



Minutes of Godmanchester Bridge Academy Local Governing Committee

Wednesday 11 October 2023 09.15 – 10.30

Present Governors: Caroline Crowther– Light (CoG)

Jackie Woodward (JW)

Carl Miller (CM)

Vicky McAuley-Eccles (VME)

Claire Pirrie (HoS)

Philip Dirisu (PD)

Pamela Kitching (PK)

Apologies:

Clerk: Whitney Whitham

In Attendance:

1.	Apologies for absence
	<p>The Clerk confirmed the meeting was quorate.</p> <p>The committee welcomed Pamela Kitching who was newly appointed as Community Governor.</p> <p>CoG confirmed resignations were received 19 July 2023 from Karen Smith (previous Chair) and Michael Lambourne (previous Parent Governor).</p>
2.	Declaration of interest
	<p>The Clerk confirmed a declaration of interest is outstanding from PD.</p>
3.	Approval of minutes 12 July 2023
	<p>The minutes of meeting 12 July 2023 were deemed to be an accurate record of proceedings and were signed off by the CoG.</p>
4.	Chair of Governors Vacancy – appointment required
	<p>HoS raised it may not be wise to appoint a completely new Chair of Governors and suggested the committee appoint a Parent Governor initially, and then look inward once there is some more experience within the team.</p>
5.	Parent Governor Elections
	<p>HoS advised an advert for parent governor is required and could be issued to parents via dojo.</p> <p>ACTION: Clerk to locate governor application form and share with CoG</p>
6.	Review/Approval of the School Self-Evaluation Form (SEF) and School Development Plan (SDP)
	<p>HoS shared it has been a very busy start to term, but the committee will be pleased to know that we have put many measures in place to support the school. The SEF follows the Ofsted format and allows us to pinpoint where improvements can be made. It is a working document that is optional, and updated for the Trust twice a year. We are due an Ofsted inspection at any time.</p> <p>CM queried how confident the HoS is with these points. HoS shared she has already got evidence to support some action points and that on the scale, GBA is at 'good'. The SDP has been created from these points.</p>

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SDP main points

- Quality of education – new schemes of work in various subjects
- Adapting planning to ensure the gradual approach to SEND
- Leadership and management – to further develop subject leaders
- Staff wellbeing
- Personal development
- Behaviour and Welfare
- Outcomes for pupils – writing
- Times table check
- Early years – large number of SEND children

HoS explained these points will be RAG rated following a review.

The LGC agreed the proposed SDP to be implemented.

1. HoS Report

HoS advised GBA currently has 236 children enrolled and of this cohort, 226 children are very settled and working well in line with our school policies. However, our time is being absorbed by a group of children with very challenging behaviours and needs. I have actioned 10 exclusions this academic year, which is heartbreaking however, I need to keep children and staff safe. We have done a lot of work on provisions and support for these children and are almost running special school provisions, without having the training to support us. GBA has received lots of support from Antonia Drysdale, Director of SEND for the Trust. We have contacted all external agencies that offer can offer us support. At times these challenges have extended to the parents of the child, and this is having a huge impact on students, staff, and leadership who are being physically injured. We do not have enough staff to meet these needs and do not have support from the LA. We have had to take support from other year groups to add to the support already in place for these children and this is having a negative impact on those other year groups. Due to these challenges, this Friday our TAs are having emergency positive handling training to support them in dealing with these issues.

CM inquired whether the Trust would support moving some of the children to another ACES school. HoS explained it is a national issue however, GBA seems to have a high proportion condensed in a small area which is causing some of the issue.

PK queried whether the smaller intervention group is showing any benefits. HoS confirmed it has been productive however, it's increasing the teacher planning workload and they do not have the training to be supporting such high needs provision. Behaviour curriculum is working really well and on the whole the classes are really settled and doing extraordinarily well.

CoG inquired whether children could be held back or kept at home out of mainstream education due to these ongoing problems. HoS explained whilst we can suggest this, the parents must agree to reduce timetables.

2. Staffing

HoS advised the committee GBA has appointed 2 additional TAs who are due to be starting next week. There were no other questions.

3. Admissions

HoS advised the only class GBA has space in is reception. We also have children waiting and appealing for spaces.

CM raised that EYFS and Years 4, 5, and 6, have a very high SEND count, as opposed to Years 1, 2, and 3, which are the year groups affected most by COVID-19. Are you worried we have not picked up on the needs in these year groups? VME advised that the school's understanding of SEND and ability to spot it is quite good, and it just happens to be a cohort of higher

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	<p>ability and less needs. HoS added that sometimes it can take time to work out whether it's a language need or a special need.</p> <p>PD inquired what the maximum capacity of the school is. HoS confirmed we are built for 420 children with two-form entry however, we are over admitting children into all classes rather than starting from reception, with no additional funding for staff.</p>
7.	Safeguarding update
	<p>CoG confirmed that Simon Eardley, Director of Primary Education for the Trust has completed a safeguarding audit which will be reviewed for the safeguarding monitoring.</p> <p>CoG raised to the committee that on each report, please remember to ask a safeguarding question, no matter what you are looking at. JW added that the two areas touched on today regarding student behaviour and staff wellbeing could be examples of a safeguarding question.</p>
8.	Teaching and Learning Report
	<p>JW shared that in summary, the positive outcomes were the SATS results, and in general across the school, overall progress is improving. Some things were identified for further focus such as Year 4 progress and attainment and focus on new foundation curriculum.</p> <p>Points to be reviewed over the year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have the EYFS children transitioned into y1? • Times table check <p>Data review due for January 2024.</p>
9.	Format and dates for meetings for 2023/24
	<p>CoG advised that all reports must be uploaded in the Governor's meeting folder 1 week prior to meeting, to enable time to read, and a briefer format for discussion at meetings.</p> <p>Governor visits to be booked 6 months ahead. At each visit can we note what has been a highlight i.e. what the school is doing well and if anything, what can be improved? This is good evidence for Ofsted.</p>
10.	Trust Update
	HoS advised that the Trust has taken a pause on all growth.
11.	Report Responsibilities:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CoG School Visit Report • HoS Report including SDP update • Teaching and Learning Report – end of year outcomes and assessments (JW) • EYFS (PK) • Safeguarding Report (CCL) • PP Report (CCL) • Kids Club (PD) • Policies and Website (PD) • Sports Premium Report (PD)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEND Report (CM) • OPAL Report (CM)
12.	Plans for visits
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCL to complete safeguarding visit next half term • CM to complete SEND • EYFS visit next half term • T&L next half term
13.	AOB
	CoG reminded committee to complete compulsory safeguarding and keeping children safe in education 2023 training and update training matrix.
14.	Date of next meeting
	<p>Plan and dates for the next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29/11/2023 09.15 - 12.00 Business + subject focus EYFs? @GBA – cm unavailable • 28/02/2024 09.15 - 12.00 Business meeting + subject focus @ GBA - TBA • 08/05/2023 09.15 –12.00 Business + subject focus mtg at GBA - TBA • 17/07/2023 09.15 –10.30 Business meeting @ GBA