



**Minutes of the Lanesend Primary School
Full Governing Board Meeting
Thursday 29th April 2021, 6.30pm
Virtual via 'GoToMeeting'**

Present online:

Trustees:

Karen Herbert-Duff (KHD) Chair
Jo Hunter (JLH) Vice-Chair
Laura Augustus (LAu)
Ian Carrington (IC)
Andrea Flux (AF)
James Hall (JHa)
Tara Hopkinson (TH)
Caroline Sice (CS) Headteacher

Apologies:

Steve Dixon (SD)
Emma Norton (EN)

Clerk: Katie Pevreall

In attendance:

Vicki Wallis (VW) Inclusion Officer
Nicki Napier (NN) Assistant Headteacher

1.	<p>Welcome, apologies, quorum KHD welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were accepted from SD and EN. The meeting achieved the minimum number of Trustees to be considered quorate (5) and remained above this number for the duration of the meeting.</p>
2.	<p>Declarations of Pecuniary or Personal Interest KHD: sister (LAu) and brother-in-law are employed at other IW Academies CS: employed at the school with a daughter, and a niece also employed at Lanesend SD: wife employed at Lanesend AF: employed at the school with a daughter also employed at Lanesend TH: employed at the school LAu: employed at another local Academy, husband also employed at another local Academy, sister of KHD CA: employed at the school</p>
3.	<p>SEN Funding Update</p>
3a.	<p>Trustees were advised that VW and NN had costed every EHCP based on the provision detailed and had found a large discrepancy between the money that the school was receiving and the minimum cost to the school. At the time of costing the school had 34 children with EHCPs, the cost of the statutory provision of these was £459,758 per year while the school received total funding of £231,488. This was a £228,270 deficit.</p>
3b.	<p>As trustees had previously been made aware, the school had been in conversation with a lawyer who had advised that the school could take the matter to judicial review. The first step was to put in a formal complaint to the DfE. Trustees would need to decide whether they were happy for this complaint to be made and whether they would allow the school to spend up to £16,000 in legal fees, depending on how far the case was taken.</p>

<p>3c.</p> <p>3d.</p> <p>3e.</p> <p>3f.</p> <p>3g.</p> <p>3h.</p> <p>3i.</p>	<p>A letter from Vicky Ford MP had been circulated to all trustees. The letter stated that the DfE would hold a meeting with the school and the LA. The school had responded requesting a meeting with just the DfE in the first instance and all parties at a further meeting. It was noted that if these meetings were to go ahead the school may not need to put in a complaint to the DfE if the outcome of the meetings was positive.</p> <p>The school noted that they would require a solicitor present for these meetings as an expert on EHCP funding. It was noted that whilst there is a statutory document stating that the school must provide the first £6,000 of EHCP funding the lawyer had advised that this is not stated in law.</p> <p>It was noted that the school had other concerns about EHCPs, for example some EHCPs had not been updated for up to five years.</p> <p>The school had asked an SEN advisor to quality assure the provision the school has in place. This was costing the school £1,600. Brian Pope, Assistant Director for Education and Inclusion at HCC, had initially offered to have a member of the finance team look at the school's finances in relation to EHCPs. He had now offered for an advisor to look through the EHCPs to see if the school is being creative enough in their provision. The school was going to accept this offer.</p> <p>The school had spoken with the RSC to highlight that the funding gap is affecting the school considerably and to inform them that the school is looking at going down the legal route.</p> <p>It was noted that if eligible children were attending special schools instead of mainstream school, they would receive over £20,000 in funding which was much higher than the funding received at a mainstream school. Caroline Sice noted that this was not equitable.</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed by trustees that the school should ask a solicitor to attend the meeting with the DfE and the LA, a formal complaint be filed with the DfE if appropriate and to the potential spend of £16,000 in legal fees. EN and SD voted via instant messaging.</p>
<p>There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 7:15pm</p>	