



**Governing Board of the Winchcombe School
Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting
Monday 31st March 2025 at 5.00pm**

Present: Richard Blofeld (RB) (Chair of Governors) co-opted governor; Liam Anderson (LA) (Vice Chair) (Chair of FC) co-opted governor; Kathryn Bowers (KB) parent governor: Matt Percy (MP) (Head teacher)
Apologies: None
Absent:
In attendance: Lynda Jones (LJ) School Business Manager (SBM); Harriet Skinner (HS), Clerk E Scarlett (ES) Deputy head teacher

Key: Strategic direction/Challenge or Question/Answer/Action/Extract
1.Apologies None <i>The meeting was quorate</i>
2.Declaration of any other business None
3. Declaration of interests (i) None
4. Minutes of the meeting of 27.01.25 It was agreed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting and were signed by LA. Clerk to upload minutes to the school website: ASAP
5.Matters arising (i) SEN models ongoing (ii) Supply Insurance LJ met with Ed Mutual rep. 2 claims pending. Renewed for 2025-26 FY.
6. 2025-26 draft budget plan and 5-year forecast Firstly, HS pointed out that the National Insurance Grant (NICs) based on pupil numbers, estimated at £45,445 does not cover increased costs of NICs and in common with other schools in the LA, there is a shortfall. Fund 01 The committee agreed that the biggest concern was staffing, RB calculated staff costs to be at 93% of budget. LA concurred that the budget was massively affected by the cost of employing 1:1 LSAs for pupils with EHCPs/high needs as well as the staff profile of the school with the majority of teachers on the Upper Pay Scale (UPS). LA raised a query about ledger line: A1159 Emp LGPS deficit contribution and HS explained that this was part of the de delegation from the LA funding formula. HS/LJ advised that non staff expenditure had been reduced as much as possible. The discussion moved onto the Dolce pension guarantee bond and governors understood that the school could be liable to meet the cost of the bond if WBC still refuse to act as guarantor.

KB suggested that the school could negotiate with Dolce as they would want to retain the contract. LJ advised that the school had a rolling 1 year contract with Dolce. RB suggested that the school has 2 years to come to a resolution before payment of a bond is untenable. LA asked if the school has to accept a child with an EHCP, MP advised that if there is a space, the school has to offer; if the year group is full a challenge may be brought by the LA.

HS advised that the budget plan, following a meeting with MP about staff needs, assumed all fixed terms are to continue until 31.8.2026. MP advised that 3 EHCP pupils are leaving The Winchcombe School at the end of the academic year, however, there are high needs applications expected for 25/26 academic year.

PPG Fund 08, Sports Fund, SAL, LAL, DFC and Phoenix Club were considered and although some expenditure could be absorbed/journaled to Fund 01 governors understood that this would not make a material difference to the predicted deficit.

HS advised that following receipt of Periods 12 & 13, budgets would be finalised for approval by the full governing board on 28.4.25 together with an application for a deficit licence.

RB raised a concern about the school heading into a £250k deficit whilst the school is full and it was agreed that a recovery plan was essential. RB proposed that following 25/26 budget submission governors and SLT strategically plan for recovery from 2025/26 and beyond. The draft budget was recommended for approval by the FGB, next meeting 28.4.25.

The remainder of the meeting was recorded as Part II confidential minutes.

7. AOB

(i)None

11. Date & time of next meeting

FBG: Monday 28th April 2025 at 5.00pm

Finance Committee: Monday 16th June 2025 at 5.00pm

The meeting closed at 6.00pm

	Supporting documents	Agenda item
1.	Agenda for this meeting	1.
2.	Minutes of the meeting of 27.01.25	4, 5.
3.	Minutes of the meeting of 27.01.25 Budget Build report to governors 25/26 APT Maintained School Funding Allocations 25/26 Budget Checklist 25/26 WBC Application for a deficit licence 25/26 WBC Deficit Licence Application submission checklist Staff Structure 2025-26 MSB Fund 01 Draft Budget PPG Fund 08 Draft Budget Sports Fund 13 Draft Budget SAL Fund 50 Draft Budget LAL Fund 55 Draft Budget DFC Fund 76 Draft Budget OOH Phoenix Club Fund 99 Draft Budget	6.

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