



Thomas Hardye School
24th March 2015
Governing Body Meeting

Present: Garry Batt, Laura Cheney, Iain Cornell, Lynne Cove, Mike Faulkner, Mike Foley, Tim Gallego, David Grassby, Roger Kirby, Teresa Macklin, Karen Weir, Sheila Johns, Linda Morrison, Martin Baker, Simon Conibear, Hugh Griffiths, Wendy Holden, Graham Mounce, Kaye Chittenden, Tony Foot,

Apologies: Sue Harries,

Clerk: Tony Day

Item	Minutes	Action
14/97	Declarations of Interest: Graham Mounce Karen Weir and Simon Conibear tendered their declarations of business interest with regard to their Zero C, DASP and Duchy of Cornwall positions, respectively.	
14/98	Minutes of 10th December 2014 were approved and signed.	
14/99	Matters arising: There were no matters for discussion beyond those cited on the agenda.	
14/101	Reports of the Committees	
14/101.1	a) Mr Kirby moved the report of the Learning and Community Committee of the 2 nd March	
14/101.2	b) Mr Mounce moved report of the Finance Committee of the 24 th November 9 th March	
14/101.3	c) Mrs Johns moved the report of the Personnel and Resources Committee of the 4 th <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These were formally approved 	
14/102	Headteacher's Report/Finance, Strategy and Standards	
14/102.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Headteacher informed Governors that the pursuit of M.A.T. status is a priority and it is anticipated that the Dorchester Middle School will join The Thomas Hardye School's M.A.T. This is hoped to be achieved by the summer term. • The process will place responsibility in particular upon the 'Members' of The Thomas Hardye School's Academy Trust, who will work closely with Caroline Carretta, the school's solicitor, to make the requisite, formal and legal arrangements. The present member-complement of Mr Batt, Mr Grassby, Mrs Cove and Mr Baker, will be increased by the appointment of a fifth, and perhaps sixth member who should be a person who is not a member of the school's present Governing Body. The Members will determine the composition and skills base of the M.A.T., and the present school's Governing Body will be retained. • There will be no TUPE issue in respect of this school, although this is a matter that will have to be resolved regarding the Dorchester Middle School. • The Sponsorship of Ferndown Upper School was discussed, the period of due diligence having now begun, and it was projected that this will embrace the whole of the summer term, the agenda for it to be set by Thomas Hardye School. Mr. Foley reported that the Ferndown School 	

<p>14/102.2</p> <p>14/102.3</p> <p>14/102.4</p> <p>14/102.5</p> <p>14/102.6</p> <p>14/102.7</p> <p>14/102.8</p>	<p>is due to have a further Ofsted inspection, possibly before the end of May; the headteacher appointment process is in train and Mr Foley and Mrs Cove are directly involved in this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Macklin: “Is the issue of Dorchester Middle School coming back to the Governing Body?” MF replied: “yes.” TM: “Shall we be looking carefully at the financial position?” MF replied: “yes.” • Mrs Holden: “Is The Thomas Hardy School considering accountability, for example, appointing a Chief Executive Officer?” MF: “the M.A.T. Executive Board will determine this question with its solicitor.” • Mrs Macklin: “Do we know what St Osmund’s are doing in this connection?” MF: “They are party to all the current considerations. Its headteacher appears content with DMS joining THS M.A.T. first, and St Osmund’s may consider joining later, perhaps.” • Mr Kirby: “Is the finance of schools ring-fenced?” MF: “No.” RK: “How might one deal, in that case, with what might be considered as undue expenditure on the part of an individual M.A.T. school?” Mrs Holden: “By virtue of supplemental funding agreements, each school has a legal responsibility to balance its specific budget.” RK: “How will the M.A.T Executive Group oversee and ensure prudent processes are sustained?” MF: “The Executive Board could, if warranted and prudent, take delegated budget powers away, similar to the control that the local authority might exercise when circumstances demand.” • Governors acknowledged that this placed a very significant responsibility upon voluntary bodies. • The Headteacher indicated that the M.A.T. Executive Body would have the authority to decide on the contribution to it, from individual schools, to provide administrative services to the schools. Mr Foley commented that there were exciting prospect, quoting staff development as one example. One apprehension is that of the delegated budgets, funding this year being worse than expected, a deficit budget being apprehended next year in consequence. • The Headteacher outlined staff changes, and invited Governors to a retirement function Mr McConkey after 15 years’ service on Thursday 26th March at 3.45pm. He commented also upon the current redundancy process respecting one member of the SCITT staff. • The Headteacher commented, also, upon the recent, excellent school events : Holocaust week, SMSC, ‘Big Brew’ and Stratford College’s walk to Osmington Mills carrying water in empathy with third world plight • Mrs Cheney reported that the financial situation respecting the canteen was improving. • Mr Gallego asked about the £2.3million currently held by the school in a short term account. Consideration of more profitable investment is merited, and it was suggested that the Finance Officer liaise with Mr Gallego in this respect. • Mr Faulkner sought volunteers to look at, and give their views upon the Governors’ Portal. Mr Baker, Mrs Weir and Mrs Macklin undertook to do this. • Safeguarding will feature on the next agenda. • The Governors’ Visits’ protocol was raised. The Headteacher will check with the Deputy Headteacher, Natasha, respecting the current position. 	
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14/103	<p>Phase VI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clerk reported that partial possession of the new complex had now been certified. • A meeting will be held on the 7th April with Mr Berry, Director of the South West for Morgan Sindall, at which the issues of Extension of time applications and Liquidated Damages will be discussed. 	
14/104	<p>Estates Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clerk reported that he had had a conversation recently, with ZeroC, and it was acknowledged that the prospect previously mooted of a development along the edge of the school field remained in abeyance. Further consideration would be given later this year. 	
14/105	<p>Matters for the next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding 	
	<p>Any other business Chairman's Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chairman informed Governors that the Clerk to the Governing Body's current contract would be terminated on 31st August 2015. The Chairman of Governors, the Chairman of the Thomas Hardy Foundation and the Headteacher were in agreement that the Clerk would be employed for the 2015-16 year in a part time capacity of three days per week. The Chairman reminded Governors of Mrs Smyth's current position, substantially at this time with the SCITT. The Chairmen and Headteacher were in agreement with her full-time retention following the cessation of the SCITT at the end of this school year and they considered it desirable and prudent for her to fulfil the Clerk to the Governors role consequent upon retirement of the current Clerk in August 16. • Next meeting will take place on 1st July, 4.30pm, in the Training Room 	

Action Log

Person	Action	Timing	Outcome/Update
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