



MEETING MINUTES

Meeting: BASG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Date & Time: Monday 13 September 2021 at 5.00pm

Location: Virtual meeting via Zoom

Present: Paul Randall (Chair), Anne Sheddick (Vice Chair), Maggi Bull, Bernadette Allison, Martin Baxter, Gwyneth Langley (Secretary)

	Agenda Item	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence	
	Andrew Brown, Peter Lerner and Jo Pearce had sent apologies for absence.	
2	Notification of Any Other Business	
	There were no items tabled for discussion under Any Other Business	
3	Declarations of Interest	
	Gwyneth Langley – BEP Anne Sheddick – BESST Paul Randall – BESST	
4	Approval of Minutes From the Meeting Held on 21 June 2021 and Review of Actions	
	The minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2021 were approved.	
5	Local Networking Groups	
	<u>Aylesbury Group</u> The group would meet on Thursday 23 September 2021. MB had contacted potential attendees with details.	

	<p><u>Jordans Group</u></p> <p>AS would advise of the next date.</p> <p>GL would arrange for dates to be communicated out to potential attendees via GovernorHub.</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>GL</p>
6	BEP Update	
	<p>GL gave a brief update.</p> <p>BEP were advising on procedural matters as was usual at this point in the academic year. The model agendas were relatively long this term with multiple items that Governing Boards needed to consider. There were a number of safeguarding and admissions related actions.</p> <p>It was noted that a number of Governing Boards were still holding one FGB meeting a term. This was considered challenging given the current workload. Most meetings were still taking place virtually and meeting length could be an issue. The importance of a blended approach going forwards was discussed to manage workload effectively. The current advice was for Governing Boards to consider the best meeting arrangements for them based on their localised situation and risk assessments in place.</p> <p>GL advised that there was demand for safeguarding and Ofsted training.</p>	
7	Communications with Bucks Council	
	<p>AS / PR had met with the School Improvement Team at Bucks Council a number of times over the summer holiday prior to the launch of the BESST training programme at the beginning of September 2021.</p> <p>It was clarified that BASG had not endorsed the Bucks Traded Services offer (BESST) but had responded to requests for advice on training that governors would find valuable. This included topics that it was important or essential for Bucks Governing Boards to have input from the LA on, such as safeguarding and exclusions. AS considered that some, but not all, of the advice that had been provided to the LA had been acted on or considered.</p> <p>PR / AS had understood that Gareth Drawmer would be contacting BEP over the summer period to communicate the BESST traded services offer and clarify that this was not intended to be in direct competition with BEP. GL confirmed that no such communication had taken place and BEP were unaware of the offer until it was launched to all.</p> <p>PR expressed frustration at the process the LA had gone through in putting together the BESST offer and communication at launch. He</p>	

	<p>had not had sight of draft communications to governors prior to the launch of the programme.</p> <p>GL expressed concern that the LA were using BASG to give authority to their offer when this had not been discussed or agreed by BASG as a group.</p> <p>MB suggested that the LA did not appear to have a coherent plan for governor support. The BESST offer did not appear to be joined up or coordinated. It was acknowledged that a very limited number of governors had been consulted about the traded services offer and so it was difficult to know what the reaction of the wider governance community would be. GL explained that BEP had received a number of calls when the BESST communication had been sent out with governors suggesting that were confused by it. It was discussed that the communication implied a poor understanding of governor requirements and a lack of process / procedure in decision making. It was thought that messages from the focus groups and surveys undertaken had not been considered in their entirety.</p> <p>AS explained that the trainers who delivered the governor training free of charge on behalf of the LA last year needed to be paid this year and the LA had decided to establish the traded service to fund this.</p> <p>BA expressed concern that the LA may not fund NGA membership for schools going forwards in the light of the BESST traded service. This was considered to be a serious concern particularly as the LA were planning to employ someone (PT 0.5FTE) to manage the governance work.</p> <p>AS confirmed that AS and PR would be paid for delivering training as part of the BESST programme as a follow up from the training provided last academic year. This would be donated to BASG funds and paid by Bucks Council directly into the BASG bank account. The potential conflict of interest this presented was highlighted, particularly as BASG is an independent organisation, It was thought that this should be declared by AS / PR (<i>added within item 3</i>). MB highlighted that historically BLT and LA had used a similar approach by engaging others / independent organisations to endorse or deliver their training.</p> <p>PR agreed that BASG should be mindful of the issues above and how BASG receipt of funds for delivering training could be perceived.</p>	
8	BASG Newsletter	
	<p>BASG information and content had been included in the BEP summer term 2021 newsletter. GL confirmed that BEP would be very happy to include BASG content going forwards. This was considered a positive example of partnership working. The next newsletter would be at the end of the Autumn term 2021 and GL / PR would discuss this nearer the time.</p>	GL / PR

9	Buckinghamshire Challenge Group	
	<p>MB had circulated a summary of the Bucks Challenge Group meeting held on 8 September 2021.</p> <p>The group had discussed new requirements for Pupil Premium reporting. It was thought that this might be a challenge for some schools, particularly Primary schools.</p> <p>Some Bucks schools would be identified for targeted Pupil Premium support. It was also planned that money be given to Liaison Groups. The groups would then need to decide on a strategy to use the funds.</p> <p>It was not known how the LA would identify schools requiring targeted support. GL understood that the EEF had a regional strategy with a small number of target schools and it may be that these would be the schools identified.</p>	
10	Side by Side Reference Group	
	<p>The Side by Side Reference Group had met on 13 September 2021. PR and MB had attended. Details of ring-fenced funding for the Side by Side project had been presented at the meeting.</p> <p>There was currently no date for a future meeting.</p>	
11	Schools Forum	
	<p>JP was absent and unable to report on this on this occasion.</p>	
12	Governance Consultative Board	
	<p>The next meeting of the Consultative Board would take place on 29 September 2021. It was noted that Gareth Drawmer may not attend this meeting. The importance of ensuring questions were answered and actions followed up was highlighted. It may be necessary for another member of Gareth's team to do this.</p>	
13	AOB	
	<p>There were no items discussed under AOB.</p>	
14	Dates / Times of Future Meetings	
	<p>A date / time for the next meeting was agreed as follows:</p> <p>Monday 11 October 2021 5pm</p>	

The meeting closed at 6.25pm