

# SHILLINGSTONE CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Minutes of Full Governing Board Meeting

held in School on Thursday 26th April 2018 at 7pm

### Present

Mrs S Weedon, Chairman (SWe)  
Mrs S Baines (SB)  
Mr P Clark (PC)  
Mrs R Oakley (RO)  
Mrs S White (SWh)

Mrs J Whitehouse-Sharpe, Headteacher (JWS)  
Mrs J Barlow (JB)  
Mrs K Drake (KD)  
Mrs A Powell (AP)  
Mrs K Willey (KW)

**In attendance:** Mr C Whitfeld, Clerk (CW).

**Apologies:** Mr K Pitt-Kerby (KPK) (work commitment), Mrs S Vail (SV) (family commitment). **Apologies accepted.**

1.	Mrs Powell opened the meeting with a prayer.	
2.	<b>Declarations of interest:</b> None for this meeting.	
3.	<b>Any other urgent business:</b> Academy status update; Simon Hoare MP visit.	
4.	<p><b>Budget for 2018-19 and five-year forecast to 2022-23:</b> AP presented the budget for 2018-19, prepared with a great deal of hard work by Finance Officer Jane Weeden (JWe) and JWS. It has resulted in a likely sum of £19,000+ to be carried forward (the exact final figure is yet to be confirmed). However, the accumulating figures over the following years still indicate a potential six-figure deficit approaching £236,000 by 2022-23.</p> <p>JB said, with so much work on savings achieved by JWe and JWS, the coming year's budget looked much more optimistic.</p> <p>SWe referred to voluntary cover (by TAs and Governors) in place of a lunchtime supervisor – just one example of reduced expenditure without impacting on the children's education. She also noted the absence of any funding under the "sparsity factor" heading because Shillingstone is too close, measured in straight lines, to other schools – so this additional funding benefits urban schools rather than those in rural areas.</p> <p>On the proposal of AP, seconded by SB, the budget for 2018-19 and five-year forecast to 2022-23 were <b>approved unanimously</b>.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Policies for approval:</b> <u>Accident and Reporting</u> <u>Fairness and Dignity at Work</u></p> <p>Both recommended for approval by Finance &amp; Resources Committee. <b>Approved unanimously.</b></p>	<p><b>JWS/CW to update GVO, including next review date</b></p>
	<i>PC arrived at 7.25pm.</i>	
6.	<p><b>New Local Authority Governor:</b> SWh has consulted Governor Services about finding a replacement for KPK. One suggestion is to look at any particular skills that might be required of the new Governor. The possibility of a business background rather than educational was considered useful, though that might mean reviewing meeting times.</p> <p>SWe asked all Governors to cast around for potential candidates whom she would need to meet, then discuss with other Governors with a view to preparing a shortlist for</p>	<p><b>All Governors</b></p>

	<p>submission to the Local Authority for their final decision and appointment.</p> <p>Questioned about changes to the Governing Board if/when the School joins a Multi-Academy Trust (<i>see below</i>) and therefore the need to seek a new LA Governor, SWe said the recruiting process still needed to go ahead.</p>	
7.	<p><b>New Governors Clerk:</b> Position to be advertised again, with hope that a prospective candidate known to Governors will apply.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Academy status update:</b> SWe reported on a meeting of representatives from the three Okeford Benefice Church schools with Diocesan representative Joy Tubbs; and Rev Lydia Cook's (LC) desire to keep all three schools together, possibly as a "mini hub" linked to the Multi Academy Trusts either at Blandford or Sherborne.</p> <p>This has angered and upset the Blackmore Vale Learning Trust's Steering Group (on which Shillingstone is represented) whose plans to link with the Minerva Trust in Bridport are still being pursued. Against that, the Regional Schools Commissioner (who makes the final decision) now appears to favour the Okeford Benefice schools linking to Blandford or Sherborne. Sturminster Newton High School, the driving force behind BVL, is for its part strongly opposed to linking with Sherborne. LC, on the other hand, expressed to the BVL Steering Group her preference for Sherborne.</p> <p>PC drew attention to the potential future risk, with the formation of a "mini hub," of the three schools ending up being run by just one Headteacher.</p> <p>Before considering any further action, Governors agreed to wait to hear from the BVL Steering Group the outcome of their consultation with the Regional Schools Commissioner over their Minerva option – having had their own stand-alone MAT plans rejected by the RSC several months ago.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Simon Hoare MP visit:</b> JWS outlined her schedule for the North Dorset MP's visit to the School tomorrow (Friday 27th April), including an in-depth tour with all classes in action, and a chance to meet some Governors, followed by an explanation and appeal to him over the failure to fully fund necessary additional expenditure on SEND pupils – particularly taking into account Shillingstone's "inclusive" policy (praised in its recent Ofsted report) and its high percentage (heading up to 8%) of SEND pupils compared to the 1.7% national average.</p> <p>Final questions to the MP will be: "What can be done? What can YOU do to help?"</p>	
	The meeting closed at 8.40pm.	
	Next FGB meeting: <b>Thursday 5th July</b> , in School at 7pm.	