WESTWOOD AND GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Minutes of the Local Governing Body Meeting of Westwood and Grove Primary Schools held on 18^{th} July 2023 at 4.00pm.

Present: Rae Aldous (EHT) Sarah Gough (SG)

Sarah Bayfield (SB)

Dan Blowers (DB)

Stephen Clarke (SC)

Steven Moore (SM)

Mike Quantrill (Chair)

Sarah Ross (SR)

Jackie Cutchey (Chair)

In attendance: Louise Creed (LC) Rebecca Witt (Governance Professional)

Laurine Barnes (LB)

1	WELCOME / APOLOGIES	
	A special welcome was given to SG. Apologies were received from Elliot Gibbons (EG) and Mary Corker (MC). Governors consented to these absences. It was noted that SR had resigned therefore this would be her last meeting.	
2	PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS	
	There were no declarations of interest declared in items on the agenda.	
3	CHAIRS ACTION	
	There were no urgent items to note.	
4	MEMBERSHIP OF THE GOVERNING BOARD (GB)	
	The Governing Body membership was discussed. It was noted that Sarah Ross (SR) had resigned on 12 th July 2023. Governors thanked SR for her support at both schools. SR advised that she had enjoyed being part of both schools GBs.	
5	MINUTES	
	The minutes of the meeting held on 22 nd May 2023 (copy in the Minute Book), having previously been circulated, were confirmed . The Governance Professional was asked to mark the minutes as signed on GovernorHub . All actions had been complete or would be addressed through the course of the meeting. The Chair advised that she had completed governor monitoring visits for attendance, English and EYFS. The school staff knew where the issues were with attendance and knew how to address them. English was noted as strong and EYFS remained outstanding	Gov Pro
	in both schools. DB agreed to make contact with the Site Manager to review the H&S action plan. Safeguarding training was discussed. It was noted that all governors had completed their training with exception to SG. SG advised that she had experienced challenges with the system however agreed to complete the training ASAP.	DB SG
6	HEADTEACHERS REPORT	
	 Governors received a verbal update from the EHT. The following key points were noted: The EHT stated that LC had been working at Albert Pye & Ravensmere for the last 6 weeks as their EHT was on long term sick. Rachel Kounnas had been working as the Interim Head of School at Grove. It was currently unclear if this would continue into the autumn term. Governors would be informed when more was known. It was noted that the EHT would continue to work across all 4 	

schools in the autumn term and would continue her school improvement role for 2 days a week. A communication would be sent out on Friday.

- Attendance was discussed. The Chair noted the difference between schools in their data recording. The EHT agreed to address this. At Grove the whole school attendance was 93.3% and 92.5% at Westwood. The national figure at the end of June was noted as 90.1%. It was noted that persistent absence had decreased throughout the year.
- The summer data was noted. Westwood's Y6 was discussed. A class of 30 was noted. 1 child was not educated at the school but was on roll. Of the 29 children, 8 had EHCPs. 73% had achieved the expected standard in Reading, 70% in Writing and 70% in Maths. The combined was 67% which was in line or above national. Grove's Y6 was discussed. 74% had achieved the expected standard in Reading, 80% in Writing and 88% in Maths. The combined score was 74%. DB noted the media attention re the Reading paper and felt that the school results were excellent. The EHT advised that all the children who had passed were well about the grade. KS1 at Grove was lower than expected at 64% Reading, 71% Writing and 76% Maths. Reading was a focus for the school. MQ asked what the Phonics results had been last year. The EHT advised that the results were good last year. The cohort at Westwood had poor Phonics results last year with only 48% passing the expected grade. 45% of the children in the cohort were on the SEND register and had a significant level of need. These children had also been impacted by the pandemic. Behaviour needs ran alongside this due to the lack of social interactions. Y1 Phonics was 85% at Grove and 84% at Westwood (5 children did not take the test). The Reception cohort had the best tracking data and was the best the school had. This showed that the Phonics scheme had an impact. EYFS achieved 76% at Grove and 65% at Westwood. The level of SEND need was noted. EHCP applications were noted for some children. The Chair noted the Y4 times tables data. It was suggested that this was reported on again in September. The EHT advised that MQ looked at the data and PP also during his governor monitoring visits. SR left the meeting.
- The School Development Plan (SDP) had been reviewed at both schools. The next steps were discussed. A learning review had taken place at both schools. The Chair asked if there would be any external reviews next term. The new standard operating system was noted. The EHT noted that reviews were dependant on where a school was on the grading system. The Chair felt that the schools would still get visits. MQ asked how schools were rated. The EHT advised that the schools were RAG rated against the top 20 schools, attainment and progress, attendance, leadership, and exclusions. The school improvement priorities were similar for both schools. The school would continue to embed Writing. Jason Wade was supporting with sentence level writing structure for children and this would continue. The development of Subject Leaders would also continue. Spelling work and a whole school approach would be put in place. Phonics Launchpad would be used for children who were not achieving. The schools would revisit reading for pleasure. The consistency for Science would be looked at as well as how this looked in different year groups. The Essential SEND toolkit would be introduced to tighten up EHCPs and evidence for referrals. Enrichment opportunities and different cultural activities were noted for personal development. The leadership programme would also be embedded. The EHT advised that the data would be reviewed termly for all subjects. MQ asked if this was for all foundation subjects. The EHT confirmed that teacher assessments would be used. Whole school book looks for Science, RE and PSHE were noted. EYFS was discussed. There was a change in personnel at the schools. The schools would work with the TAs on the continuous provision, how it was embedded and getting the intent and impact in place whilst ensuring consistency.

EHT

 The school judgements were discussed. MQ noted the attendance and behaviour gradings for Grove and Westwood and queried if the judgements were correct as the attendance at Grove was stronger than Westwood. LC noted that this was due to persistent absence. LC advised at Grove holidays impacted the judgements. The staffing for next year was noted. The ECTs were discussed. Staff training was noted. It was noted that the transition days had gone well. The EHT advised that SEND remained a concern for the schools mainly due to the lack of support from the LA. The schools were exhausting all the resource available to them. There was a high level of SEND at both schools, particular Westwood. The Sendco and pastoral team were working hard to evidence support for referrals. Delays in the systems were noted. 2 permanent exclusive were noted where both children were SEND children. Alternative Provision I been secured for 1 child. SB noted the volume of time needed to support families and children. The school and pastoral team were emailing the LA da Governors felt this needed escalating to the Trust for a response. The Chair agreed to work with other Chairs on this. A confidential item was discussed which was recorded separately in the minutes. The EHT advised that there had been no strike action taken by staff at either school on 5 or 7th July 2023. 	also also co ces cly at clons had ally. Chair
7 GOVERNOR MONITORING, DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING	
The following governor visits were noted. Full reports were available on GovernorHub. It was noted that SR had carried out a SEND review. SEMH was noted as increasing as well as the number of children with speech & language and communication needs. At the time of the review, EHCPs numbers had been lower for Westwood (this was not the case now). The IEP targets had improve The process for adding children to IEPs had not always been consistent so the would improve moving forward and training would take place in the autumn term. Parent SEND cafés were noted every half term and attendance for the was noted as good. Maths, Phonics and SEND focus sessions were also noted. The EHT advised that both schools had been awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) Centre of Excellence award. SC advised that he had visited the schools a couple of times. He had met with the Inspector for the safeguarding review. The inspector advised that he was a governor. SC had attended various training through Schools Choice. He had met with assessors for both IQM awards. The governor visit programme for next year was discussed. The Chair asked a governor to take on the link responsibility for SEND and foundation subject following SR's departure. SG agreed to take on SEND, DB agreed to take on exclusions and attendance, and the Chair agreed to take on foundation subjects.	ved. nis n ese d. ch ould also for ets
8 RISK MANAGEMENT	
It was agreed that this item would be deferred to the next meeting. The Trust's new Risk Register was discussed (Every). The Chair suggested that governors reviewed the reg-ragged items at each termly meeting.	S Gov Pro
9 SAFEGUARDING, WELL-BEING AND HEALTH & SAFETY / PREMISES	
LB advised that there had been a significant issue on the Westwood estate which the pastoral team were working on along with LB and Kate Grey. The	

school was networking with other schools, Red Oak and PCSOs and using the Community Hub for information sharing. This was developing into wider community work. Staff well-being was discussed. A whole staff Trust well-being survey had taken place in the summer term with scores graded from 1 to 5. The schools had scored 3.2 overall. This was in line with Albert Pye & Ravensmere. Any negativity related to workload which was a national feeling. The survey was also completed towards the end of the academic year when many were ready to finish. MQ asked when the last survey was completed. It was noted that a staff survey had been completed previously however the questions were different so no comparisons could be made. The EHT advised that there had also been some confusion over the wording around Trust and Academy. The EHT advised that the Family Support Practitioner ran staff well-being sessions. The main item raised was around communication and how people wanted to be communicated with. When staff had been asked what this meant and for suggestions for improvement staff had said that they wanted face to face messages rather than WhatsApp messages or emails if things changed in school however this was not manageable. The EHT advised that there were 2 staff briefing a week on safeguarding and a general update. The positive comments were noted. Wordles had been created for family, community, team, love, and appreciation. Both schools felt like a warm and pleasant place to be. Pupil wellbeing had been monitored during the learning review and no issues were noted. The H&S/Premises update in the Headteacher's report was noted. It was noted that a member of the Premises staff had been seconded to Albert Pye & Ravensmere 1 day a week until Christmas which had helped the budget. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE The Chair advised that she received a monthly finance report from the schools and both were in a good place. The EHT explained that the school reserves had been pooled and where held centrally by the Trust. The school budgets had been set with no deficit over the next 3 years. The school could apply to access the reserves if they had a project they wanted to do with CEO/DCEO approval. It was noted that the Director of Finance (DoF) was retiring on 3/8/23 and a new DoF appointment had been made. MQ noted the unknowns in the school budgets such as the final pupil numbers or energy costs. MQ also noted the pay increase of 6.5% which had been agreed. The EHT advised that there was contingency in the in-year budgets for these additional funding from the government was noted. An extraordinary Trust Board meeting had been scheduled next week to sign the budget off. MQ asked what

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11 COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES

There were no updates to discuss.

12 POLICY REVIEW

There were no policies to note.

13 GOVERNOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

It was noted that this item had been covered under item 5 and 7.

14	TRUST UPDATE	
	III	
	It was noted that this item had been covered under item 6 and 10.	
15	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
	There were no items to note.	
18	DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS	
	The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 12 th October 2023 at 4pm.	
The m	eeting closed at 17.40pm.	

Signed	
Date	