

Invited:

Lynda Cooper (Chair)
Jo Carter
Ewa Ziubryniewicz
Frances Swan
Vic Pooler
Olivia Gentile
Alice Eeles
Kelly Yeo
Becky Ames (Clerk)
Guest: Kayleigh Webster (potential parent Governor, Bearnese)

Attended:

Lynda Cooper (Chair)
Jo Carter
Vic Pooler
Alice Eeles
Olivia Gentile
Kelly Yeo
Becky Ames (Clerk)

Governors are asked to notify the Chair or Clerk at least 5 working days prior to the meeting of any other items they wish to place on the agenda.

Welcome – Lynda Cooper welcomes all to the meeting.

Declaration of Business Interests

There were no declarations of business interests.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of 12.02.2020 and 22.04.20 were approved and signed by the Chair. The Chair advised that the minutes from the meeting 22.04 are from an informal meeting and are not a true reflection of a full Governing Board Meeting. The Board accepts this.

1. COVID-19

Brief reports from Academy Heads on what has happened during the school closures since lockdown. Alice Eeles (AE) reported to the Board that she is pleased with the numbers of pupils returning to Bearnese. There are currently between 27-35 pupils on site each day. Alice continues to monitor Pupils who aren't on site and has been trying to keep them engaged with their work. They have put in place family calls, motivating videos as well as their existing methods of Tapestry and Seesaw. Jo Carter (JC) suggested perhaps class Zoom calls may help. Lynda Cooper (LC) asked whether there will be any interaction over the summer holidays with the school and their pupils. Alice has arranged a number of Summer Learning activities focusing on children getting outside. AE will be speaking to the CEO about one on one calls for families requiring further support. AE is concerned about attendance fines in September rolled out by the Government and plans to address this with the new AH starting at Bearnese in September. AE brings forward concerns about the suitability of the school building and the ability to distance children but will continue to work on this.

Vic Pooler (VP) reported from Hennock that she has between 20-29 pupils on site each day which will increase further next week for the last two weeks of school. VP feels really positive about this. LC asked how the pupils are upon returning, Olivia Gentile (OG) reported that Reception and Year 1 are all really enjoying school but that the year 6s are struggling with the return as they felt that they had finished school in March. Teachers have adjusted the pace of learning where they feel it is needed. LC asked whether children out of school continue to stay engaged, VP has said it is very mixed at Hennock and they continue to contact all parents but she is conscious of individual family circumstances. LC challenged VP on her plans for children over the summer, VP is waiting to speak with the CEO about what the expectations will be and will likely set outdoor activities similarly to AE at Bearnese. VP would like to create a sense of normality for children as this has been really helpful with children that have returned to school on 01/06/20.

2. Procedural matters

2.1. Safeguarding

AE informed the Board that there is one case that currently causes concern. Alice has been well supported by the CEO alongside her staff with the management of this concern. The Staff have been offered further support, however at the moment the Staff are coping well without it. VP informed the Board that Hennock has no new Safeguarding concerns and continues to manage existing cases/concerns.

2.2. SEND

AE reports to the Board that Bearnese continues to manage the needs of all of its SEN children and works closely with pupils and parents. Becky Humphries also continues to support children, parents and staff when required. LC challenged AE and asked how Bearnese is helping pupils with EHC/SEND plans to transition back to school after the effects of COVID-19. AE reassured the Board and advised that all children/parents have been contacted regularly and the Inclusion Hub have also been contacting parents as well.

Vic Pooler reports to the Board that Hennock have also managed the needs of its SEN children well with regular contact with SEN families.

2.3. Sports Premium grant, Pupil Premium grants

LC suggested that we would usually discuss how money is being spent; LC challenged the AEs and has asked what is happening with funding. Kelly Yeo (KY) reported that sport grant funding continues to be received. Pupil Premium funding has also continued to be received and spent accordingly. VP informed the Board that two new Sports Teachers have been employed to ensure all schools receive one full day of P.E a week.

2.4. Health & Safety

LC has reviewed the Risk Assessment provided by both schools and was happy with what the school had in place and PPE supplies that they have been given. VP reported that extra cleaning duties were taking place and the cleaner has managed to increase their working hours. AE reported that Bearnese has also adapted well to the new cleaning routines required within schools.

3. Personnel

3.1. Staffing: staff wellbeing and workload (if not covered above)

AE reported that she has worked with her staff to ensure they have felt safe and happy to return to school since Covid-19. AE addressed concerns that isolation plays a key role within the school but at present staff seem to be coping well. AE and KY also addressed work load and stressed the adaptations required for planning online/in class work can be tricky but they continue to make new plans and share work load where possible.

VP feels that the staff at Hennock have built stronger relationships and actually have coped very well under the circumstances. OG backed this up and has said that work load has been

shared/split in cases where a teacher may have extra planning for example for two classes to help reduce work load.

3.2. Parents: parent forum meetings, PTA, areas for concern/complaints – Nothing to report.

4. Strategic Governance

- 4.1.** Focused visits last term – Would have been on the SATs but couldn't happen due to Covid-19.
Focused visits next term (ASIP update) – JC & LC will contact the AHs this term to discuss.
- 4.2.** Update from S&C, LAT Local Governors Board meeting – LC reported that the S&C meeting minutes will be shortly circulated.
- 4.3.** Governor training – Currently not happening due to Covid-19.

Dates of future Local Board meetings

14 October 2020

Hennock Primary School – TBC

Time - TBC

Close