

**At a meeting of the Governing Body of the Thomas Hardy School, in the Training Room  
On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013 immediately following the Academy Trust AGM**

**Present:** Martin Baker  
Garry Batt (Chair)  
Iain Cornell  
Jeremy Dobbs  
Mike Faulkner  
Mike Foley (Headteacher)  
Tony Foot  
David Grassby

Wendy Holden  
Sheila Johns  
Teresa Macklin  
Linda Morrison  
Graham Mounce  
Andy Orchard  
Mark Skinner  
Karen Weir

**Clerk** Tony Day

**Apologies:** Simon Conibear, Lynne Cove, Hugh Griffiths, Sue Harries, Tim Gallego

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- 13/25**      **Declarations of Business Interest**  
Mrs Weir and expressed her standing interests respecting DASP.
- 13/26**      **Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2013** were approved and signed.
- 13/27**      **Matters Arising**  
Mr Baker circulated an updated draft of the Nascent Estate Strategy document. This was discussed with governors and governors were in agreement with the content. This matter will be pursued following receipt of the architect's plan, expected in late October.
- 13/28**      **Reports**  
Finance Committee  
The minutes of the Finance Committee of the 17<sup>th</sup> September were moved by Graham Mounce and formerly adopted.
- Personnel and Resources Committee  
The minutes of the Personnel and Resources Committee of the 19<sup>th</sup> September were moved by Sheila Johns and formerly adopted.
- The Headteacher commented upon the new Performance Management Policy and it was agreed that Karen Weir would be on the first committee for this and Sheila Johns on the Appeals Committee.
  - Mr Foley mentioned options here; a moderate line found favour.
  - The process will start in 2014.
  - Mr Orchard mentioned NASWUTs stance.
  - Mr Foley confirmed that staff would receive 1% rise in salary this year.
- 13/29**      **Business Interests**  
Governors were reminded of the need to give their completed Business Interests form to the Clerk.
- 13/30**      **Review of Link Governors**
- Present arrangements were reviewed.
  - Mrs Macklin agreed to undertake the Maths and Numeracy role and Wendy Holden agreed to fulfil the English and Literacy requirement. Mr Grassby will continue as the VIth form link.

- Mr Baker mentioned the NGA review of governance proposal and it was agreed that a review of governor link roles would be reviewed in tandem with this in due course.
- It was expressed that it was important not to simply identify problems, but to recognise and discuss what specifically is being done or needs to be done about them.

**13/31 Review of Committee Structure**

This will feature in the forthcoming NGA review.

*Mark Skinner had to leave at this point. This being his last Governor meeting he thanked the Governing Body for being able to participate and the Chairman expressed his personal thanks for Mark's faithful service.*

**13/32 Policy review**

The Strategy Group had recently met to determine committee responsibility and delegation of policies to committees, to be disseminated to respective Chairs.

**13/33 Governing Body Priorities**

- Governors need to be particularly familiar with requisite school data, actions that are required and their prioritisation.
- Governors were mindful of an Ofsted inspection and the priority key-note was that of standards and their monitoring.

**13/34 Review of Governor Training**

- Governors handed in records of recent courses attended to the Clerk.
- It was acknowledged that Safeguarding Level 1 was an imperative to be fulfilled by every governor.

**13/35 Review of Governor Induction**

A helpful booklet had been obtained from the NGA on this subject and Mrs Cove would be asked if she would kindly talk about this at the next Governing Body meeting.

**13/36 Headteacher's Report**

- Mrs Morrison was congratulated on her collation and analysis of exam results data. A lengthy discussion ensued with governors seeking explanation on a number of key findings.
- A pattern had emerged of GCSEs being up, A2s down and A-Levels up.
- Sheila Johns queried the reason for this and Mr Foley pointed, inter alia, to the impact of the former VIth Form Head leaving; flat lining in History; and the need for continuing MFL monitoring.
- Lower ability groups need to be looked at further in GCSE.
- The Headteacher and Mrs Morrison were thanked for their most informative presentation, as per Appendix A.

**13/37 Date of next meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> December 2013**