

Governing Board - Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday 7 December 2017

Meeting Venue: TG9, Temple Grove, Gildredge House

Meeting Time: 5:15pm

Governors: Julian Mace (JM), Chair

Louise Baxter (LB), Vice Chair

Alison Allart (AA) Paul Amos (PA)

Martyn Ashley Taylor (MT)

Selene Edwards (SE) Sara McKenna (SM) Gabrielle Mace (GM) Rachel Moreton (RM) Joel Newman (JN) Fiona Walker (FW) Matt West (MW)

Ex officio: Stuart Reeves (SRv), Head Teacher

Also In attendance: Paul Barber (DHT), Deputy Head Teacher

Catherine Geldard (AHT-(HLS)), Assistant Head Teacher - Head of Lower School
Danny Simmonds (AHT-(B&A)), Assistant Head Teacher - Behaviour & Attendance
James Towner (AHT-(A&C)), Assistant Head Teacher - Assessment & Curriculum

Janice Logan (DFA), Director of Finance & Administration

Karl Hector (KH), Pupil Premium Lead Teacher

Clerk to Governors: Steve Quayle (SQ)

Apologies: Steven Blower (SB), Trevor Scott (TS)

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Item	Discussion	Action	Date
1.	 Welcome and apologies for absence Chair welcomed Governors and SLT to the meeting, and welcomed Karl Hector as a guest to talk about his work on Pupil Premium. Apologies received from TS and SB – accepted by the Chair. Chair began by celebrating recent good news: External feedback received on the Lower School which confirmed it is, as we believed, 'Good' with 'Outstanding' features. Appointment of Head Boy and Head Girl and their Deputies – these will be fantastic ambassadors for the school. One Year 11 boy has been selected for the GB Frisbee team. One Year 13 boy has been received a national award for voluntary services. 		
2.	 Declarations of Interests No declarations of interest were made. 		
3.	 Chair introduced KH, and asked for questions on his PP report. Governors asked how we can see the impact of PP monies; KH replied that the data he is compiling will provide the ability to identify the impact. Governors asked if we review the interventions we make, SRv advised the difficulty of measuring individual interventions is that there are always several ongoing at the same time so they are hard to measure, but we still do need to try to identify the impact of each. KH stated that we share best practice and have made new contact with several schools in Brighton. Governors asked about timescales and when will we know about the impact of the work on PP, KH replied he is about to receive the third data drop and can apply the results to PP students to measure impact and then report back to Governors by February half term. AHT (HLS) asked about students in Early Years and whether the PP funding can be used there, KH advised yes. Governors asked how engaged parents are and whether we are bringing them into these discussions, KH advised that we are not currently involving parents as much as we could and knows we need to bring them into this more. Governors asked if all staff are communicating about PP within the school, SRv advised everyone in school is working to raise the profile of PP students, and the most impactful intervention is in the classroom with the teacher, and this is also a lot less cost intensive than many other interventions. Governors asked if the Oasis is having a PP impact, SRv advised that Governor's monitoring visits should review the impact of PP there. KH said he is working to co-ordinate PP activities across various roles and responsibilities as it is a 'whole school' issue. Governors asked about the perception that some Reception students have been prevented access to PP money in the past. KH advised there is a list of PP students on SIMs, but Governors asked of the Reception students don't seem to have received any support from the PP money in the past. KH advised there is	КН	Mar FGB

	 amount of ownership of this from the staff. He added the training is available on Powerpoint for teachers who miss CPD sessions. PA and JN joined meeting at 5.35pm. Governors asked about Governors receiving the PP data and when it will be available, and can they be assured the PP money is being spent on PP, and not being swallowed up in the larger school budget. KH said it would be best to speak to DFA about this as some PP money is being used across the whole school. DFA advised that £56k PP money is being spent on INAs but some of these are also supporting those with SEN needs. SRv advised we need to take a holistic view and examine the data and if it shows those in one year group are not making the same progress as those in another year group then the structure is clearly not right, Governors will be able to access this data from AHT-(A&C). Governors asked for confirmation that the data on impact of PP spending would be available by 1 March FGB, KH confirmed yes. SRv reiterated that impact measurements could be monitored through Governor's monitoring visits. Governors asked how long KH's PP project is lasting for, SRv said this sort of thing is an annual conversation with staff on UPS2 and UPS3 grades, and work of this gravity should be undertaken by these staff. He added that the SDP says we need to focus on PP. Governors said they will schedule a monitoring visit for PP in March. Governors asked about the aforementioned Brighton schools, KH advised some of them have a high proportion of PP students. Chair stated there is an annual competition for school's to showcase the best use of PP money so we should look at good ideas that have come out of this. Chair added that there are some schools who spend very little money on PP but who experience a massive positive effect. Chair commented that Eastbourne does have some fairly deprived areas and asked what areas of the country the progress of our PP students would be measured against? Governors expressed concern about not getting any m	LB, AA AHT- (A&C) Clerk	31 Mar 31 Jan Feb FGB
4.	 Minutes of the Governing Board Meeting – 18 October 2017 Chair signed the hard copy of the minutes from the 18 October FGB as an accurate record of the meeting. Chair signed the Pink Paper minutes from the 18 October FGB as an accurate record of that part of the meeting. Chair signed the Pink Paper minutes from the 20 September FGB as an accurate record of that part of the meeting. A 'Pink Paper' refers to items which relate to: i) a named person who works, or who it is proposed should work, at the school; or ii) to a pupil at, or candidate for admission to, the school; or iii) to any other matter that, by reason of its nature, the Governing Board is satisfied should remain confidential. The School Governance (Roles, Procedures and Allowances) (England) Regulations 2013; Regulation 15(3): www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/1624/regulation/15/made. 		
5.	 Action Summary Report Chair talked Governors through the individual items on the Action Summary Report. This prompted discussion on the following points contained therein: Review staff absence policy – Vice Chair would like some amendments but it would be too time consuming to do so in the FGB forum, so she will liaise with SRv directly regarding this. SRv also commented there has been no union response to the policy so he has taken this to mean they approve it. 6th form report on correlation between absence and results – SLT advised this has not been possible to do due to inconsistencies in recording and noting sixth form attendance in SIMS. A new and more robust system is now in place. Dogs on site – SRv admits the message sent out about this became lost in a tranche of information. Governors commented there is an awful lot of information for parents to keep on top of in terms of communications from the school, SRv agreed and stated we need 	LB	ТВС

to start looking at communications from the user's point of view. Governors asked if we are using Mailchimp, or similar, to monitor the readership of emails, SRv advised not currently. Governors stated it appears lots of parents are not reading emails from comments they post on Facebook. Chair commented there are still lots of negative comments about the school on Facebook. Governors suggested we manage our social media output with quicker responses to better respond to issues, but all agreed we don't want to enter into debates on social media. Governors commented that most of the social media comments happen on a private Facebook page and the school's page is not very active, and that since we've moved away from posting as regularly people aren't seeing many of our Facebook messages. Governors asked who actions the social media account, SRv advised fredacted), but the member of staff is very overstretched. Governors asked if there is a need for a separate role to do this job but SRv advised there is a need for lots of extra support roles but we simply have to prioritise. SRv stated he will develop a new communications strategy, but any proposal to move social media responsibility to someone else will result in a financial cost. Governors asked if an apprentice could do it, SRv replied we need to be sure the responses are carefully crafted, and he is unsure whether an apprentice could do this, Governors agreed. SRv asked if we are overreacting to the problem of negative comments on Facebook. Governors said we need to be more proactive in our communications with stakeholders. Governors commented that they were unaware of the school's recent uniform consultation, which made it difficult for them to manage the situation when they were confronted about it. Governors noted the loss of weekly bulletin and stated that many parents miss it. Governors some should promote the school in a more positive light on Facebook and we should use our social media presence more expertly with posts referring people to the GH website	SRv	Feb FGB
6. Items not already on the agenda • None reported.		
 Chair's correspondence Chair advised he has received some letters about the school's uniform survey, and that he would like a Uniform Committee to be established with a representative of all stakeholders to look at the results of the survey and make a decision based on this. Chair confirmed that any change of uniform needs to go through the Board and it was disappointing that Governors were not involved or advised about the survey, which in his view was ill-thought out. Governors stated some communication needs to go out to parents soon because parents want answers. Governors stated the lead time for some new uniform items can take up to a year so we can't just change things quickly in any case. DFA advised the survey results show there is no appetite for significant changes, with a few exceptions, such as the sports kit. Governors asked where the need for the survey came from, DFA responded that it came from various conversations in the past about uniforms, particularly around the skirt, which has always been contentious, and it appears parents are keen to have one shop to get all their uniform from. DFA confirmed that it was made clear that it was just a survey/consultation and that any changes that resulted would be phased in and not implemented immediately. Governors said it is a PR issue that no response has so far materialised from the school and reiterated that someone needs to respond to the survey respondents. Governors stated parents just want to know if the school uniform 		

	new and this is the first attempt at it, but it will be done at every visi	_		
9.	 Sateguarding Update RM talked Governors through her safeguarding report and her safeguard 	ding checklist, which is		
9.	expressed ongoing concern for child welfare and will continue to closely Safeguarding Update			
	 Road Safety – Clerk advised that due to no incidents of 'Killed or Seriousl the school, the school is seen as low risk by ESCC Road Safety Tear constraints there are no plans for road safety measures or traffic calmin Parking Team will send traffic wardens to the site more often to prevent ESCC Transport Development Control Team will review whether zig-zag I to the road outside the school and will consider the re-siting of the zebo 	y Injured' (KSI) outside m and due to budget ng. However, the ESCC illegal parking, and the lines should be applied		
	 legislation and that we, as a school, may need to make changes and sper comply with this. Review pay of staff – the Lead Governor for Enterprise is not present ton Pay Committee will look into this and ratify any decisions required on pa 	night – however the	TS, PA	ТВС
8.	 Governance Matters Strategic Planning Group (SPG) – Chair reported to Governors that these take place under the previous Head, and that they have been reinstated Governors (Chair, Lead governor Education, Lead governor Enterprise, Lead Missions and Lead Governor Safeguarding) to meet with the SLT. The look at the SDP and the SEF. The intention is that this will improve comm for better oversight from governors. The SPG recently discussed new Da 	in order for Lead ead governor primary focus is to nunication and allow ita Protection	Chair	ТВС
	 what they need to improve upon. Vice Chair advised she has received correspondence – she has accepted with a lady who runs the 'Friends of Gildredge Park', who would like so with the school regarding low level anti-social behaviour within the park 	an invitation to coffee me more engagement	LB	Feb FGB
	recovery plan, SRv agreed. Governors commented that there was a lot of School which disturbed those taking the mock exams, which cannot a during the real thing. AHT-(A&C) pointed out that during the actual extusor exams a day, not three as there were in the mocks, which meant that across lunchtimes. SLT reminded Governors that these are the first suscincted in the solution of the school has overseen and as a result a lot has been learnt from it. Governors have affected student morale, SRv said all the students to Governors asked if we are putting things in place if their mock results a replied that all students will be supported through their results with the	be allowed to happen cams there will only be they had to take place et of mock exams the covernors asked if the take it very seriously. aren't as expected, SRV		
	 Governors asked about the temperature problems experienced in the sex exams and the fact there have been lots of complaints about how cold that the heating initially failed and so the school bought portable overloaded the circuit and caused the electrics to trip out and this all Communications were made to students to bring warm clothes, and subseffect has been the standard of uniform compliance has deteriorated. result a letter will be going out on Monday to advise everyone to resort be as the heating issue is now resolved. Governors commented the school of bad press about this incident by sending a letter to parents. Governors excould have affected the results of the mocks because there were report coats, hats and gloves during their exams. Governors cited some people bad and that there is an element of exaggeration occurring. Governors minimum temperature was breached and if so shouldn't we have taken a what the school should do in a similar situation in the future. SRv said he is serviced more often as a preventative measure. Governors asked for be devised for the GCSE exams if something similar were to happen again 	it was. SRv explained heaters, which then took time to resolve. sequently the knock-on SRv advised that as a pack to normal uniform could have pre-empted expressed concerns this ts of students wearing le saying it wasn't that asked if the statutory ection. SRv will explore will ensure the heating a contingency plan to	SRv SRv	ASAP ASAP
	is changing or not. Governors asked if we need a decision from the Board the Board would delegate authority to the Uniform Committee to get a before the Christmas break so the Committee needs to meet next week. that JN, SE, LB and SM would be part of the Committee and would send a SRv asked DFA to send them the survey results. Chair stated the Commmake a decision as to whether we are making any changes to the uniform purchased from.	n email out to parents Governors confirmed n email out to parents. nittee will also need to	JN,SE, <u>LB,SM</u> DFA	<u>15 Dec</u> ASAP

	commented that attendance is much better and there is lots of progress and the systems are more proactive, and asked Governors for questions. Governors asked about first aiders outside of school hours; however RM reminded Governors that we need to be mindful of keeping Safeguarding concerns separate from Health & Safety concerns. Governors asked if during Prep and Twilight there are enough first aiders on site in the required ratios to student numbers. Governors queried how supply staff know the school's safeguarding processes, but it was confirmed that a staff member talks to supply staff about out procedures and that supply staff agencies also keep their staff up to date. Governors asked about first aiders in evenings, ie. at FGB meetings, but it was confirmed this is not a Safeguarding issue, but an H&S one.		
10.	 Attainment Data AHT-(A&C) talked Governors through the Years 10 and 11 attainment data. He explained the methodology for calculating 'Attainment 8', and explained that when Attainment is measured from pupil baseline against their best 8 GCSE results this gives us 'Progress 8'. Governors asked if the GCSEs results are higher this year will this show in these results, AHT reassured Governors that all results are normalised across the country. The report currently shows all negative figures for Progress 8, but these are current scores and they haven't yet produced predicted grade Progress 8 forecasts. AHT advised that on Progress 8 a 0 figure means that all students are at the grades they should be, whereas -1 means that on average they are one grade below where they should be. He advised that the figures show that FSM & LAC students currently stand out as being more negative than other students. SRv advised Governors what would be expected of them to know about these figures if we had an OFSTED visit. Governors asked about the obvious gender gap between results, AHT advised this is where fine analysis comes into play, because drilling down into the figures shows that 5 out of the 6 SEN students in Year 11 happen to be boys, which is pulling the boys figures down in the statistics. AHT demonstrated to Governors how much the figures can change by small alterations to the make-up of the cohort data being interrogated. Governors asked how they will get this information in the future; SRv advised that an attainment data dashboard will be produced for each FGB meeting. Governors asked about how we will be sure we are not neglecting important data, SRv said Governors should be aware of figures for Years 11, 13 and 6 at all times. It was suggested that at monitoring visits Governors sould be asked which year groups they are interested in looking at, however Governors said they wouldn't know which ones they need to worry about unless they have the figures. SRv said it is the SLT's responsibility	LB	TBC
	for Reception students to achieve a 30-50D score in each subject in order to achieve the ELG. The vast majority of students are achieving the national expectations; currently about 82%, however she is concerned that a TA who helps with language support is leaving the school. SRv concluded that this attainment data is now providing Governors with a sound basis upon which they can ask pertinent questions about what is happening in various parts of the school.		
11.	 Monitoring Chair advised Governors have already received the Safeguarding report; the SEN report is coming to the February FGB, as is the Behaviour report. Chair is content for the remainder of the monitoring visit reports will be completed as the school year progresses. 		

12	Finance Matters		
12.	 Finance Matters Chair apologised that Governors have not been sent the annual report and accounts paper prior to the FGB meeting. Governors pointed out that they could not comment on the paper when they haven't had chance to read it. Chair advised he met with DFA and the Lead Governor for Enterprise last week to discuss it and that the format is very complex, however our auditors are happy with the accounts and finances. Chair confirmed there is nothing contained therein which is a surprise, and confirmed that a vast amount of it is the same as last year. Chair confirmed that the accounts need to be ratified by the Board of Governors. DFA suggested there was little point in Governors talking through the accounts this evening before they have had time to read them. Governors suggested they could be sent out electronically and then we can reconvene next week to ratify them. Accordingly, the Chair called an Extraordinary Governing Board meeting for 6pm next Wednesday 13 December, to ratify the accounts and asked DFA to circulate the paper. DFA presented the monthly management account and advised this is fairly straightforward. DFA discussed the costs involved in complying with the new GNPR legislation and that she has asked ESCC to come in and provide some training on this which will include a detailed report and an action plan, plus will provide templates to use. SRv advised he is going through all 130 school policies in January, but advised that staffing costs in relation to the above will impact the budget. SRv advised he is working to finalise the outcomes of the performance management process and will revise the budget accordingly and will look at other budget lines to see what can be trimmed back. SRv said the main highlight from the budget report is that having been previously predicting a deficit of £240k, this was ultimately reduced to £183k, largely due to £20k less being spent on staff, £5k less on staff absence, and building maintenance being reduced by £20k. He a	DFA	ASAP
13.	 and Deputy to determine which Governors will get involved in this. Head Teacher's Report SRv asked Governors to comment on the pay progression proposals detailed in his report, Governors agreed it looks reasonable. Governors asked about progress of the use of 'Show my Homework', because it appears only 	,	
	some teachers are using it, and <u>Governors asked</u> if this means the system is not a success and asked if we should we be looking for something else instead. SRv advised it needs a re-launch, but students and parents are feeding back positively about it. <u>Chair asked</u> why if staff are not using the system it cannot be a measure in their performance management, because it's a whole school policy to use it and parents and students want it so it should be used, SRv confirmed he has not made it a 'three line whip' that it must be used, but will relaunch it soon and stress the	SRv	ТВС
	 importance of using it. SRv advised he needs Governors to ratify the new Performance Management policy – <u>Vice Chair queried</u> why she and the Lead Governor for Enterprise have not been provided with the detail of the policy in advance, as was promised, in order to give them time to review and feedback. SRv apologised for this and explained that he believed it had been shared in advance. <u>Vice Chair</u> 	LB	ТВС
	 confirmed she will take the discussion about this outside the meeting and feed back on any areas where she would like amendments, but she is happy to ratify the policy with the caveat that her comments and feedback be taken into consideration. SRv asked Governors to ratify the new school attendance policy. He noted that attendance is already up significantly. Vice Chair asked why there seems to be a high number of Year 11 authorised absences, SRv advised this is in relation to sickness, but confirmed that the Year 11 unauthorised absence is stubborn and very difficult to deal with. SRv advised he has instigated a process of calling home and refusing term time holidays but some parents are taking them anyway and this appears to be a specific problem with Year 11. SRv asked for all Governors and 		

	staff who are parents to set a good example and not to take their children out of school in term time, Governors confirmed they are in agreement with this approach. SRv advised he has started fining for unauthorized absence as of last week, Chair confirmed the money raised from this goes to ESCC, not the school. Governors asked about the policy on fining, SRv advised he follows the ESCC policy which means fines occur after ten sessions of unauthorised absence. Vice Chair confirmed she is happy to sign off the attendance policy but has a few comments which she will send to AHT-(B&A); Governors agreed to ratify policy. Governors confirmed Governors agreed They haven't been made aware of before. Vice Chair commented that a lot of monitoring visits relate to the red areas. Chair advised Lead Governors can pick this up in more detail at next SPG meeting. Governors asked SRv to update 	LB SPG	TBC
	a new version of the SEF. <u>Vice Chair stated</u> the lower school has one already. SPG provisionally	SRv	Jan
	due to meet on 15 January, but Chair to confirm this.	Chair	TBC
	 SRv asked Governors to agree for GH to join the Eastbourne Partnership – approved. Governors asked about the Data Manager resigning, SRv is buying in the services of a senior invigilator who will be overseeing exams, and someone is shadowing the Data Manager before he leaves. 	SRv	ASAP
	 Sixth Form restructure – <u>Governors commented</u> that this cannot proceed until the Lead Governor for Enterprise has the extra financial information he has requested. SRv expressed that a decision on this is now urgent and asked if it can be added to the agenda of the EGM next week, Chair agreed. 	EGM	13 Dec
	 Governors acknowledged the Lower School's recent glowing praise from Bill Ruddock. Governors asked if the same offer of a free review service from ESCC existed for the upper part of the school, SRv confirmed it does not. 		
14.	 Student Leadership Due to the lateness of the hour, the Chair deferred this matter to next FGB in February. 		
15.	Any other urgent business None		
16.	 Confirmation of meeting dates Chair confirmed the future Governor's meeting for the remainder of the 17/18 school year: EGB – Wednesday 13 December (6.00pm). FGB - Thursday 1 February. Away Day – Friday 2 February at 12noon. (Tour of school at 11am) FGB – Thursday 1 March. FGB – Thursday 22 March. FGB – Thursday 3 May. FGB – Thursday 21 June. FGB – Thursday 12 July. 		
	Meeting closed at 8.25pm		