Bridgemere CE Primary School Governing Body Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Tuesday 9th February 2021 @ 6.30pm

Part One

Present

E Ford LF (Chair) C Middleton (Headteacher) S Knott, S Willington, E Fradley J Forshaw, R Lewis, J Morgan, S Foyle

Apologies

No Apologies

LF led the Governing Board with an opening Prayer and welcomed CM to her first governing body meeting as Headteacher of Bridgemere CE Primary School.

LF also thanked all the staff for the Nativity and staff videos that were posted in December.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

RL declared he is a Director for RLLAT

Declaration of AOB

Defibrillator

Remote Voting

Pupil Premium

Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 202o showed an error under Declaration of Pecuniary Interest. EF should read LF. Minutes were approved subject to this clerical change.

Matters Arising

Finance – The Headteacher has had a visit from Lee Podmore regarding school site improvements and costs involved. CM will share with governors when available.

The Ramp will also be discussed at a later date.

Finance Update

The budget papers had been uploaded to the governor hub prior to the meeting and the Chair thanked the bursar for the clear and concise information.

The LA allows a carry forward of 8% of the overall budget which is £35,300 of the current budget and the overall carry forward is £66,000. This expenditure can be earmarked before the end of the financial year with the work carried out later. Different projects for expenditure are being considered by the Headteacher and include the library, intervention room, mobile, Class 3 concertina doors being replaced with stud wall to utilise space and gain better sound quality and the leaking roof. With so many ideas the Headteacher will produce a 5 year plan and forward to governors for approval. LF also suggested that the DFC money could also be used if necessary.

CM & LF had attended the finance meeting with the LA finance officer which had proved very useful to both. Some of the carry forward had been used to set Year 2 of this budget which needed approval of the governors.

The governors approved the 2021-22 budget.

Visitor Sign in system quotes – A electronic sign in system to help safeguarding measures in the school had been investigated and the bursar had obtained 3 quotes and uploaded to the governor hub prior to the meeting

MediaBased Direct, £1011 (1 year contract).

Inventry, £3100 (3 year contract).

SG World. £2368. The only company that provided ID cards (1 year contract).

Following discussion of all 3 quotes and prior experience at Acton and Calveley of the system SG world offer it was agreed to approve the SG World quote for a 1 year contract.

Broadband Quote – Due to changes to the broadband offer that Cheshire East provide to the school the bursar obtained 5 quotes and uploaded to the governor hub prior to the meeting.

The quotes were discussed at length and the difference between a leased line and contended line explained. At the moment CEC provide the school with a leased line with excellent speed but due to a change in provider this speed will be reduced while the cost increases.

The governors discussed cyber attack protection, filtering, response times and speeds. They also looked at companies house and websites to help give further information regarding the different quotes. The Bursar was asked to join the meeting at this point and the most competitive quote was discussed. As no response time was included and this was just a one man business they asked the bursar to find out about response times and what the actual speed was going to be. The bursar explained that the cyber protection was provided by licence via Redtop.

CEC have asked for a notice period of intention to leave by 12th Feb, then a 3 month notice period for the switch over. Due to more information being required to make this decision the governors asked that the bursar inform CEC by the 12th Feb that they will need another month to gather information before making a decision on the new provider and giving the 3 months notice. CM will action this and will upload the information onto the governor hub.

Governors Spring Term Briefing

The Chair asked if everyone had seen the Briefing that was uploaded to the governor hub. The need for the website to be up to date and remote signing were a couple of items of interest. The remote signing is an agenda item under AOB

Policies

Accessibility policy – to be updated and uploaded onto the governor hub

Risk Assessment update re Covid Jan 2021 = had been reviewed and reinforces practices in school. Extra items included were optional face coverings which the staff were doing and Lateral Flow Testing which all staff were completing twice weekly to protect each other and give reassurance. The Chair thanked all staff for taking part.

Safeguarding

The January update of Keeping Children Safe in Education is now available for all to read. An awareness of online safety when doing online learning was discussed and teachers are of this. The school has a strict attendance policy and is following up with any children that do not appear online and are keeping in touch with all children.

Headteachers Report

The Headteacher has uploaded this report to the governor hub prior to the meeting and the Chair congratulated her on the excellent attendance, all the celebrations and remote learning. 7 new starters have joined the school since September.

Data – The report was produced using Target Tracker. The impact on data from the missed term, and remote learning was discussed. The remote learning is continuing the work the children would have completed in class. It is difficult to assess children at the moment and this will be done on the return to school and some cohorts are more affected than others. Going forward the Headteacher explained that she felt it will be the quality of education and not the quantity that will be important and that the progress of children will not be the same as if they were in school. The governors are aware of this and will support the school going forward, also parents are happy with the online learning Bridgemere are delivering.

Remote Learning Audit and Survey

Overall very positive feedback with some responses concerned on children receiving feedback. The staff have now discussed this and although this is difficult as children are not in school when they would receive feedback immediately and relies on children handing in work the staff will ensure every child will receive feedback every day. The staff governor explained that the google classrooms is very good and although it has been hard working this way she has new ICT skills and all the parents have been amazing with their support.

The governors thanked the staff and parents for their team effort.

Staff Wellbeing

All staff would link a link governor who they can contact. The Headteacher will provide LF with the links and LF felt it would good for governors to make contact with their staff member before half term via e-mail or which ever method the staff have requested. Staff have found it hard and all are hoping that children will be back in school on 8th March. LF will send CM the link to the Andrew Hall site offering a free wellbeing program to help Headteachers and staff.

Governors Numbers

Now Bridgemere are operating as a maintained school the governing body needs 14 members and currently there are only 8, leaving 6 vacancies. M Webb who is an accountant did not join due to a conflict of interest as his employer was the RLLAT accountants, but now the conflict is no longer an issue the chair recommended that the governing body co-opted Mr Webb and the governors agreed. The Chair will approach the LA and another contact who might be interested and Reverend Alison will ask the PCC. Governors were asked to pass any further contacts to LF to follow up.

AOB

Defibrilator – This can now be sited without the need for an electricity supply using solar. It has been requested this is inserted into the school railings at no cost to the school and no access to the school site. The governors approved the siting of the Defibrilator.

Approval of remote voting and signing of the minutes – The governors formally approved this via the governor hub.

Pupil Premium – The Pupil Premium report is now available on the website with expenditure attached.

Date of Next meeting 21.04.2021 6.30pm