



FULL GOVERNORS' MEETING
THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER 2014 AT 6.30pm

Present

Dr J Airey, Mrs C Burt, Mr M Dunphy, Mr D Gluck, Dr G Lodge, Mrs R McHenery, Dr H McLure, Mr M Sibley, Mr K Shields, Mrs H Smith, Mr S Smith, Mr P Turnpenny, Dr A Wadsworth

Also in Attendance:

Harry Savage, Head Boy
Mr A Sykes, Assistant Headteacher
Mr S Wren, Assistant Headteacher
Mrs C Earl (Clerk to the Governing Body)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Philip Turnpenny, Chairman, extended a welcome to everyone. He introduced Andy Sykes, Assistant Headteacher who will be taking over responsibility of data and results from Steve Wren. He also introduced Harry Savage, Head Boy.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Roger Riley, Nick Fawcett and Katie Wannop, Head Girl. Consent for these apologies were approved by those present.

3. Confidentiality

The Chairman reminded all present at the meeting that discussions which took place at Governing Body meetings should be regarded as confidential and must not be discussed outside the confines of the meeting.

4. Declarations of Interest & Business Interest Forms

There were no Declarations of Interest and all governors were asked to sign their Business Interest forms at the end of the meeting.

5. Examination Results 2014 (presented by Steve Wren)

The Examination Results 2014 Report which had been distributed to Governors was discussed in detail:-

- It was confirmed that TGS would not be affected by the new system of how School Performance Tables are calculated
- Governor approval will have to be given for the new measures for results summer 2015 (Attainment8 and Progress8). This decision will need to be made by May 2015
- It was noted that the results for English and Maths were down this year. Steve Wren explained that regarding English, this was due to a small group of students who were predicted a C grade, but did not achieve it. The teacher of this group has now left the school and the issue now is how to monitor students to prevent this occurring again in the future

Question: Do we have a cohort of students that did not achieve a C grade in English and required this for post-16?

Answer: Yes, but there is provision for these students to re-sit the exam either at college or TGS.

Question: How did this problem occur?

Answer:

- students who had been receiving intervention in Maths, achieved a grade C
- in English, the intervention secured a grade C in the controlled Assessment element, but not in the written exam
the English exam had no speaking/listening component this year – 60% exam and 40% written assessment

There were particular issues with one teaching group. Steve Wren confirmed that there had been no indication of the teacher in question underperforming, prior to the final results. Learning Walks and lesson observations had taken place, no complaints had been received and the teacher secured a promoted position at a new school. The mock results had been in line with expectations, but obviously the final push had not been delivered. The teacher may not have focused enough on the specific question that came up in the exam during the last few weeks. HOF is now focusing on specific question skills.

Martyn Sibley commented that English has been a difficult area for 2/3 years – not just at TGS and suggested the School Development committee speak with Faculty Leader for English.

Question: Is there an impact as to which paper (higher or foundation) the student is entered for?

Answer: There has been a slight trend that students sitting the higher paper achieved better results. It is the teacher's/HOF judgement as to which paper a student is entered for.

English Intervention has been secured with one specific teacher until January 2015, who then leaves. The intention is for it to continue after this date with a different teacher.

Andy Sykes informed Governors that the following was already in place for English:-

- drop-down days

- intervention has started earlier, including catch-up for Controlled Assessment and exam preparation

Martyn Sibley explained that the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) have held Examination Review meetings with Faculties, interrogating them about the results and focusing on lessons learned for the future. Following the meeting with English, an Action Plan has been drawn up. Mr Sibley suggested that Governors attend future Examination review meetings.

Governor comments raised:

- the KS4 Trend from 2011 was that the school's attainment in terms of 5+ A*-C (including English and Maths) was declining
- there appears to be an issue with forecasting as students achieving 5+ A*-C (inc Eng and Maths) was 67%, the trending data had indicated a figure of 72% and Mr Mitchell had predicted 75%

Steve Wren explained that the red/amber/green column would have looked different if it had not been for a small group of students in English.

Andy Sykes explained that the Performance Development Cycle for teachers was taking place and areas covered in their review are:-

- forecasting
- how students performed in their subject compared to other subjects

More requests for remarks have been submitted this year than previously and many have resulted in improvement in Grades. As an example, the French Speaking Assessment: out of 50 remarks, 14 students had improved by one grade. Some appeals for remarks (no English or Maths) are still outstanding.

- Question: Is requesting remarks a national trend?
- Answer: Yes

Tadcaster Grammar only requests a remark if staff believe the student's result should have been higher, taking into consideration mock exam results. It is the intent for the school to send a letter of complaint to the Examining Boards for specific subjects.

Steve Wren felt it important for governors to note that the % of students achieving 5+ A*/A had increased quite considerably

Pupil Premium

The 5+ A*-C (including English and Maths) gap between pupils not in receipt of the premium and those that are has closed to 24%. This is a reduction from 36% last year.

Question: Do Pupil Premium students access intervention at the same rate as non pupil premium students?

Answer: Yes – non- pupil premium students will piggy back on pupil premium students. Pupil Premium covers extra tuition/revision guides/educational visits

KS5

- Historically the school has used ALPS, but the LA no longer fund ALPS and are now using FFT. FFT generate, for each student, the GCSE results achieved and compare them nationally to A Level results achieved by someone who gained comparative GCSE results. This year, our A level results were in line with what the students should have achieved.
- There is some concern with the number of students studying certain subjects and the Collaboration with Sherburn High School will be looking at this. Some subjects combine Year 12 and Year 13 students.
- This year's AS results are better than last year's and better than this year's A2 results. Focus is now to progress these to good 'A' level results.

(Please see attached 'extra information provided from Steve Wren after the meeting')

Steve Wren and Andy Sykes left the meeting at this point.

6. Governor Update

Philip Turnpenny advised governors that Roger Riley had taken up a temporary role in China, until April 2015 and asked for Governor approval for his leave of absence for this period. All governors approved, but asked for the situation to be reviewed if his absence was to be extended.

Question: Do we need to notify parents of this?

Answer: No as it does not create a vacancy

7. Culture of Excellence

Following on from the 'Culture of Excellence' meeting for Governors on 17 September, two factors to consider:-

- New Headteacher
- DfE document 'Constitution of Governing Bodies of Maintained School'. This will need to be addressed and items in place by 1 September 2015.

Areas of the governing body to be addressed:

- Committees
- Links: Faculty and House
- Special Responsibility Areas
- Size of the Governing Body

8. Review of Committee Membership

The Governing Body presently have 5 committees (Finance, Personnel, Premises, School Improvement & Self Review and Care and Guidance). Philip Turnpenny suggested streamlining and having two committees (School Development to include Care and Guidance and Resources to include Finance, Personnel and Premises with David Ferrett, Business Manager having overall responsibility for the Resources committee, and for each governor to sit on one committee. The Safeguarding element would have to be very specific, so Martyn Sibley proposed having a

Safeguarding specialist governor and group which would comprise of school personnel plus 1 or 2 governors.

Question: Could staff be on the Resources committee?

Answer: Yes, but would need to leave a meeting if a subject was discussed which they should not be party to.

Governors unanimously agreed to the proposal and believe with more governors on one committee they would have a greater knowledge.

The following committee memberships were agreed:-

School Development

Martyn Sibley
Roger Riley
Jeremy Airey
Chris Burt
Greg Lodge
Ruth McHenery
Heather Smith
Nick Fawcett (tbc)

Resources

Martyn Sibley
David Ferrett
Mike Dunphy
David Gluck
Hamish McLure
Karl Shields
Steve Smith
Philip Turnpenny
Alison Wadsworth

9. Review of Faculty Links

- Faculty Links have not worked consistently and Martyn Sibley would like the governors to have a more live involvement with the school, ie. attending SLT meetings. He suggested governors be linked to a Key Stage and invited them to attend relevant SLT meetings when Key Stage data is discussed.
Action: MSI to circulate dates/information
- Have 3 or 4 governors per Key Stage, therefore a minimum of 1 governor should be able to attend Key Stage meetings/reviews
- 6th Form to have a group of governors as experts – this would be a benefit during Ofsted inspection

Points raised from Governors:-

- some areas could have a specific governor link, eg. STEM specialist and Business and Enterprise specialist
- governor had attended a KS4 PE review and found it much more beneficial than a meeting with Head of faculty

It was agreed that Martyn Sibley would spend more time considering the change to Faculty links and report back at the next Full governors' meeting on 17 November 2014.

10. Review of Special Responsibility Areas

It was agreed for Chris Burt to continue as governor link for Child Protection and Safeguarding and for Ruth McHenery for Pupil Premium, but there is no longer the necessity to have a Special Responsibility links for:

- Educational visits (this will be covered by Resources Committee)
- Health & Safety (Resources Committee)
- Health Related Matters (Resources Committee)
- Learning & Teaching (will be part of School Development committee)
- Gifted & Talented
- Sixth Form (this will be covered as a Key Stage link)

It was proposed a small group of specialist governors be formed, for a short term to look at governance issues and to report in the spring. The group will comprise of Philip Turnpenny, Jeremy Airey, Martyn Sibley, Karl Shields and Ruth McHenry.

It was also agreed, by all, for Steve Smith to continue as staff governor for 1 further year.

11. Review of House Links

It was agreed that all House Links remain the same and Mr Sibley suggested governors attend House assemblies when possible (details of these are on the weekly bulletin).

12. Head Teacher Performance Review

This will take place on 12 November 2014 at 11.30am and involve Philip Turnpenny, Keith Worrall (Lead Advisor), Martyn Sibley, Karl Shields and Ruth McHenry. All governors approved.

13. Any Other Business

Information packs were distributed following the Ofsted Preparation meeting held on 1 October 2014, along with a copy of the revised Pay Policy to be reviewed by Resources Committee.

14. Date of Next Meetings

Monday 17 November 2014 at 6.30pm – to include a presentation from i2i regarding developing sport facilities at TGS

Thursday 12 March 2015 at 6.30pm

Wednesday 17 June 2015 at 6.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.