



**Thomas Hardye School**  
**19<sup>th</sup> December 2013**  
**Governing Body Meeting**

**Present:** Garry Batt, Laura Cheney, Simon Conibear, Iain Cornell, Lynne Cove, Jeremy Dobbs, Mike Faulkner, Mike Foley, Tim Gallego, David Grassby, Hugh Griffiths, Wendy Holden, Sheila Johns, Roger Kirby, Teresa Macklin, Linda Morrison, Graham Mounce, Andrew Orchard, Mark Richardson, Karen Weir.

**Apologies:** Tony Foot

**Clerk:** Tony Day

Item	Minutes	Action
13/70	<b>Declarations of Interest:</b> Karen Weir gave her standing declaration as DASP secretary.	
13/71	<b>Minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014</b> were approved and signed.	
13/72	<b>Matters arising:</b> There were no matters arising beyond the agenda items.	
13/73	<b>Reports</b> a) Dr Dobbs presented the reports of the Learning and Community meetings of 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2013 and 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2013. b) Mr Mounce presented the report of the Finance Committee of 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2013. c) Ms Johns presented the report of the Personnel and Resources Committee meeting of 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2013.	
13/73.1	The reports were formally adopted and the Governing Body formally approved the accounts submitted via the Audit Committee and Finance Committee, for signature by the Chairman and Headteacher.	
13/73.2	Mr Mounce reported that the surplus for the year reflected well upon the school's financial management and expressed the governors' thanks to the Headteacher for his judicious management and to the Finance Team for their industry.	
13/73.3	The Business Continuity Plan and Risk Management document will be considered at the next Finance Committee meeting.	
13/73.4	Following further work by Richard Potter of DRB governors accepted the obligation to settle with the County Council respecting the £535,999.06 and the question of the £192,000 element is to be further considered early in the new year with Mr Potter.	
13/74	<b>NGA Review</b> The Chairman considered that this had been of some use and the Headteacher would be referring to aspects in his report. Consistent attention to the constructive points made in the review report would be paid in future committee and governing body meetings.	
13/75	<b>Governors' Induction</b> Mrs Cove outlined her views and suggestions stemming from previous work	

	<p>undertaken upon this subject. The Induction pack will include a letter from the Chairman and Headteacher and a reference paper upon acronyms. All new governors will have a mentor.</p> <p>Mrs Cove will draft a document and email it to Governors for comments.</p>	LC
<b>13/76</b>	<p><b>School Performance 2012-13</b> The Headteacher circulated a booklet he had prepared respecting the School's recent performance and addressed the governors.</p>	
<b>13/76.1</b>	It was mutually agreed that a key function of the Governing Body is to hold the Headteacher to account; to oversee financial control; and to persistently challenge and question wherever merited.	
<b>13/76.2</b>	Mr. Foley drew the attention of governors to the importance of the Raiseonline document with which governors need to be familiar, and highlighted factors upon which focus is required. These included 'How the school is performing in different subjects and which groups are underperforming, how the school compares nationally and with other local schools of equivalence, the performance of the FSM cohort – a particularly significant question, and attendance comparisons'.	
<b>13/76.3</b>	Mrs. Holden queried the degree of validity of the notion that the focus upon 5 A-C grades might adversely affect a student's life outcomes. Mr. Cornell replied that fundamentally '5 A-C grades including English and Mathematics' was perceived as being the benchmark needed for future life chances.	
<b>13/76.4</b>	Mrs. Macklin asked whether the capped scores include English and Maths, and Mr. Grassby asked about the FFT figures. Mr. Foley replied in the affirmative to Mrs. Macklin and indicated that it was largely the Science results which affected the FFT index.	
<b>13/76.5</b>	Dr. Dobbs queried whether the 'value-added' indications were being aided predominantly by the more academically-gifted students and Mr. Foley felt this was not wholly the case.	
<b>13/76.6</b>	Apropos the gap between the outstanding AS results last year and the lesser A2 results, Mrs. Macklin asked what was felt to be the cause. The Headteacher replied that principally Psychology, Biology and History had pulled the A2 results down and Mr. Cornell had initiated a tracking system regarding study time and the removal of football machines and the like to minimise distraction from study periods. Mrs. Morrison drew attention to the ALPS figures and further concentration is being paid upon essay writing in Psychology.	
<b>13/76.7</b>	Mr. Baker asked about Applied Science, Business Studies and Further Mathematics, and Mr. Cornell indicated that he was considering the value of the Applied Science course, and was looking at the merits of the other two subjects, also. Mr. Baker queried the wisdom of having such a range of courses, and the Headteacher indicated that he was looking at the prospect of some reduction.	
<b>13/76.8</b>	Mrs. Macklin asked the Headteacher if he could explain the poor results in English Literature at GCSE. Mr. Foley and Mr. Cornell indicated that they felt this was due in some measure to the fact that not all students were being entered for this particular examination, and that this would be considered further.	

<b>13/76.9</b>	<p>Mrs. Holden raised the issue of the FSM figures. Mr. Foley replied that underperformance in this regard was a real concern. There was, too, a concern respecting the need to improve upon attendance figures. Both issues are being worked upon currently and a further report will be furnished at the next Governing Body meeting accordingly.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked the Headteacher and Senior Staff for their input and it was accepted that Governors would consider the report in further depth and revert to the matter of performance with further questions, at their next meeting.</p>	MF
----------------	---	----

### Action Log

Person	Action	Timing	Outcome/Update
Headteacher Finance Officer Clerk to Governors	The Business Continuity Plan and Risk Management document will be considered at the next Finance Committee meeting.	Finance Committee meeting 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2014	
Chairman and Headteacher	The question of the £192,000 element is to be further considered early in the new year with Mr Potter.	End of January 2014	
Lynne Cove	Mrs Cove will draft a document and email it to Governors for comments.	Early 2014	
Mike Foley/Iain Cornell	Reports regarding performance and attendance.	Next Governing Body meeting, 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2014.	