



St Laurence Governors FGB

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27 March, 1700

Governors present, K Kilgallen (chair), L Wicks, P Robertson, L Ash, A Ensom, D Roberts, M Peters, T Chatfield, M Smith, P Lambert, A Craddock, D Roberts

Apologies, A Dixon Patterson, M Lee

There were no additional declarations of interest.

33/23 Minutes of previous meeting 7 February, actions and matters arising.

These were agreed.

The Chair has sent a letter of condolence to the family of the student who died.

34/23 Head's report

Highlighted points were,

The positive review of the mental health and wellbeing week plus the awards event.

Governors' comments, the revisit of pledges was welcomed. The Awards Event was very successful and visibly well received.

Careers, the most recent compass assessment gives 100% in all eight Gatsby benchmarks. A very strong comparator with schools, nationally.

Catering tender, a decision had been made with governor involvement.

Governor comment, there had been an assessment of the financial contribution to the school in the decision.

Head's comment, additional questions asked of all the providers were discussed with governors.

Question, who are the catering staff employed by?

R, the 7 staff are all employed by the current provider

Question, is there a probation period for the catering contract?

R, it is thought that there is an opt-out for the school and a notice period for the contractor.

Contact with the deceased student's family, this is ongoing and the remembrance book is complete. There is support for a family member who works at the school.

Staffing, there is one application for the teacher of DT post, a Head of House position is to be advertised, the ITT role is to be advertised.

Question, what have been the next steps in the education over the Gaza situation?

R, there has been a further collective worship led by staff, addressing conflict. There has been student fundraising activities (Red Cross). Palestinian teachers have come to school and met Sixth Formers.

Chair's comment, governors were encouraged to view the end of term assembly video, this was a student-led initiative. It was noted that there was a contribution from the Chaplain which was well-received.

Governor comment, the Chance to Dance event was commended as an opportunity to showcase personal performance skills.

Head's comment, the school's performance of *Taming of the Shrew* at the Tobacco Factory was commended to governors.

Admissions report, no further comments.

35/23 Strategy, summary of Strategic Review meeting,

Chair's comments,

the status of governors with accountability as directors / trustees could be strengthened, monitoring of and attendance at, school activities needed to be additions to setting the strategic direction, following this, partnership with the paid Executive would follow, In terms of the next steps, the Strategy committee and the FGB following will focus on finalising the strategic direction. Specific points from the meeting included, the question of whether governors held too many meetings when more informal means of communication plus visits could be better, the agenda of meetings should follow from the strategy, there would be a review of the articles of association to update them in line with the Academies Handbook guidance, consultation with stakeholders could be better (a different means of staff engagement than being governors needed to be considered) Having less policy approval by governors, the vision and ethos – care, inspire, succeed has support, could there be more focus but in fewer words, better behaviour in school and of students in the neighbourhood should be an ongoing priority, having a school size which fits the locality, examining the breadth of the curriculum offer, given an 8-form entry with lower numbers per class (on average), more design / tech' in the curriculum, as an example of change.

Head's reflection, this was a very positive opportunity. Engagement with SLT in developing a strategy between the Strategy and FGB meetings was desirable. Governors were invited to attend an SLT meeting, possibly in week 4, Tuesday 7th or 14th May, from 1530.

Question, what did the NGA give as guidance for having staff governors?

R, Academies Handbook advice is that FGBs shouldn't have staff governors.

Question, what was the reflection on the shape of the school day?

R, two aspects were the length of breaks, especially lunchtime and the potential of double lessons to extend sustained learning (**note**, this has been trialled this year). The impact on behaviour and having facilities for exercise were implications. SLT have started to consider this, there are a number of interlocking factors. Covered outside space was the limiting issue.

36/23 Committee minutes & update from Chairs

Standards, highlights were,

Computing subject focus, whilst there is no A level, there are two post-16 options being trialled, all staff also work in other departments, there was pressure on physical resources due to exam access requirements.

Year 7 data, a new assessment system linked to KS2 phrases.

Year 13 data, mock exams achievement was a low B average, B+ is the indicator grade for the cohort
SDP discussion

Parent engagement over information evenings was discussed and changes were proposed for '24/25.

Question, what is the use of ALPs in the Sixth Form?

R, only for this year 13 cohort. From '24/25, the whole school will be using FFT.

FFE, highlights were,

Budget position, there was a slight variation in the forecast.

5-year horizon, there is no change in previous reporting, term 5 / 6 will be clearer on this.

Aspects of audit were considered and discussed.

H&S, a new contract is commencing with governor participation.

Cyber work, governors noted the significant changes that had been pioneered by many support staff, together with further developments to come.

Campus plan, a further meeting to consider a 5-year strategy had been held. The proactive enhancement of the current estate structure and facilities was the focus.

Question, what is an update on the use of excess land in the school's estate?

R, general feedback seemed to be that this was not possible.

Comment, the campus plan framework was commended to governors.

C&E, highlights were,

Review of the mental health and wellbeing week, this was very positive. Two governors had attended the *I can and I am* bus.

A concern was *County Lines* and TF has alerted parents / carers to this issue via the Bulletin. Further communication will be completed. Canine deployment in term 6 will follow a term 5 education programme.

Governors were welcome to attend the next C&E meeting which will have an anti-bullying focus

(note that Strategy minutes are also in the folder)

Safeguarding, the LA audit has been completed. Causes for concern were unkind behaviour (this is being tackled in school), accessing inappropriate online content (this now results in sanctions rather than a phone-call home only). There is a new online safety group with a variety of stakeholders. MyConcern reports are over 940 in total for the year with 15 per day on average, including low level concerns and monitoring alerts.

Head's comment, there were no low-level concerns or referrals to the LADO over staff allegations.

Careers, note the comment in the HT report section. The alumni website is now ready for current students to join. The House-based, careers presentations would be reviewed. Employer encounters were desired (an example of a geography link with a Buro Happold employee was discussed). The impact of external speakers was often very positive. Work experience is being prepared. Year 8 and 9 visits to Bath and Bath Spa universities respectively. The Careers Fayre is planned with a wide range of opportunities. Every department has a careers representative and display in their teaching area.

The website curriculum pages were commended as a resource to identify opportunities for external involvement.

37/23 Policy – Governors Induction policy, this was approved.

Folder of information, for reference

38/23 AOB

A very long-serving member of staff is leaving the school in the summer, the May FGB would be a suitable farewell date.

The meeting closed at 1830