

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the Full Governing Body of Wimbledon Chase Primary School
("FGB") Wimbledon Chase Primary School, Merton Hall Road, London, SW19 3QB
on Wednesday, 24 May 2023 at 18.00hrs
Meeting held virtually via Google Meet

Present: K Ellis (Headteacher)
M Fernando (Co-opted Governor)
A Hamilton (Co-opted Governor)
C Burnett (Co-opted Governor)
J Hearn (Co-opted Governor)
S Furlong-Beaumont (Co-opted Governor)
T Theodoratou (Parent Governor)
S Ocakoglu (Parent Governor)

Others in attendance: S Dotchin – Clerk
Kate Baker – Associate Member
Donna Newell - Associate Member

Apologies: S Grocott (LA Governor)
T Jeans (Chair – Parent Governor)
J Fuller (Parent Governor)
N Soysal (Parent Governor)
N Byford-Guy (Staff Governor)
K Patel (Co-opted Governor)

Absence:

Quorum: Yes

1. OPENING/QUORUM/APOLOGIES

**ACTION
NUMBER**

The Vice Chair opened the meeting, accepted apologies and declared that a quorum was present. In the absence of the Chair and School Business Committee chair the vice chair agreed to J Hearn (a member of the SBC) should chair this budget focused meeting.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

JH declared that his wife works at the school.
SFB declared that her husband provides an extra-curricular provision at the school.

3. ADHERENCE TO THE EQUALITIES STATEMENT

The Equalities policy was considered, no exceptions were identified and it was confirmed as being adhered to.

4. APPROVAL OF BUDGET 2022-23 FOR SUBMISSION TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

KB circulated a Budget Report to Governors prior to the meeting – appendix 1.

JH informed the governing body that some members of the SBC had met prior to this meeting to discuss the draft budget and the implications of the deficit.

JH explained that in previous years that Merton Finance department would meet with school setting a deficit budget of more than £100,000. This has now changed and they are likely to meet with all schools setting a draft deficit budget.

JH said that the purpose of this meeting is for the governing body to decide whether to submit a draft deficit budget and prepare to meet with Merton Finance department or take alternative actions.

Governors asked for clarification on submitting the budget, KB explained that the dates for these are:

1 Year Revenue and Capital Budget submission to the LA – 01 June 2023

3 Year Revenue Budget submission to the LA – 30 June 2023

Historically, all deficit budgets had to be submitted by 30th June. It is no longer permitted to submit an approved deficit budget and the budget will not be considered valid until after the meeting with Merton Finance department as they can refuse to permission to submit a deficit budget.

JH shared the factors for the deficit budget, of which the school has no control:

- Pay rises – the unfunded 5% increased pay for teaching staff
- Pay rises – support staff £2.229 per person
- Utilities – rising prices
- Paper – this has doubled in price
- SEND – funding gap, SEND payment has been reduced by £25,000 which was lost from budget
- Income for SEND pupils does not match the cost of support

KB said that these areas have been the key challenges of the budget.

School generated income may increase and the school works actively to generate this.

Governors discussed the rationale of the meeting; to submit the deficit budget or ask the school to make changes to reduce the deficit that would likely mean restructuring staffing. KE said that he considered that the budget is already frugal and that he does not want to reduce standards at this point.

6.35pm AH left the meeting

After discussion the governing body agreed that they felt there were 3 options for the governing body:

- A) Submit the draft deficit budget and prepare for a meeting with Merton Finance
- B) For the SBC to meet again and look for areas to make savings/cuts
- C) Ask the school to restructure the staffing

After further discussion, Governors voted unanimously for option A.

5. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

None declared

6. AOB

None

7. MEETING CLOSE

There being no more areas for discussion, chair closed the meeting at 6.45pm

Date of next meeting 20 June 2023, 2pm

CHAIR - SIGNATURE.....

CHAIR - NAME.....

DATE:

Meeting 24052023/19