D1 30.08.21 Finance Committee (virtual meeting) Tuesday 29th June 2021 at 6pm

Prese		Apologies: None		
	James - Community Governor (Chair)			
	en Sims – Community Governor			
	Fisher – Community Governor ie Davies – Headteacher			
	n King – Community Governor			
	ritchard – Community Governor			
	nt: None	Duration of meeting: 6 – 7.12pm		
In atte	endance:	MC members will be referred to as governor	'S	
Karen	Price (KP) – School Business Manager			
Jill Hill	s (JH) - Clerk			
			Action	
1.	Welcome & Apologies			
	Declaration of Any Other Urgent Business			
	Declaration of Business Interests			
1.1	Harry James welcomed those present.			
1.2	There were no declaration of business interests or any of	her business.		
2.	Minutes of the Meeting on 20th April 2021 and Matter	Arising where not elsewhere on the		
	agenda.	Anomy where not elsewhere on the		
0.4	The minutes of the Figure 2 Committee an 20th April 2004	l band banna sinaulata durith tha Amanda. Tha		
2.1	The minutes of the Finance Committee on 20th April 2021 had been circulated with the Agenda. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and will be signed by the Chair once icollege is able to			
	reopen fully.	igned by the Chair office iconlege is able to		
	Matters Arising (where not elsewhere on the agenda)			
2.2	There was one action to be carried forward from the minu	utes of 26th January 2021 as the		
	implementation date had not yet been reached:-			
	2.3 Book Maureen Sims onto Safer Recruitment training			
	identified with the NSPCC and this will be booked for the	Autumn term.	SBM/Clerk AT 1	
2.3	Governors were updated on the progress of the remain	ing action carried forward from the January		
	meeting:-	To condition Obstantial Secretarian Institution		
	2.15 Clerking Hours review – carried forward to Summer started to review these but had not been able to finish du			
	Clerk will monitor the hours worked/needed during the 20			
	around contractual hours. These will be compared to the			
	Action: Clerk to provide update to FC 14.12.21		Clerk FC 14.12.21	
2.4	Governors were advised of the progress on the matter a	arising carried forward from the minutes on		
	23 rd March 2021:	-		
	3.5 Headteacher to raise with the Local Authority (LA) ho	w they arrived at the icollege funding figures		
	quoted in their reports to HFG/Schools Forum. At the las			
	had emailed the LA on 31st March but had not received a			
	received dated 7th May, which stated:-	Hamilton III		
	"The figures you queried are calculated by the Accountar spreadsheet Karen (SBM) sends to us. This is then review		Headteacher FC 29.06.21	
	Nicola Pontin for SEN. As Managers they should be awa		1 6 23.00.21	
	need the service the following year and they would then r			
	what they feel the costs are likely to be."	<u>,</u>		

Signed:

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	The Headteacher advised that the information referred to as being provided by the SBM is factual as icollege can inform WBC of the students it knows will remain with the service the following year. The basis of the remainder of the funding calculation remains unclear.	
2.5	The Chair clarified that the question refers back to previous discussions around place funding. The Headteacher advised that if the LA would base the funding on places rather than individual learners then the funding position would be much clearer and therefore easier to manage/forecast. Reports to the Heads Funding Group (HFG) would be more accurate, rather than the current situation whereby it looks like icollege is either significantly overspending and/or finishing the year with a significant surplus. Governors asked if there was any progress agreeing a date to discuss funding with the LA. The Headteacher advised that there are meetings set up for the HFG Working Party to review icollege which were 7th July, 30th September and 21st October at 10.30am. However, it was unclear whether the basis of icollege funding would feature in their review. The Headteacher felt it was more likely to focus on the percentage of funding split between the LA and Schools. Governors asked whether icollege could request at the meeting that the review included the basis of funding. The Headteacher confirmed that it could. Governors asked who would be attending the meetings on behalf of icollege and the Headteacher confirmed that she would be attending. The Clerk sought clarification as to whether it was intended that a Governor should also be present which had been the subject of correspondence between the Chair of Governors and Michelle Sanchos. The Headteacher confirmed that this was correct, but that she was uncertain whether the meeting invites had included a Governor. The Chair of Governors and the Chair of Finance confirmed that they had not seen an invite. Having referred to the meeting invite, the Headteacher advised that the other attendees would be Michelle Sanchos, Lisa Potts (WBC Finance Manager), Lucy Hilliard (WBC Therapeutic Thinking Lead), Ros Arther (WBC Exclusions Lead), Nicola Pontin (WBC SEN Manager), Headteacher from St Michael's as Primary representative and Headteacher from Kennet as Secondary represen	
2.6	Governors discussed that if it was not possible for a Governor to attend the HFG Working Group, then a separate meeting with the LA should be sought to discuss both place funding and drafting/agreement of a Service Level Agreement (SLA). Governors sought clarification as to who should request the meeting with the LA. The Headteacher advised that ideally the request should come from either the Chair of Finance or the Chair of Governors. Action: Headteacher to advise Chair of contact details at LA. Action: Chair to draft meeting request and circulate to Chair of Governors and Headteacher before sending.	Headteacher asap Chair asap
2.7	Matters arising from the minutes for 20th March 2021. Governors received an update on the following matters arising from the last FC:-	
	 3.3 SBM to include narrative in Table 1 on key variances between budget monitoring reports. The SBM advised that she had submitted the P2 (May 21) Budget Montoring Report in the revised tabular format which could then be discussed and adjusted as the year progressed. The Chair and SBM had been unable to meet as planned the previous week. Action: Chair and SBM to continue to review format of Budget Monitoring Reports. 4.11 Chair to provide the SBM with information about an apprenticeship scheme from another school, including the pro's and con's to aid discussion. The Chair advised that he had contacted the organisation who were running the scheme, but they had not provided the information. Action: 	Chair FC 02.11.21 Chair
	Chair to chase. 4.12 Subscription to The Key. Governors were advised that as access to The Key was not included	FC 02.11.21
	within the Governor Services SLA, icollege would continue with its own subscription.	
	4.13 SBM to look into whether the budget figures for 2021/22 were being skewed by the set up costs for POD+. The SBM confirmed that inclusion of the POD+ set up costs, had skewed the budget figures.	
Signod	Pate:	

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445 H 14 60004/00 B 1 41 6 41 TILL				Actions
4.15 Update of 2021/22 Budget information. – This	had been actions	ed and the budg	et approved at	
the MC on 27 th April 2021.				
5 2 Sahada Financial Values Standard (SEVS) Qua	ation 22 The l	A aven the buil	ldings and are	
5.3 Schools Financial Values Standard (SFVS) Que responsible for any upgrades. The wording on the S				
management plan informs the budget for maintenance				
permission."	. Capital lullullig	, beyond the no	IIII, IIEEUS LA	
permission.				
6.1 Heads Funding Group (HFG) Deadline for reque	astina an increa	se in fees The	Haadtaachar	
advised that if icollege wished to request an increase t				
to the HFG by 12th January 2022.	to its iccs, tric ic	Joil Would Hood	to be submitted	
to the fill or by 12 during 1 2022.				
P2 Budget Monitoring Report				
The P2 position was as follows:-				
24/22 P2 (May 24)	Original	Current	Current	
21/22 P2 (May 21)	Original			
Pudget Summary for Main School Budget (09422)	Budget	Budget	Position	
Budget Summary for Main School Budget (98422)	£	£	£	
STAFFING BUDGET	2,162,450	2,162,450	327,226	
NON STAFFING BUDGET	758,800	758,800	169,258	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,921,250	2,921,250	496,484	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE TOTAL INCOME	-280	-280	-320	
NET EXPENDITURE	2,920,970	2,920,970	496,164	
NET EXPENDITURE	2,920,970	2,920,970	490,104	
FUNDED BY (input as negative)				
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	-352,760	-352,760	-352,757	
101 FUNDS DELEGATED BY THE LA	-842,550	-842,550	-707,954	
103 HNB/SCHOOL FUNDING	-1,987,020	-1,987,020	-29,577	
105 PUPIL PREMIUM	-20,660	-20,660	-23,311	
I18B/C COVID GRANTS	-6,600	-6,600	-13,750	
118D ADDITIONAL GRANT FOR SCHOOLS	-220	-220	-3,333	
TOTAL FUNDING	-3,209,810	-3,209,810	-1,107,371	
TOTALTONDING	-3,203,010	-3,203,010	-1,107,371	
SURPLUS (-)/DEFICIT(+)	-288,840			
OOK EOO ()IBELLION()	200,040			
Governors noted that it was too early in the financial	vear to be able to	o provide a mea	ningful update to	
the year end forecast. This would however, be included			imigiai apaato to	
, ,				
The Chair advised that it had been agreed that he wou	uld meet with the	SBM once a mo	onth to run	
through the budget figures, especially prior to a Financial				
identified and clarified in advance of the meeting. It was				
prior to this meeting and so the report had been discus				
the content and format of the Budget Monitoring Repo				
budgeting for alternative provision the aim was to get t				
understand where icollege is financially at any point in		nereny Governo	ii S COUIU	
understand where iconege is illiancially at any point in	uillo.			
The Headteacher advised that the meeting with the SE	RM had haan atte	mnted twice the	at week without	
The Headteacher advised that the meeting with the SE success. She was in full support of the pre-meetings I				
place early enough for any amendments to be made, p				
working days prior to the meeting). In relation to P2, 0				1
time for this to happen.	Dovernors questi	ons nau not bee	II IGOGIVGU III	
unic for this to happen.				
Governors discussed how this would work in practice	e as ideally the C	hair and SBM w	ould meet prior	
to the papers being issued to the Finance Committee				

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	of the questions and answers discussed with the SBM and these would be circulated with the FC papers. The FC would then focus on any additional questions Governors had around the Budget Monitoring Report with questions being forwarded to the SBM via the Clerk as per the current procedure. This would need careful planning to ensure that the meeting between the Chair and SBM took place sufficiently in advance for amendments to be made and papers forwarded to the Clerk to circulate. It would also be necessary to ensure that there had been sufficient time between receiving the budget reports from WBC, for the SBM to have prepared the Budget Monitoring Report. Action: Once 2021/22 Meeting dates have been agreed, the Chair will schedule meeting dates with the SBM to discuss the monthly management reports.	Chair FC 02.11.21
3.5	Governors discussed the need to capture the questions asked prior to the FC within the minutes, possibly by attaching as an appendix, so there was sufficient evidence of Governor challenge. The importance of ensuring that pre-meeting questions did not replace robust questioning and challenge during the FC meetings. It was also important to review the headline figures at each meeting.	
3.6	The Chair asked if Governors had any questions relating to the P2 Budget Monitoring Report. Some Governors had questions arising from the process and format of the report. It was agreed that these would be emailed to the Chair to review outside of the meeting. Action: Governors to email any questions around process and format of the Budget Monitoring Report to the Chair to review.	All Governors 30.09.21
3.7	POD+ Governors asked in relation to POD+ what proportion of set up/infrastructure costs were being met by the LA; had a specific figure been agreed as the report refered to the LA meeting "some" of the cost. The SBM advised that the LA would be meeting the cost of "making good" the building at Moorside, painting, alarm testing and locks. The Headteacher advised that icollege would need to provide its own furniture, pay for moving costs and any IT hardware. The Headteacher was not clear what the overall cost was that the LA would be meeting, but there was a detailed list of who would be covering what. The SBM advised that a lot of the set up costs had been included within the 2021/22 budget but the actual cost is likely to be less due to the LA meeting the majority of the costs. With regards to furniture there was some surplus in storage along with some acquired from another school when it closed. The only items which may need to be purchased are filing cabinets and chairs for the office. Recoditioned IT hardware is on order.	
3.8	Governors asked if POD and POD+ were going to be in separate units, how was Jo Farley in particular going to manage both. The Headteacher advised that she was reviewing the management of both units and this was part of the rationalle for requesting at the Personnel Committee on 8th June 2021, the approval of 3 additional management days for one year. Jo Farley is currently 4 days Lead Teacher and 1 day Outreach. To add some capacity, allocating one day of management time to Jo and someone else providing the days Outreach was being considered. On the assumption that the internal additional days are applied for by staff then additional SENCO and Inclusion Manager Support can be added.	
3.9	Staff Food – Governors queried why the issue of staff food had reappeared in the Budget Monitoring report as this had been discussed at length during previous FC's. However, there still appeared to be some inconsistencies across units and asked what the next steps would be. The Headteacher advised that this needed to be discussed formally. There had been discussion at the last MC around the culture, ethos and values which would be discussed at the Strategy Day and their practical application around for example, charging for student meals where they were not intitled to Free School Meals (FSM) and the approach to staff food was a similar consideration. Only two units were currently providing staff food still. Action: Include Staff Food on the agenda for the next FC.	Clerk FC 02.11.21
3.10	Future Years and potential deficit – Governors asked from the factors listed in the report identified as potential areas impacting on the predicted future years budget deficit, which were the most significant contributory factor in terms of value. The SBM advised that as staffing was the largest area of expenditure, this could be the main area from which significant savings could be made, although this would have an impact on provision. Offsite Provision is also a significant area of expenditure.	

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	Governors discussed that this needed to be a separate agenda item for a future FC so that Governors could consider the costs and cost benefits of each of the areas identified in the report. Action: Include review of the areas of potential fully costed savings listed in 2.1 of the Budget Monitoring Report on future FC agenda.	Clerk & SBM FC 02.11.21
3.11	Aged Debt – The SBM advised that there was currently no aged debt. Park House had paid in full now. There were two outstanding invoices, one of these was for Hampshire County Council (£8,000) and one from Lambourn Primary School (£4,000) which related to Spring 2021. These will be followed up through the usual debt monitoring procedures.	
4.	Capital/Summer Works	
4.1	Independence – There have been a number of problems with the guttering at Independence so the facia boards are going to be capped and new guttering fitted. This will co-inside with repairs to some of the window cills where the concrete is crumbling. The latter will be repaired by the Caretaker by using the scaffolding needed for the other work. Three quotes had been obtained and the SBM is in the process of putting the report together ready for approval.	
4.2	POD – There is the possibility that the groundworks at the POD could be completed over the summer. One quote is pending, so it could be tight to get this organised before the end of term. If it can be completed it would allow a longer period for the grass to settle before the children need to use it. The caretaker is happy to manage both projects over the summer.	
5.	Feedback from HFG 09.06.21 & Schools Forum 21.06.21	
5.1	The Headteacher advised that she had attended HFG but not Schools Forum as it clashed with another icollege meeting. The meeting had focused on year end school balances. The two Special Schools and icollege all had healthy surpluses along with two of the three LA Secondary Schools. Primary Schools had not faired so well with only 5-6 ending the year with a surplus. The financial impact of the pandemic on schools was considered. There had been some schools which had been ok, others had been hit harder. Deficit recovery for schools was also discussed.	
5.2	The Designated School Grant (DSG) had benefited from savings which were £600,000 more than anticipated which had reduced the overall deficit for the LA. The Vulnerable Childrens Fund was also discussed.	
6.	Health & Safety	
6.1	The Chair in his capacity as Health and Safety Governor advised that there was nothing new to report since the last meeting. He would be arranging a meeting with the Health & Safety Co-ordinator for the Autumn Term. Action: Book visits with the H&S Co-ordinator.	H&S Governor FC 02.11.21
7.	Internal Audit Report	
7.1	The finalised Internal Audit Report had been circulated with the agenda. The SBM had provided an update on the position on the recommendations within the Budget Monitoring Report. There had been c.24 recommendations in total of which half had already been completed with a further 6-7 in hand and some were to be discussed at the Strategy Day. The Chair asked if Governors had any questions and whether there were any outstanding issues which still needed to be addressed.	
7.2	The Headteacher advised that whilst the overall judgement had been "Weak", this covered three areas, Governance, icollege internal processes and funding from the LA. The Headteacher had discussed this with the auditor as none of these areas individually were identified as being weak. The auditor had confirmed that it was the combination of areas which had resulted in the overall "weak" judgement. The majority of areas are easy to resolve and indeed some had been actioned before the report had been written. The audit visit had taken place in November 2021 which was unfortunate timing re the pandemic etc. The Chair of Governors and the Headteacher had had lengthy and robust discussions with the auditor and their Manager afterwards around the way the audit had been handled. The Headteacher expressed her frustration with the way transactions had been reviewed/sampled and the	

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		Actions
	way findings were extrapolated which had suggested that the frequency of occurance was more wide spread than in reality. The actions identified were recommendations rather than statutory requirements. icollege could have its own external audit if it felt this was necessary for its own peace of mind. One of the issues had been around the use of the Financial Management Policy which at the time of the audit had recently been updated (by the auditor) but icollege had not yet adopted it. Governors asked how widely the report was circulated. The Headteacher advised that it would be circulated to lan Pearson (Head of Education), Donna Fox (SIA) Nikki Cother (Governor Services) Andy Sharp (Executive Director People) Joseph Holmes (Director for Resources), Sarah Clark (Director for Strategy & Governance) and ClIr Domonic Boeck. Post Meeting Note: WBC list all schools which have been audited with the overall judgement within its report to the WBC Governance and Ethics Committee.	
7.3	Governors asked if the WBC Internal Audit was compulsory and the Headteacher confirmed that it was. Governors noted that the auditors would follow up the completion of the recommendations and agreed actions in approximately six months. Governors discussed the inclusion of the areas covered by the audit within its own internal review of its processes. This should ensure that in future audits would be straightforward as icollege would have ensured through its own robust review processes that these were working satisfactorily. Action: Discuss how icollege could undertake its own internal review of processes.	Chair/ Headteacher/ SBM 2021/22
8. 8.1	Policies	
	Financial Management Policy – As discussed above the WBC model policy had recently been updated. The policy had been tailored where necessary to reflect icollege requirements e.g. authorisation levels and therefore by adopting the policy, these areas identified in the Internal Audit Report were also being covered. The SBM advised that the auditor had specifically asked that she drew Governors attention to the following paragraph within Section 3 of the Financial Management Policy which relates to delegation:- "The iCollege MC's Finance Committee will review the iCollege budget and longer term forecasts at regular intervals throughout the year – the current (Autumn 2019) recommendation in the SFVS is 6 times per year. The Committee will, in line with its terms of reference, agree any appropriate action in relation to budget variances, anticipated	
	expenditure and income, and significant proposed virements where the amount is either 10% of any budget line in excess of £10,000, or £30,000, whichever is greater. Below this level the Headteacher has full authority to agree budget variances and virements without reference to governors. Virement will be subject to any 'ring-fencing' restrictions and other restrictions as defined by WBC iCollege's Accountancy." The SBM advised that the figures quoted are consistent with the levels currently being reported. Governors unanimously agreed that they would remain unchanged.	
8.2	Accessibility/Access Audit – The Headteacher advised that this had was not completed yet and would be carried forward to the next meeting. Action: Include Accessibility/Access Audit on agenda for next meeting.	Headteacher & MR FC 02.11.21
9.	Annual Review of Terms of Reference (TOR's)	
9.1	As part of the review process the FC considered for each element of the TOR's whether it had covered/completed the task/objective, had it worked well and whether anything needed to be changed or added. The Clerk had produced a template indicating how each element had been addressed which had identified some questions/actions/improvements which could be made. This had been circulated with the agenda. The Chair advised that there were a number of actions for the FC arising from diferent reviews/documents e.g. the SFVS and Internal Audit Report. He proposed pulling these into one Action Plan which could then be reviewed and updated during the year. This would make monitoring of actions easier as they would all be in one document. The Headteacher advised that this	
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Signed:

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		Action
	would also start to tie finance into the School Development Plan. Action: Pull together all actions/recommendations relating to the FC into one Action Plan for monitoring purposes.	Chair FC 02.11.21
	Action: Clerk to include review of Action Plan on future agendas.	Clerk
9.2	Governors unanimously agreed that no changes were needed to the TORs at this time.	
10.	Meeting Schedule for 2021/22	
10.1	The Clerk had circulated along with the agenda the draft meeting schedule for the 2021/22 academic year based on known statutory deadlines and timelines around the need to approve specific documents etc. The Headteacher queried that all of the meetings were scheduled to start at 6pm and whether this was deliberate or subject to discussion. Governors advised that meeting start times had been discussed previously and 6pm was the time the majority of Governors could make, hence this had been chosen as the preferred start time. The Headteacher advised that she had strong views on this as it was not supportive of the staff team and is not good for work life balance. For all 17 meetings to start at 6pm was not feasible and was not looking after Governors greatest asset i.e. the staff team. In the past start times had been either 2pm, 4pm or 6pm on a rota basis. The Chair asked if there were any Governors who were unable to make meetings unless they started at 6pm. Darren King advised that he would struggle to attend meetings starting before 6pm and the Clerk advised that she thought Richard Thompson would be in a similar position regarding the Management Committees (MC's). The Chair advised that the review of icollege finance would include the number of meetings and there may not need to be so many once the Chairs meetings with the SBM are in place. Governors discussed that not all members of staff needed to attend every meeting and that whilst it was important to look after staff it was also important to ensure that the MC and its Committees could function properly by supporting Governors too. The Headteacher advised that potentially she would be required to attend all of the meetings.	
10.2	The Headteacher queried the date for the first FC being 7 th September which would mean that papers would need to be with the Clerk by 1 st September. In order to achieve this, the SBM would need to work during the school holiday. In addition the information from WBC would not be received in time for the Budget Monitoring Report to be produced and circulated. The Clerk referred to the suggested meeting focus column on the schedule and explained that this meeting had not been intended to be a normal FC and there was no expectation that a Budget Monitoring Report would be produced. The rationalle for scheduling an early meeting was to enable Governors to plan what and how it needed to feed into the Finance and Funding Model Review, as any reports would need to be ready for the HFG in January 2022. icolleges input to this process needed to be planned as early as possible next term.	
10.3	The Headteacher advised that the same was true for the FC scheduled for 11th January 2022 which would require a Budget Monitoring Report. The Clerk clarified that the schedule referred to P8 which was up to the end of November. The SBM confirmed that the P8 report could therefore go out to Governors before the Christmas holidays. The Headteacher advised that as long as the SBM was happy to turn the report around within this timescale then the date was acceptable.	
10.4	The Headteacher advised that the February half term/Easter holiday dates were incorrect. Post Meeting Note: The Clerk checked the school holiday dates which were correct as per the WBC published dates for 2021/22. However, the Clerk had included weekends within the dates quoted.	
10.5	The Headteacher queried that there were two FC's close together on the 29 th March and 5 th April 2022. The Clerk advised that these dates were an either/or suggestion however, the Budget for 2022/23 would need to be approved by the FC at this meeting so that it could be approved at the MC on 26 th April 2022. The Clerk advised that in proposing the FC dates the time needed to process the information received from WBC and the SBM produce the Budget Monitoring Report, have had time to discuss with the Chair and send out 7 working days prior to the meeting, was difficult to juggle within the school holiday dates. Action: Headteacher & SBM to confirm their preferred date.	Headteacher &
10.6	The Headteacher queried the MC date for 26th April which was only six weeks after the previous MC.	SBM asap
	Due to the Easter holidays, this would mean papers would need to be with the Clerk by 7th April, which	
Signed	: Date:	

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		Actions
	was a tight turnaround. The Clerk advised that this meeting had been proposed in order that the MC could approve the budget for 2022/23 by the WBC deadline of 1st May 2022. Given when the Easter holidays fell next year it was difficult to see how an alternative date would work. The Headteacher suggested that in light of this the meeting should focus solely on the budget and that reports from the Assistant Headteachers would not be required.	
10.7	The Clerk advised that some of the FC's between December and March were intended to focus on the budget setting strategy rather than budget monitoring, as this had worked well in recent years.	
	Action: Clerk to review meeting schedule including start times in light of the comments above.	Clerk MC 06.07.21
11.	Any Other Urgent Business - None.	
12.	Date and Focus of Next Meeting – to be confirmed subject to the discussion above and revisions to the meeting schedule. The meeting would focus on planning for the HFG Working Party review of icollege and icollege's own internal review of its finances.	

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.12pm.

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