



Minutes of Full Governors' Meeting held on Wednesday 11 March 2015

Present:

Jeremy Airey, Chris Burt, Nick Fawcett, David Gluck, Greg Lodge, Ruth McHenery, Harry Savage, Martyn Sibley, Karl Shields, Heather Smith, Steve Smith, Philip Turnpenny, Alison Wadsworth and Claire Earl (Clerk)

2. Apologies:

Katie Wannop (Head Girl), Roger Riley

PTU read out an email received from Hamish McLure advising of his decision to step down as a Governor due to work and personal commitments. PTU has written to Hamish thanking him for his support whilst on the Governing Body.

3. Confidentiality and Declarations of Interest

- There were no Declarations of Interest
- 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. Minutes of meeting held on 17 November 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2014 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising:

I2i

MSI advised that a meeting had taken place with i2i, Amanda Crossley and himself. Funding had not materialised as hoped and therefore the venture had not developed as planned. I2i are still very interested in using the school site, but looking at reducing the scale of the plan.

Terms of Reference:

- Resources Committee have some minor amendments to make before they are completed and agreed

- School Development Committee's are complete and agreed

Child Protection Training

CBU has not completed the level 2 training.

Action: CEA to liaise with Amanda Crossley about training, for CBU and another Governor, through the STAR Alliance.

Open Classrooms

These were taking place this week, with an anticipated 40-45 members of staff taking part over 1 week, compared previously to 55 over 2 weeks.

Exam Results

MSI confirmed there were no further outcomes following the letter of complaint sent to the Examining Board.

Attendance

MSI agreed to email Governors.

Review of Examinations 2014

MSI agreed to email Governors.

Premises

- The cost of the installation of CCTV would be addressed at the next Resources Committee meeting.
- MSI confirmed that the school had not been successful in their bid for a share of the new school build funding from the Priority Building Scheme.

Post 16 with Sherburn High School

- Taster Days for TGS students to attend Sherburn had not taken place as it is too early in the Post 16 transition cycle.

(JAI joined the meeting)

- MSI confirmed that AS and A2s in some subjects are now 2 separate exams from September. There is conflicting advice from Universities as to the benefits of students taking an AS as a standalone exam. TGS would like to be consistent with other North Yorkshire schools. TGS will liaise with Sherburn to ensure both schools are teaching the same curriculum.

Q – Will this be implemented from September 2015?

A – Yes

Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 January 2015

Matters arising

The re-organisation/re-structuring process is being dealt with by the Selection Committee

6. Headteacher's Report

1. Staffing

MSI advised of 2 additional appointments that had been filled:

Nancy Budler, Assistant Headteacher: Sixth form
Sarah Kirkpatrick, Teacher of Maths,

both of whom will join the school 1 September 2015.

Q – What geographical range are applications being received from?

A – More local areas (Leeds/South Yorkshire/East Yorkshire)

MSI confirmed that the Art Department would not be affected with redundancies as an in-house appointment has been made for Subject Leader and staff have volunteered reductions in hours

2. Tracking

MSI confirmed that the figures listed in the 2014 column show results and the figures in the 2015 column show the current tracking. Progress is the key measure by which the school will be measured in future.

The comment was made that there was a drop in the percentage of Pupil Premium students targeted to attain A*-C inc. English and Maths. MSI confirmed that this was due to the small cohort of Pupil Premium students in that particular year group.

3. Attendance

CMU had attended the School Development Committee the previous night and given a full overview on attendance.

4. Exclusions and Inclusions

MSI confirmed that the figures shown represented fixed term exclusions. The Governors requested that in future reports, permanent exclusions are also included, even if this figure is zero.

6 Key Stage meetings

RMc and KSH had recently attended the KS5 Floodlight meeting and felt it was very beneficial. HSA commented that positive changes had occurred within the Sixth Form following the temporary appointment of Craig Benoit as Director of Sixth Form.

7. Year 7 numbers 2015

MSI explained that whilst figures for September 2015 were good, efforts must continue to ensure future years remain the same and advised that he was intending to visit as many Year 5 students as possible, in their schools.

Q – Are there any outstanding appeals?

A – yes, but don't know how many

Q – Any known problems with numbers for future years?

A – the birth rate is increasing, but numbers from Bishopthorpe School are dropping which the school needs to address

10. School visits

MSI advised Governors of a very positive email he had received from a member of the public complimenting the students of TGS during a recent visit to Ipswich Town FC

12. Partnerships

MSI advised of the successful C4S day that had taken place at TGS, involving 400 staff from 4 different schools.

13. Premises

MSI confirmed that the cost of replacing windows in Toulston Lodge would be met by the Local Authority.

15. Visits for Approval

Governors gave their approval for the change in date for the Year 9 Football tour and also for the Inspirations Maths visit to Amsterdam during October Half Term 2015.

16. Dates for your diary

MSI encouraged governors to attend the School Production of Zombie Prom taking place on 18, 19 and 20 March.

Parents' Evening attendance:

Comment was made that teachers from Sherburn did not attend the Year 12 Parents' Evening. MDU confirmed that this was an admin error and that the Sherburn teachers should have been removed from the appointment list. TGS are discussing with SHS about the collaboration of Parents' Evening. SLT are looking at ways to extend appointments for Parents' Evening to accommodate parents' requirements.

Governors adopted the Headteacher's Report.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 School Development Committee Minutes from Meeting 20.1.15

(4) Attendance

Governors confirmed they were happy with the system that Student Support staff collect students with poor attendance and bring them to school, and are grateful for the commitment shown by staff. Governors are happy to support attendance panels where necessary.

(5) Pupil Premium

Emma Stubbs, Pupil Premium Leader will be returning from Maternity Leave shortly, in her absence Mel Carroll and Andy Sykes have been managing funding.

JAI reported that at the School Development meeting held on 10 March 2015, governors had given their approval for the school to continue the proposal of introducing Chrome Books for students. The financial implications will be addressed by the Resource Committee and MDU agreed to provide information for discussions at the next Resources Committee meeting on 17 March 2015.

7.2 Resources Committee

No further comments were made of the minutes of the meetings held on 17 November, 17 December 2014 and 26 January 2015.

7.3 Selection Committee

- Leaders of Learning – nothing to report
- Business Studies Faculty – the Business Case put forward by the Selection Committee has been accepted by the Local Authority, therefore any redundancy costs incurred will be met by the LA. The process is continuing within the timetable

8. Collaboration

8.1 North Yorkshire Improvement Partnerships

MSI gave some background of this partnership:-

- North Yorkshire County Council to delegate funds to assist in School Improvement
- Improvement partnerships will have control of budgets and decisions on how money is spent to improve schools.

Being a good school, MSI does not believe TGS will benefit financially from the secondary improvement partnership, but it is not something the school can opt out of.

- 8.2 – MDU confirmed that similar numbers of students are wishing to study subjects, under the collaboration with SHS, as last year. Positive feedback has been received from SHS students attending TGS, but TGS students studying at SHS feel more isolated.

9. School Uniform

AWA reported to Governors that a survey was completed in January and thanked SSM and MDU for their support with this. There had been a good response from parents (605 parents from Years 7, 8 and 9), but disappointingly only 17 students had completed the survey.

The results from the parents' survey was:-

- More parents in agreement with girls wearing blazers

- It was unanimous not to change the colour of jumpers to black
- More parents were not in favour of the introduction of a summer uniform

The results from the students' survey was:-

- More students were in favour of grey jumpers rather than black
- It was unanimous not to introduce a summer uniform (polo shirts)

The full report has not been circulated yet as it is felt the questionnaire should be issued again to students for completion. AWA agreed to issue a full report following this.

Action: AWA to consult with CMU regarding repeating the student questionnaire

10. Governance Review

PTU thanked KSH for the time and effort given in producing the discussion papers. The following proposals were discussed:

- Governor link to Faculties – proposal that governor links to Faculties is discontinued and instead the whole governing body has responsibility linked to Key Stages, except those Faculties with particular issues (School Development Committee has addressed this). Governors agreed this proposal
- Governor House links to be discontinued – Governors agreed with this
- All Terms of Office to be 4 years – all Governors agreed., but do not want all Terms of Office to have the same end date
- Governing Body to comprise of 12 members:
 - Headteacher)
 - Single LEA Governor) stated in the regulations
 - Single elected Staff governor)
 - 4 Parent Governors (suggestion)
 - 5 Co-opted Governors – which can include members of staff (suggestion)

Discussions took place regarding the proposal and the following points were raised:-

- A Skills audit had been carried out, but was not very informative – felt it would be better to ascertain the skills needed and fill that requirement.

Q - Would 12 Governors be enough if the need for Disciplinary or Appeal Panels arose?

A - Yes.

Q - If there were only 12 Governors, would that be sufficient if some could not attend meetings?

A – Governors need to understand and agree to the expectations of them to attend Full Governors', Committee and Key Stage Floodlight meetings

- It was agreed that both teaching and support staff should be represented by Staff governors.

Following discussions, PTU proposed the Governing Body to comprise:

Headteacher

Single LEA Governor

Single Staff Governor

4 elected Parent Governors

7 Co-opted Governors (one of which shall be a member of school staff and not more than one of which shall be a parent of a child in school)

8

All governors were happy with this proposal.

All governors agreed for PTU to be the LEA Governor.

It was agreed that once the Local Authority had approved the re-constitution, parents and staff would be informed.

Reconstitution needs to be confirmed and implemented by 1 September 2015.

11. Health and Safety

No comments were made.

12. Correspondence

No correspondence had been received for discussion.

13. Any Other Business

Governors approved the following policies:-

Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy

Increments Policy (NYCC Policy)

It was agreed that papers relating to meetings would be distributed 1 week prior to the date of the meeting.

Governors asked if a 'glossary of terms' could be issued (and updated annually).

Action - CEA to enquire

14. Dates of Next Meetings

25 March 2015 – Results of 'Culture of Excellence' (postponed until 17 June)

17 June 2015 – Full Governors' Meeting

PTU thanked HSA for his contribution as Head Boy and wished him well for his exams.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.