that it was good to hear that the school is looking at this strategically but asked what effect the 2.5 hours per week per child will have on the rest of their learning. It was explained that it is based on the same time every morning so what they miss varies and much of the work covers English which they would struggle with anyway without this additional support.

JM asked if the targeted vocabulary at the start of COVID has suffered because of the time lost. SCA said that staff have tried to carry on with the vocabulary sheets but there have not been as many.

JM asked if the reading records which were working well have slipped as a result of COVID. SCA said that staff are looking at this and are using dojo to upload work as required.

SF said that he has much pride in what has been done and it is good to see how staff have stepped up. He said that SW and SCA have shown what good leaders they are and wanted to record his thanks.

TH said that she was pleased to see the consistent approach to phonics. SCA said that the new approach has helped teachers as they did not have experience in teaching phonics in the later years so this has helped older children.

TH asked if there was any work planned over summer. SCA said that staff are looking at what can be offered to keep this going.

The Chair said that the consistent approach is good to see.

SF said that it is good for Governors to receive information in this way and planned for a similar presentation around science at the next meeting.

## 12. **Review of meeting**

Governors fulfilled their 3 core functions discussing the following areas.

- Data
- Catch up work
- Safeguarding
- SEN
- School plans for next year
- Curriculum
- Finance including approval of SFVS

## 13. **Any other urgent business**

No other items raised

## 14. **Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

Resolved: That the next meeting be held on 8 July 2021 at 5-00 p.m.

**Meeting closed at 7-00 p.m.**