

MEETING OF BALLAUGH SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Tuesday 6th July 2021 at 17:30

Attendees:

Mrs Jan Bale (JB)	Teacher Governor
Mr Barry Cowin (BC)	Co-Opted Governor
Mr Steven Bevan	DESC Education Council representative
Dr Graeme Cushnie (GC)	Headteacher
Mrs Tracey Radcliffe (TR)	Parent Governor (Chair)
Mrs Shirley Ryzak (SR)	Clerk to Governors

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Meeting opened at 17:30.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING 27th April 2021

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by TR.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Publishing Minutes – Following receipt of a Freedom of Information request seeking copies of previous minutes, signed copies will now be placed on our school website. Names will remain on the minutes as these are already in the public domain.

Staff Numbers – There are no planned changes to the staff numbers in September.

Ardwhallan – GC had discussion with Venture Centre regarding providing a regular outdoor activity lesson and they will come back with any proposals. Cost may be an issue.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs Ryzak shared the current financial figures.

5. HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

This was shared with the governors, points to note:

Pupil Attendance – Attendance is currently high. Some children are now going off island but less than the normal number of requests. Illnesses are low which is likely due to improved ventilation in school and improved hand-washing routines.

Building Maintenance - the bicycle shed is currently being re-felted by DOI. No costing has been received to date.

Curriculum – Inset day was used to discuss the trial with an off Island provider. This is based on the English Curriculum. It has been adopted and also rejected by some island schools as it may, or may not, suit their needs. Overall it was felt that topics currently taught by teachers were more relevant to the children at Ballaugh and this was more

beneficial to the pupils than the provision of a curriculum tracking tool which is included in the trial. GC is looking at other solutions for tracking coverage of the curriculum.

Leadership & Management – Short-listing and interviews will take place shortly for the Administrator position. The position requires strong book-keeping skills and these need to be a focus in any interviews. Four applications so far. Interviews will be during the summer holidays.

Staffing – Mrs Ryzak was thanked for her role at the school. Two KS 1 staff are working within KS 2 during the morning sessions. The SEN budget/staffing provision should increase in the future.

Health and Safety – The COVID Proportionate Response document previously shared is still with the Dept. Assemblies will hopefully resume in September with appropriate mitigations once we have “lived” and experienced the risks involved in the border strategy. We are continuing with two dinner sittings. This arrangement isn’t conducive to always using the back field unfortunately due to staffing numbers. Lunch time clubs may need adjusting/rethinking. Reasonable and proportionate C19 mitigations are still being managed so as not to impact on the quality of learning.

SSRE – Same position as last meeting. The Dept’s strategic vision is going shortly before Tynwald for approval.

SEN – Four children are receiving additional support and have been added to the SEN register with parental permissions.

Other News - The **Venture Centre** visit by Class 4B was a success. Some children chose not to stay overnight. The school made a contribution to the cost. The children who played in the **Millennium Football Tournament** played through to the second round. Many thanks go to the pupil’s dad who supervised his year 6 son’s coaching of the team.

Sports Day proved to have good weather and the field dried out enough to enable the children to have an enjoyable, balanced event with being too competitive.

Year 6 Leavers’ Assembly will see prizes presented by Mrs Boyde who has agreed to attend. TR asked if other year groups would receive prizes and GC explained he didn’t feel it fair due to all the children having different learning experiences/circumstances over the past two years. Having just Year 6 attend would also keep the event as a smaller ‘bubble’.

TR thanked GC for his report.

6. UNIFORM POLICY GUIDANCE

The headteacher has been issued with guidance to write a uniform policy by the DESC. The school currently doesn’t have a policy, merely uniform guidance in the school prospectus. GC is considering whether or not this position needs to change.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Transition – SB asked for transition school split. There are currently two pupils transferring to QE2 and nine to RGS. The schools currently have different intake days. One child has joined Ballaugh School from Peel Clothworkers due to a house move. No further news had been heard regarding any building plans in the village. Catchment areas were discussed and confirmation was given that appeals are still happening. GC emphasised the importance of reputation to attract future pupils.

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting: Tuesday 12th October at 17:30

The meeting closed at 18:40

Read and approved :

Date :