



Thomas Hardye School
17th September 2014
Governing Body Meeting

Present: Garry Batt, Laura Cheney, Iain Cornell, Tony Foot, Sue Harries, Lynne Cove, Mike Faulkner, Mike Foley, Tim Gallego, David Grassby, Roger Kirby, Teresa Macklin, Graham Mounce, Karen Weir, Sheila Johns, Natasha Ullah, Linda Morrison, Kaye Chittenden

Apologies: Jeremy Dobbs, Martin Baker, Simon Conibear, Hugh Griffiths, Graham Mounce, Wendy Holden

Clerk: Tony Day

Item	Minutes	Action
14/08	Declarations of Interest: Karen Weir gave her standing declaration as DASP secretary.	
14/09	Elections: The question of elections was dealt with during the AGM of the Academy Trustees. Mr Batt and Mrs Cove were duly elected Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively.	
14/10	Minutes of 3rd July 2014 were approved and signed.	
14/11	Matters arising:	
14/11.1	13/154.1 £192,000 – The issue of the return of £192,000 to the Dorset County Council was raised and the Headteacher reported that he had made contact with a new director, and he has invited him to speak with him on this point.	
14/11.2	13/154.2 Governors Induction – Mrs Cove confirmed that the induction pack was now complete.	
14/12	Review of Link Governors and School Visits	
14/12.1	Mrs Harries agreed to continue her SEN link role. Ms Johns agreed to undertake the Literacy link role. Mrs Macklin agreed to continue her Numeracy link role. Mr Gallego agreed to undertake the Modern Foreign Languages link role. Mrs Weir will continue with her Safeguarding role and also, the Looked After Children role. Mrs Weir would like to relinquish her role of Support Staff Governor and to resign from the Personnel and Resources Committee in order to focus on her role respecting Safeguarding.	
14/12.2	There was considerable discussion respecting the role and duties of the link Governors. It was considered that further work is needed in the definition of the role. Mr Grassby suggested that an optimum measure would be for Governors to attend the curriculum area meetings. It was also thought that the NGA could be asked for guidance. It is understood that Natasha Ullah will be doing some work regarding the questions of school visits and the role of the link governor.	NU
14/13	Review of Committees The Governing Body agreed to continue with the current arrangements.	

<p>14/14</p>	<p>Headteacher's report</p> <p>The Headteacher referred to his written report that he circulated. Examinations results had been very pleasing this year and Mrs Morrison gave a visual presentation, breaking down the respective figures. The substantial reduction in the Free School Meals gap this year, had been particularly pleasing. Progress, having regard to year 6 SAT scores, was significantly above average. The pupil premium results were also up; students were above the national average. This is a great boost for the school. Individual subject results were pleasing. Modern Foreign Languages was lower than average, but has, nonetheless, shown improvement. The Chairman asked how we compared in certain areas with the other schools. Mrs Morrison indicated that this information was not yet available. Mr Grassby said that the only issue appeared to him to be A*'s. Mrs Harries spoke about value-added and the headteacher will come to a subsequent committee meeting to discuss this further. Mr Foley was pleased to indicate that literacy and numeracy had stunning results. A Levels – the points per candidate figure needs reviewing. A-A* grades were very encouraging International Baccalaureate results were down slightly. There was discussion surrounding 'facilitated subjects' and the Russell Group universities publishing apropos this. There has been an increase in this area which will be compared with other schools by the Department for Education. The ALP's score is encouraging overall, with a remarkable improvement in psychology and also good improvement in Spanish. Mrs Macklin questioned the Science results. The Headteacher replied that work is currently in progress regarding this curricula and that he was confident that improvement will be made. The Headteacher reported that he was very delighted with the A level results this year, these being outstanding compared with previous years. The Chairman thanked Mrs Morrison for her very comprehensive and clear presentation.</p>	
<p>14/15</p>	<p>Aims and Priorities</p> <p>Mr Foley praised the canteen developments and reported that his principle priorities this year were: standards, strategic direction and finance. The key would be to unlock the potential of every student. He commented upon the respective needs for continuous improvement: the maximising of resources in austerity; new and existing partnerships e.g. MATs; the combining of resources; and the continual scrutiny of effect and achievement. Values, beliefs, good relationships and learning for life feature specifically in these priorities. The Headteacher referred to Michael Wilshaw's philosophy respecting behaviour, the curriculum and assessment and marking. He gave examples in History and Psychology of 'teaching better' and feeding back effectively to students. He perceived that the three key priorities for Governors remained those of strategy, finance and standards.</p>	
<p>14/16</p>	<p>MAT</p>	

	<p>Mr Foley mentioned specifically the prospect of the school becoming a MAT, which is currently being considered ardently.</p> <p>The Headteacher has drafted an application in this regard and a business plan will be needed.</p> <p>It is the element of sponsorship that will require the school to be a MAT. The desire of the DfE for us to sponsor Ferndown Upper School was broached. If this was to come to fruition, the Governing Body complement and other school structures apropos Ferndown, might need to be considered further, for example, the prospect of there being two Heads of School and one Headteacher. In the first instance, the matter is in the hands of Ferndown School as to whether they would wish us to sponsor them.</p> <p>Should they do so, then we will have to decide whether we wish to perform that role.</p> <p>The next step would be to apply for sponsorship status by the end of September; the completion of a business plan by the Strategy group prior to the end of October; determination of a date for a full Governing Body meeting and a further discussion with Ferndown – candour being of the essence.</p> <p>Mr Grassby asked what would we do, for example, if a relatively nearby school were to need sponsorship, also..</p> <p>Mr Foley – The DfE would contact us and ask our capacity to do so.</p> <p>Mr Grassby – Could we change to the nearby school?</p> <p>Mr Foley – Only if not committed to Ferndown School.</p> <p>Mrs Harries – Is it a question of one at a time?</p> <p>Mr Foley – Yes. The Headteacher reiterated that it appears that in order to be an outstanding school, one has to be a sponsor.</p> <p>Mrs Macklin – How is one expected to put a business plan together, if not referring to a specific school?</p> <p>Mr Foley – We would look to obtain a sponsor-funding grant and negotiate with the Department as to the amount of money they would provide.</p> <p>Mr Kirby – There appears to be a real risk here, of diluting our strength and it appears that we need to tread very carefully.</p> <p>Mr Foley – Yes. There is some expertise at Ferndown and they appear to have a very good Mathematics department and Foundation Art course. It would not, hopefully, be all one way traffic.</p> <p>For Teaching School Status purposes, sponsor schools are clearly favoured by the Department, and we would wish to derive such benefits if possible.</p> <p>Mr Foley said that he was looking at staff recruitment, with a number of our own staff interested in the prospect. We have very good Maths teachers, for example, and the concept would certainly be a spur for the development of our own staff.</p> <p>He foresaw some potential, tangible benefits versus risk, hence the criticality of a sound business plan.</p> <p>After discussion, the Governors agreed in principle, to continue to work towards this and the Headteacher will obtain further information.</p>	MF
14/17	<p>Land Development and Estates Strategy</p> <p>The Clerk updated Governors upon this as per the attached.</p>	
14/18	<p>Phase VI</p> <p>The Clerk updated Governors respecting the current position; the project now being considered to be ready by the end of January.</p>	
14/19	<p>Claim for Costs by DCC re. the resolved dispute over the £536k sum</p>	

	<p>The Clerk reported that a claim had now been received. Our lawyer's view was that it was baseless and legally unenforceable.</p> <p>The Governors agreed that they would not furnish further monies at this time, the school's lawyer having written to the council accordingly.</p>	
14/20	Policies	
14/20.1	The statutory review requirement will be undertaken by the respective committees at their forthcoming meetings.	
14/20.2	The Governing Body ratified the current Child Protection and Looked After Children policies.	
	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Next meeting will take place on 10th December, 4.30pm, in the Training Room</p>	

Action Log

Person	Action	Timing	Outcome/Update
Natasha Ullah	Continue to undertake Governors Visits work	ongoing	
Mike Foley	Gain further information respecting becoming a MAT/Sponsor School	ongoing	