



**The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Chase Bridge Primary School**

**Minutes of the meeting of the
Full Governing Body
held at the school on
Wednesday 2nd April 2025 at 6.30pm**

Present

Mike Dormer (MD) Chair of Governors	Brian Ostro (BO) Deputy Head Teacher	Daniel Bishop (DB) Head Teacher
Nida Rehman (NR)	James Lovatt (JL)	Tony Meehan (TM)
Clare Rees (CR)	Caroline Chadwick (CC)	Kath Briggs (KB)
Archana Jhinger (AJ)	Hannah Gilbert (HG) SENDCo	Henal Parmar (HP)
Navdeep Sidhu (NS)	Sue Stanley (SS)	Gareth Mantle (GM)
Kuldev Sehra (KS)	Gillian Keane (GK)	Julie Fox (JF)

Apologies

Graeme Kirkpatrick (GKK)	Bhaven Marshall (BM)	Becky Seaward (BS)
Yuvraj Nirwal (YN)		

Item	Previous Item		Action
1.0		WELCOME, APOLOGIES & NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from GKK, BM, BS & YN. An item of AOB was added to the agenda – Ofsted Consultation.	
2.0		DECLARATION OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.	
3.0		MINUTES & ACTIONS OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING The following papers were circulated to Governors prior to the meeting: [01] FGB Minutes 11.12.24 [02] FGB Actions 11.12.24 The minutes of the meeting held on 11 th December were reviewed by Governors, approved and signed by the Chair. The actions from the meeting held on 11/12/24 were updated as follows:	
3.1	3.2	Leadership & Management	



3.2	7.0	<p>Circulate the 'why' documents to the QE committee.</p> <p>EDIB Briefing for Governors Share a link to the Unicef Right Respecting School Award with the DHT.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p>
4.0		GOVERNANCE MATTERS	
4.1		<p>Feedback from Chair's Network 19/04/25 The Chair shared the main themes from the Network meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellbeing of the HT. • Succession planning. • Pressure on schools to balance the budget. 	
4.2		<p>LA Governor Formal Appointment Based on the skills required and recommendations of the board at Chase Bridge Primary School, Achieving for Children Governor Support, working on behalf of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Local Authority, formally nominates James Lovatt for a further term of office in the position of LA governor. The term of office is for four years ending on 01/04/29.</p> <p><u>The Board formally ratified James Lovatt to the position of LA Governor.</u></p>	
4.3		<p>Invite Nominations for New Chair of Governors The current Chair of Governors announced that he is standing down from the role after 5 years and will remain as a Co-Opt Governor. The Chair invited nominations for the role of Chair of Governors for the next four year term. Governor SS nominated Governor TM for the role of Chair of Governors and this nomination was seconded by Governor CR.</p>	
4.4		<p>Vote for new Chair of Governors Governors voted and TM was duly elected as Chair of Governors with the term of office starting on 02/04/25. TM thanked the Board for their confidence in him in leading the Board. TM thanked the former Chair MD for his commitment and strategic direction in leading the school to its outstanding Ofsted judgement.</p>	
4.5		<p>"Love Whitton" / St. Georges Day Parade Governor KS informed the Board that Whitton Business Association is holding its annual St. George's Day Parade on Sunday 27th April. Governor KS is the Chair of the "Love Whitton" Business Association and the proceeds from tickets sales will be divided among 5 local primary schools in Whitton, including Chase Bridge. The Board thanked the Whitton Business Association for its pending donation and support for local primary schools.</p> <p><u>The HT confirmed that the St. George's Day parade will be advertised in the school newsletter this week.</u></p>	
5.0		<p>COMMITTEE UPDATES ARISING FROM COMMITTEE MINUTES</p> <p>The following documents were circulated to Governors prior to the meeting: [03] FP&P Minutes 11/02/25 [04] BAPD Minutes 05/03/25 [05] QE Minutes 27/03/25</p> <p>The FP&P Chair gave the following update:</p>	



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget monitoring finished the year within expectations, but with a larger carry-forward than anticipated. An element of the carry-forward has been ring-fenced for capital projects in 2025-26 that could not take place within year. The LA has been informed of this and a plan for expenditure in Q2 has been agreed. Assumptions made on draft budget 2025-26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full pupil roll Small uplift in per pupil funding but generally flat. Budget is being supported by self-generated income. The school remains cautious on spending due to SEN support costs, unconfirmed pay awards, inflation on utilities. The school has been successful with a capital bid for the replacement of the boiler and back-up boiler. The overall cost is £141K, with a grant of £127K and the remaining 10% being contributed by the school. <p>The BAPD Chair gave the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The wellbeing programme continues to be fully supported in school. The mental health support team work has been fully embraced at the school and commended for implementing the best practice model. Staff survey findings were very positive. Attendance data is good and credit was given to the team and Attendance Ambassadors for their work. <p>The QE Chair gave the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee received presentations on the Chase Bridge pedagogy and on Reading & Phonics (an Ofsted deep dive). Y1 is on track to pass the Phonics screening test. Assessment data is positive, however the Y6 cohort have lower starting points (impacted by COVID). Y6 is a focus group and experienced staff are deployed in and lead this year group to ensure expected outcomes. Senior Leaders role in developing middle leaders for consistency, confidence and autonomy. Chase Bridge PPG children are achieving higher outcomes than the national average for all pupils. The school has benefited from more leadership time invested this year – for example with access to AHT support, spotlight time, development of the CB pedagogy. <p><u>The Chair thanked Committee Chairs for their support and challenge.</u></p>	
6.0		<p>DRAFT BUDGET 2025/26</p> <p>The following documents were presented to Governors at the meeting: [06] FP+P April 2025</p> <p>The HT recapped the SDP priorities related to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of leaders at all levels. 2. Focus on progress and the development of the curriculum. 3. EDIB 4. Wellbeing of stakeholders. <p>The HT summarised the key budget considerations related to these priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital Projects- in Y2 and Y3 for Chromebook replacement, boiler and server replacement and dining furniture. 	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupil Numbers - Needs to be a budget consideration for the next 3 years.• Leadership capacity to support ECTs, RQTs & curriculum leads• Maintain supply budget to ensure SEN provision & CPD opportunities for staff• Building maintenance - maintained and split into 3 categories.• Water - increase due to predicted inflationary rises.• Income generation - Twickers Parking, Lions and rental opportunities.• Retention of staff- maintaining wellbeing for all staff, maintaining leadership time and additional assessment time for staff, TLR Opportunities.• Maintaining flexible workforce to support high needs <p>What this means for the budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protecting out of class time for SENCO to lead school SEND provision.• Maintaining TA deployment to support additional needs in EYFS & Y1 in 2025-2026.• Appointment of leader for specialist room for EYFS children moving into KS1.• Extending the inclusion budget to further add practical resources to staff.• Maintaining CPD & supply budget to ensure staff time to lead subjects and develop pedagogy.• Divide premises budget into 3 groups (compliance, maintenance, larger project work).• Year 1, 2 & 3 projected spend based on ICT and premises survey (chromebooks, server replacement, dining furniture, boiler replacement).• Continuation of arts budget (reduced) and current maths and English budget• Maintain staffing structure for 2025-2026• Maintaining PPG spend to support vulnerable families.• Maintaining assessment time for all teaching staff (30 minutes extra per week)• Maintaining specialist support budget from EP, SaLT and OT.• NI increase - visible grant based on pupil/staff numbers. Grant formula covers £62,000 confirmed March 2025. <p><u>The HT summarised for Governors the short to medium term savings that the school is making, along with the forecast increases in income.</u></p> <p><u>Governor asked how many staff have or will be resigning this year and last.</u></p> <p>The HT informed Governors that one member of staff submitted resignation last year and moved to Bournemouth. The school is taking actions to protect resources so that Chase Bridge is a good place to work. Further decisions will be held in Autumn regarding staff retention. The DfE and other agencies have discussed the potential for a 9-point main pay scale (MPS). No expected resignations as yet but the deadline is May 31st for teaching staff. Working days for PT staff is also a consideration for next year.</p> <p><u>If the school is oversubscribed – how are pupil places allocated.</u></p> <p>The LA applies the admissions criteria. https://kr.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/community-information/information-and-advice/school-admissions See Richmond LA Website.</p> <p><u>Governor noted that Rugby Football Union (RFU) is now unlikely to move from the Twickenham ground.</u></p> <p>The HT noted that there is still a consultation underway, but it is more likely that the RFU will consider using an additional railway station (on an alternative line) for access to mitigate the risk of Twickenham Station being closed. The HT informed the Board that the school will not be formally responding to the consultation, but individuals are welcome to</p>	
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		<p>do so. Governor added that the consultation considers extending the use of the stadium for concerts and on consecutive nights.</p> <p><u>Governor asked if there is progress on the development of the new Radnor House site (formerly Kneller Hall).</u></p> <p>The HT informed Governors that a new Head Teacher has been appointed at Radnor House, however an opening date has not yet been announced. The relationship between the school has begun with sixth formers coming into Chase Bridge on a weekly basis to read with younger year groups. The school expects to develop this relationship further and possibly gain access to a performance space, swimming pool, science laboratories etc. Radnor House has a strong community outreach approach and a community officer has been appointed.</p> <p><u>The draft budget was approved by FP&P Committee on 1/4/25 and the final budget submission is due on 7/6/25.</u></p> <p><u>The Chair noted that 50% of LA schools will be submitting deficit budgets this year and Chase Bridge is the only school submitting a positive budget in all three budget years.</u></p>	
7.0		<p>LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT</p> <p>The following documents were circulated to Governors prior to the meeting:</p> <p>[07] HT Report Spring 2025 to follow [08] SIP Report Spring 2025 [09] Ofsted Feedback Review 2025</p> <p>The HT shared with Governors that the school is developing a podcast focused on the outcome of the school's recent Ofsted inspection, to use as a marketing tool for prospective parents and available to the community on the school website.</p> <p>The HT shared feedback on the recent Ofsted Inspection in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Day 1 - subject deep dive - English, Maths, Music, Geography.• Day 2 - light paddles in PE, PSHE, Science• EYFS (2 days)• SEND (2 days)• OFSTED key judgements - Quality of Education, Behaviour & Attitudes, Personal Development, Leadership & Management, and EYFS <p>Strengths were summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• High-quality teaching across subjects with strong assessment processes.• Clear progression from EYFS to Year 6 across the curriculum.• Inclusive environment supporting SEND and disadvantaged pupils.• Leadership, at all levels, provides clear vision, ensuring continuous improvement.• Pupils show strong engagement and motivation in learning.• Music and extracurricular activities enrich pupils' education. <p>The Chair noted the engagement of the community during the Ofsted inspection where parents, children, FoCB, teachers, teaching assistants and school admin were all willing to engage with Inspectors wherever required. The Chair stated that he was very proud of how the community responded to the Inspection and that the outcome is a credit to the whole community.</p>	



		<p>The Chair noted the significant development of the school in the last 3-4 years – there is an entirely new Board of Governors, a new HT and prudent financial management which has put the school in an excellent position.</p> <p><u>The HT informed Governors there will be an event to celebrate the Ofsted judgement once the report is issued in May.</u></p>	
8.0		<p>POLICIES</p> <p>There were no policies for review in this period.</p>	
10.0		<p>AOB</p> <p>Ofsted Consultation Governor SS raised the Board's awareness of a consultation that is currently underway on the new Ofsted inspection format; the consultation closes on 28th April. Governors were encouraged to look at the proposals and give their feedback to the consultation on an individual basis.</p> <p>Governors broadly discussed the consultation and some of the key factors to consider such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The level of SEND and deprivation experienced by schools. • Disadvantaged communities often have other considerations and priorities. • The snap-shot judgement that is made in two days. • The subjective nature of the inspection process. • Alternative mechanisms for assessing and promoting high standards. • Proposed 'report card' will have 11 areas of judgement – this is potentially more nuanced but also creates considerable workload for school leaders. • Proposed judgement scale will increase from 4 to 5 ratings. • Schools will be asked to produce case studies. • The approach to 'deep dives' is unclear. • There will be greater emphasis on data. • The original objective of Ofsted was to provide a commentary on school effectiveness, but has now become about 'judgement' and used in a political sense. • It is proposed that a RISE team will be a layer between the LA and the school where a school is rag-rated amber or red. • Governors discussed the value of peer review as opposed to inspection. 	
		<p>The meeting ended at 8.00pm</p> <p>Date of the next meeting: Friday 11th July Governors Day commencing at 10am FGB commencing at 3.00pm</p>	

Agreed & Signed as an accurate record:
(Mike Dormer)

Date: