

BEAUMONT SCHOOL (Company Number 8104190)
MINUTES OF MEETING OF GOVERNORS HELD ON
Thursday 2nd March 2017 at 3pm

Governors Present:

Alex Hall (“AHa”) (Chair), Liz Hitch (“EHi”) (items 1 – 4), Alison Wallis (“AWa”), Torie Stewart (“VSt”), Gary Kellett (“GKe”), John McAlister (“JMI”), Lianne Sherwood (“LSh”), Catherine Hopkin (“CHo”), David Lee (“DLe”), Brenda Austin (“BAu”), Mike Cameron (“Mca”), Martin Atkinson (“MAt”) (items 1 – 4), Anna Battaglia-Geymonat (“ABa”) and Alison Curran (“ACu”).

In attendance:

Simone Kilka-Green (“SKi”)

Clerk to the Governing Body

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Hannah Henry (“HHe”), Cate Davies (“CDa”) and Rena Prindiville (“RPr”). Ian Johnston (“IJo”) had sent apologies for anticipated late arrival. Consent was given to their absence. All other Governors were present at the meeting.

AHa noted that the meeting was quorate.

2. Declaration of any conflict of interest foreseen in relation to agenda items and undertaking to declare any that arises in the course of the meeting

Governors were reminded that anyone with a conflict of interest must declare it, withdraw from the meeting and take no part in any discussion or decision on the matter. No conflict was declared.

3. To receive notification of any other business for item 6

No additional business was raised.

4. Deputy Headteacher appointment:

a) To ratify and approve the appointment of a selection panel and the delegation to it of the selection and shortlisting of candidates, the interviewing of those candidates and the selection of a candidate to recommend to the Full Governing Body for formal appointment.

AHa reminded governors of the content of his email sent on 22nd February 2017 in which he had outlined the recruitment process for the appointment of a Deputy Headteacher as follows:

A panel of four governors (EHi, MAAt, AWa and AHa) (the “**Panel**”) met on 22nd February 2017 to shortlist candidates for the first day of interviews on 1st March 2017. Twenty one applications were received and were shortlisted to 5 appropriate candidates, who were asked to attend for interview.

The interviews were held over 2 days on 1st and 2nd March 2017 and involved a series of panels with governors and senior staff on the first day (ACu also assisted with this and was on one of the panels).

Two candidates were then invited to attend the second day of interviews and each gave a presentation and

had a more testing long interview.

Governors agreed that the process was robust and challenging and it was unanimously agreed that the Panel had an appropriate balance of gender, category of governor and experience.

Governors unanimously ratified the delegation to the Panel of the responsibility to:

- agree the qualities and experience the school needed from the Deputy Headteacher in light of its ethos and aims and objectives;
- finalise all necessary documentation required as part of the recruitment process;
- finalise the criteria for selection, select and shortlist candidates;
- finalise and execute the arrangements for the chosen interview days; and
- select a candidate to recommend to the Full Governing Body for formal appointment.

b) to consider and approve the recommendation to the Governing Body on the appointment of a Deputy Headteacher.

On behalf of the Panel MAt reported that the recommendation was to appoint as Deputy Headteachers both Yvonne Powdrell (currently Assistant Headteacher at the school) and Jonathan Mountstevens (currently Assistant Headteacher at Sir John Lawes School).

MAt explained that both candidates were outstanding and have extensive experience, and the proposal to increase the Leadership Team to have two Deputy Headteachers rather than the current one Deputy reflected that.

The financial impact of the appointments were discussed and it was noted that there would be an impact. However it was acknowledged that the possible appointment of two Deputy Headteachers had been the subject of discussion at previous meetings, as governors were concerned to ensure that the Leadership Team was not too stretched, following the appointment of a new Headteacher. The reduction to one Deputy Headteacher had only been a pro tempore arrangement, in any event; and governors were content to increase the number to two, as before, to ensure support for the new Headteacher.

Governors unanimously approved both appointments and also unanimously confirmed that the appointment process had been carried out properly. They thanked everyone involved in the process.

Governors discussed the process of informing the staff, students and parents of the appointments and agreed that the timing of the communication would depend upon Jonathan's resignation from Sir John Lawes School, which the school will be careful to allow him to manage.

EHi and MAt left the meeting to inform the candidates.

5. FAB project – to consider and discuss the request from HCC to release the Deed of Surrender of the old playing fields and the Lease of the new playing fields and agree to the school's response

It was noted that, at the FGB meeting on 17th January 2017 (recorded in Part 2 confidential minutes), Governors had agreed that the Deed of Surrender of the old playing fields and Lease of the new playing fields should not be released and completed unless either (1) Charles Church was at the point of

completing the purchase of the playing fields, or (2) Hertfordshire County Council (“HCC”) agreed to cap the interest accruing.

Governors had considered the content of the email from AHa sent on 1st March 2017 in which he outlined the outcome of negotiations with HCC and the proposal from HCC as follows (the “**Proposal**”):

- (1) The school releases the Deed of Surrender for completion by 12 noon on Friday 3 March 2017.
- (2) Upon the release of the Deed of Surrender, the School will be relieved of any further interest costs under the terms of the amended Development Agreement.
- (3) The school withdraws all complaints about the conduct of HCC in respect of the sale process up to and including the date of the completion of the surrender (3 March 2017).
- (4) The school withdraws any complaints about the length of time that the new playing fields have taken, and also regarding the delays in providing the collateral warranties.
- (5) The school withdraws its request for an extension of the defects liability period on the new playing fields and accepts that the 12-month defects liability period post-practical completion has ended.
- (6) HCC agrees to use reasonable endeavours to provide the collateral warranties from Blakedown and the designer of the playing fields, Peter Jones, (otherwise in accordance with the terms of the Development Agreement) within 28 days from completion of the surrender.

Governors noted that, if the Proposal were accepted, then the school would secure its boundary with the old playing fields and Charles Church would take control of the playing fields under a licence from HCC on Monday 6th March 2017, so that they could start the junction and access road works. The first stage of those works would be to move a gas main and BT junction and the current expectation is that the access road would be open for use from January 2018 – although the school has asked that it be made available as early as possible.

AHa confirmed that the impact of capping the interest as at 3rd March 2017 would be that the accrued interest would be well within the budget that had been included in the FAB project budget. Governors unanimously agreed to accept the Proposal.

6. To receive any other business as notified in item 3

There was no additional business raised.

7. Date of next meeting: Thursday 23rd March 2017 at 6.30pm

AHa declared the meeting closed at 3.20pm.

Signed:
Chair of Governors
Dated:.....