

BALFOUR JUNIOR SCHOOL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL GOVERNING BODY

Held on : 5 February 2008 at 6.30 pm

Item	Description	Action
	<p>Present: Tony Jones Derek Betts Barbara Danahar Sue Bateman Dawn Loader Ben Marle Sandra Mulholland Robert Eastwood Sue Hart Phil Hall</p> <p>In attendance Sam Norton Rose Wisdom</p>	<p>Headteacher Chair Community Governor Community Governor Teacher Governor Staff Teacher Governor Parent Governor Clerk to Governors</p> <p>Deputy Head Guest/Governor support</p>
1.	<p>Apologies: Apologies were received from Janet Enever, Jayne Hems. Paul Brereton</p> <p>Not in attendance: Amy Anson, Jason Wye. Rose Wisdom was welcomed as a guest. Governors were asked to complete a questionnaire for Governor Support.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of Meeting held on 16 November 2007 Approved as read and signed by the Chair.</p>	
3.	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes No matters arising</p>	
4.	<p>Discussion of Gill Sweetenham proposal Agreed that governors would like the LEA to go ahead with the feasibility study for 4 form entry at Balfour Junior.</p>	
5.	<p>Headteacher's report The Headteacher's Report had been previously circulated. Questions were invited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Regarding maths and girls, a governor observed that, from the answers to the questions asked of the children, there seemed to be no connection with gender as such. The children had met with the maths subject leader; some attitudinal problems noted; along with possible lack of confidence. Qu on whether this is a national or school problem <p>The school is exploring different techniques, eg seating plans. The Headteacher commented that this has stimulated consideration of gender issues in other subject areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Height/weight measurement of year 6 children. This had been considered last year and decided not to participate. Issue has arisen again, regarding measurement of both reception and 	

	<p>year 6 children. If done with confidential and tactful manner and anonymously, then no problem could be perceived by governors. Stats would be available to parents up to 1 month afterwards, indicating that data against names would be stored in a database. Data collection would be done by school nurse. Concern over anonymity and also feelings of girls at sensitive stage of development. Parents can decline. Qu on frequency of children visiting school nurse – confirmed no routine checks. Qu on whether LEA or school would intervene if child lies outside ‘norm’. Issues around anonymity, intervention and embarrassment discussed at length.</p> <p>Agreed that governors should not stand in the way of this; final decision with parents; points discussed to be put forward to LEA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Design and Tech policy – BD to review. •Assessment policy is being reviewed by J Wye – still outstanding. •School holidays 2009-2010. Governors had not seen the document so could not approve or disapprove. •Attendance figures for autumn term were highlighted by the Headteacher. 	<p>TJ BD JW</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>“Dipping a toe in the water” – Sandra Mulholland to report Scheme was described; where SM will shadow a deputy head and meet to discuss learning outcomes. Balfour Deputy head is also participating in the scheme with an external member of staff.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Reports or updating from committees:</p> <p>S.O.C and Communications Sub-Committee It was noted that the budget had been examined and no discrepancies or problems found. There will be a carry forward to next year. 3 year budget plan; future projections are not the best fit; there could be a deficit in year 2 and 3; but parameters can be reconsidered. Staff sickness problem was noted. IT Technician has been permitted to work a 4 day week, with longer hours, on a trial basis. Financial Management Standard in Schools. Developing ways of fitting with requirements of new audit schedule. Govs were informed of new formula funding issues. Confirmed that staff have been acquainted with the Whistleblowing policy. There were no questions.</p> <p>T&L The minutes had been circulated to all. BD outlined the main points of the meeting, including questionnaire for children, marking policy, behaviour plan, community cohesion requirement, racist incident returns. There was some discussion around the pros and cons of the latter.</p> <p>E&P The Minutes had been circulated to all. PH summarised: Items completed and future works will be prioritised along with works required for fire risk and health and safety purposes.</p>	

	<p>SEN Governor Just finished reviewing Individual Education Plans. Good progress is being made; children removed and added to SEN register as appropriate. SATs access arrangements are to be reviewed in next few weeks; TA's informal observations will be carried out. Performance Management for TA's will be in place for September 2008.</p> <p>FBA liaison Governor No items.</p>	
8.	<p>Independent Safeguarding Authority Scheme consultation This 60 page document had been received by the chair and Headteacher. Arising from Victoria Climbié issue, the aim is to identify across agencies the children who may be at risk. Governor checks against List99 and CRB checks will be extended.</p>	
9.	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Chair informed meeting that a number of items had been written off and signed by the Chair. •Governor Network and LEA Gobs meeting now combined into Governor Strategy and Partnership Meeting. All Governors are welcome to attend and express their views and feedback to LEA. Next meeting 10 March 7 pm. •Query on responsibility for distribution of information from LEA. Education Online is the Brighton & Hove Website for all who have an interest in services to schools. Find it on - http://education.brighton-hove.gov.uk/ •RW informed meeting that there will be a Governors Conference on 28 June at Grand Hotel. 	ALL
10.	<p>Any other business previously agreed with the Chair Admissions issues proposals for 2009-10. Gobs have to respond to the new arrangements by 29 Feb but a there is a problem because the new arrangements have not been seen through. RE has drafted a response requesting that LEA delay the review.. There was a discussion around relevance to infant, junior admissions; whether this governing body has right to express a view on secondary arrangements. Agreed that this should be sent out, as a response to the secondary admission arrangements. Comments regarding primary – junior are the same as in previous years, ie max of 96.</p>	RE/Chair
11.	<p>Dates of future meetings: 29 April 6.30; 27 June 1 pm. Chairs of subcommittees to please plan dates.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.</p>	Chairs of Sub Committees