



Minutes of Godmanchester Bridge Academy Local Governing Committee

Wednesday 24th May 2023 09.15 – 12.00

Present Governors: Caroline Crowther– Light (CCL)

Jackie Woodward (JW)

Vicky McAuley-Eccles (VME)

Michael Lambourne (ML)

Claire Pirrie (HoS)

Apologies: Karen Smith – Chair (CoG)

Carl Miller (CM)

Philip Dirisu (PD)

Clerk: Whitney Whitham

In Attendance: Simon Eardley, ACES Director of Primary Education (SE)

1.	Apologies for absence
	<p>The Clerk confirmed the meeting was quorate. Apologies for absence received from Carl Miller (CM), Philip Dirisu (PD), Karen smith (CoG).</p> <p>The committee received a welcome from Jackie Woodward who is acting up at this meeting as Chair of Governors in KS absence.</p>
2.	Declaration of interest
	JW confirmed no changes.
3.	Clerk resignation (C Kelly)
	JW advised the committee of Claire Kelly, the previous Clerk’s, resignation following maternity leave, and asked the temping Clerk if they were happy to continue in the role. Whitney Whitham was pleased to continue as Clerk.
4.	Approval of minutes 15th March 2023
	<p>The minutes of meeting of March were deemed to be an accurate account of proceedings and signed off by the committee.</p> <p>JW asked if there has been any progress on the worry box following the previous LGC meeting. HoS confirmed there is a bigger picture to this which will be discussed shortly. HoS added that GBA also has Joe Redwood who is Elsa trained and is working with children on how they can express themselves and how we can offer them additional support.</p> <p>HoS raised not having received any further information regarding Governor profiles for the website since request at the previous meeting.</p> <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governors to notify HoS if any profiles need amending • HoS to check the attendance records are being uploaded onto the school website • JW Teaching and Learning Governor Job Description outstanding – to be discussed with Karen Smith <p>SE expressed how impressive the CCL’s safeguarding report was and that he would like to use it as an example when training up new SG roles in other schools.</p>

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	<p>ML shared how interesting it was to visit the Opal project. The experience was refreshing and inspiring to see how the playing transferred throughout the years. The students showed great engagement and resilience and it was positive to see the children playing and engaging with different year groups.</p> <p>JW confirmed the joint Teaching & Learning and EYFS visit had not happened yet due to various reasons, but will happen next half term</p>
5.	<p>Safeguarding Training</p>
	<p>JW confirmed all Governor Safeguarding training is now up to date.</p>
6.	<p>Received Reports:</p>
	<p>1. Chair of Governors report 28/04/2023</p> <p>JW suggested the comments made about the foundation subject and curriculum which are being trialled can be discussed at the next curriculum meeting, and asked if anyone had any questions or comments. There were no questions from the LGC.</p> <p>HoS advised the LGC that the behaviour policy has not been approved and will be forwarded electronically.</p> <p>2. Head of School report including SDP update and School Growth update</p> <p><u>Admissions</u> HoS confirmed GBA will have two classes of 25 pupils next academic year and is very excited about the growth. We do not yet know for certain whether there will be two classes going forward but we believe it's likely to continue to be two classes in September 24. We've increased to 28 pupils in year 6 and are over pan in all year groups.</p> <p><u>Behaviour</u> HoS added there have been some challenges with pupil behaviour in some SEND children and the cost of provision is getting very tight into next year. We have at least 4 EHCPs coming into EYFS and foresee the staffing capacity for next year could be difficult.</p> <p><u>Budget</u> HoS shared GBA has struggled recruiting TAs this year and now need four for September, but we are hopeful. We have another budget meeting with David McMillan, ACES Director of Finance & Operations, after half term however, at the last meeting we were still at a deficit.</p> <p>CCL asked how GBA compares to other schools in the community and whether we are getting more children who require extra care. SE advised that all schools in the Trust are having more children coming in with EHCPs however, GBA has a higher number than other schools in the Trust. CCL added it's been useful now the Nurseries have improved in their trajectory of SEND children transitioning to school, and we have good relationships with a lot so can find out the information in advance.</p> <p><u>Staffing</u> HoS shared that GBA recruited two Teachers successfully and believed they will be a great addition to the team, offering it a good balance with the experience they provide. It was pleasing to have received the most applications we've had for many years, approximately 20 applicants, so we are very proud. It was very difficult to recruit for however, we have appointed a job share in our HLTA role and are very happy with our internal (ACES) appointees. We now need to recruit an additional TA to replace our current TA who has been promoted to HLTA.</p> <p>ML asked why it can be so difficult to recruit. HoS explained the job has evolved into a much more specialist role, and shared that this is a national issue. With the rising needs of children, it's difficult to recruit someone without any experience</p>

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to these higher-level roles. VME added that Covid-19 and working from home has also had an impact on our usual candidate pool (those seeking family friendly working patterns) as they can now work from home.

HoS advised that GBA is carrying out some restructuring of SLT and have created a 50% role for two Phase Leaders which will increase as we grow from two to four classes. They will be responsible for those classes and the teacher in that phase.

Progress/Standards

HoS shared a lot of moderation has been completed recently with Science and Writing and we have worked with a lot of other schools which has been very useful.

Attendance

CCL shared she was very impressed with SE's in-depth report. HoS added that pupil attendance is good, and the school is above national average however it is important to continue our trajectory and not be complacent. We work with a lot of external agencies such as social care to support attendance and have Jo Redwood on site to support us. SE confirmed that GBA's attendance score is the best in the Trust.

SDP

HoS advised there will be a more detailed update at the next LGC meeting. A lot of the points are still ongoing and we're looking at how it will work going forward into next academic year.

SEND

HoS confirmed GBA is aware of at least 17 EHCPs in school in September 2023. This has a huge impact on resources and teaching, particularly where pupils are concentrated in one class. We have one child whose parental choice is to stay with GBA despite our advice, meaning that year 6 will be a very full class of high-needs pupils.

3. Pupil Premium

CCL confirmed the meeting with Dominic Williams in March went well and was very positive. He was very enthusiastic for the challenge. As of March, we have 57 pupil premium students which has decreased from 64. The proportion is quite high in year 4 (41%) and a third of year 5. HoS advised there is a January census and we receive the funding in the October however, this is given in instalments which provides its own challenges.

CCL shared that to improve attendance, GBA have in place the breakfast club. Our attendance data hardly changes, we are very consistent. KS and I are looking at how we can improve this and close the gap. **SE added that the school needs a bit more data from previous academic years to compare where the data may have changed and work out whether you need to target specific year groups rather than a blanket approach across the whole school. HoS added that in one cohort, 5 of the pupils have SEND needs which can also skew the data.**

4. Safeguarding

CCL confirmed there is no report this half term but there will be one ahead of the next LGC meeting.

HoS confirmed GBA SCR check was completed with Whitney Whitham and next visit planned for after half term with CCL on behalf of the LGC.

SE advised that in the event of an Ofsted inspection, they may ask staff about their work-life balance and what the school do to support it.

ACTION: Governor templates to be amended with safeguarding question

5. VME Parental Engagement

VME shared there was a positive response to post cards on the parents evening, and the school had managed to recruit for the PTA. Our reading and school trip volunteers are working on the pond and digging, planting trees. FOGBA should now be up and running and it has been handed over to Charlene Bush. Mrs Ripley and Mrs Cooper have also joined the PTA and raised funding at the coronation celebration which had the best turnout we've ever received.

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	ACTION: VME to speak to Charlene about including FOGBA introduction in school newsletter.
7.	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 <p>ACTION: When KS is back, LGC to look at how to structure next academic year's meetings for better attendance.</p>
8.	AOB
	<p>JW asked what the process is now that KS is stepping down as Chair of Governors. HoS confirmed it is up to the LGC to appoint a Chair for next academic year.</p> <p>ACTION: JW to catch up with KS and CM as they may have someone in mind who is interested in the Chair vacancy.</p>
9.	Date of next meeting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12th July 2023 17.30 – 19.00 <p>ACTION: JW to discuss with KS format of next meeting (face to face/Zoom)</p> <p>HoS raised the online meetings are a positive support for staff wellbeing and would be grateful if this were considered.</p>