



Extra Governor's Meeting – Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday 20 August 2020

Meeting Venue: Via Zoom

Meeting Time: 5:15pm

Governors: Julian Mace, *(JM)*, Chair
Louise Baxter *(LB)*, Vice Chair
Alison Allart, *(AA)*
Paul Amos, *(PA)*
Marilyn Benzing, *(MB)*
Selene Edwards, *(SE)*
Glyn Freeman, *(GF)*
Sara McKenna, *(SM)*
Gabrielle Mace, *(GM)*
Joel Newman, *(JN)*
Trevor Scott, *(TS)*
Joyce Swann, *(JS)*
Matt West, *(MW)*

Ex officio: Stuart Reeves, *(SRv)*, Head Teacher

Also in attendance: Catherine Geldard, *(HOP)*, Head of Primary
Jemma Graffham, *(DSF)*, Director of Sixth Form
Janice Logan, *(DFA)*, Director of Finance & Administration
Dominic O'Driscoll, *(AHT-SEN)*, Assistant HT - SEND Coordinator
Danny Simmonds, *(AHT-B&A)*, Assistant HT - Behaviour & Attendance
James Towner, *(AHT-A&C)*, Assistant HT - Assessment & Curriculum

Clerk to Governors: Steve Quayle, *(SQ)*

Apologies: Martyn Ashley Taylor, *(MT)*

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Item	Discussion	Action
1.	<p>Welcome and apologies for absence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair welcomed Governors and SLT to the Extra Governors Meeting. Chair welcomed Dominic O’Driscoll, the school’s new SENDCo; (<i>hereafter ‘AHT-SEN’</i>). Chair explained the purpose of this EGM is to discuss reopening and A-Level and GCSE results. 	
2.	<p>Declarations of Interests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governors declared various interests in respect of their children who attend the school. 	
3.	<p>Minutes of previous Education Committee Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governors agreed the Minutes as an accurate record of the 9 July FGB, and the Chair <i>virtually</i> signed a copy. 	
4.	<p>School Reopening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SRv explained that the school intends to open for all Year Groups across 7th and 8th September, except for Reception who always have a staggered start. All Year groups will be kept in bubbles with their own areas and timings. Years 10/11 will be classed as one bubble, as will Years 12/13. There are some ongoing issues to resolve regarding catering provision, and discussions are ongoing with Pabulum about this. Timings will change throughout the day with the end of day being staggered and all arrangements will be reviewed every fortnight. A new risk assessment is being completed for all vulnerable staff and the HR Manager is contacting those people to review their individual circumstances. The SLT still need to devise a strategy for in the event of an outbreak, but this will be informed by advice from PHE. AHT-A&C added the SLT have put in place plans to help reintegrate students back into the habit of learning. <p>LB joined the meeting at 5.25pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair asked what guidance has been received from Government. SRv said they have received very outline proposals without being prescriptive. The main advice is about preventing cross-contamination and the heavy use of sanitisation, especially around PE. Chair asked about feedback from parents. SRv said there has been nothing of any concern and a lot of parents have offered their support. Chair asked about what the guidance says if the school has any positive cases. SRv said he will revert to ESCC and PHE and follow their advice. Governors asked how school clubs will work with bubbles. SRv said there is no option but to suspend all after school clubs for the foreseeable future, including Prep and Twilight. Governors asked about why these decisions are being made now and not in July. SRv said he expected the advice would change across the summer and didn’t want to set things in motion too early only for them to change again. He also wanted all staff to take an uninterrupted 3-week break before they had to start planning for the new term. Governors asked if SRv thinks staff are now firing on all cylinders and SRv said staff have definitely appreciated the break from Covid worries. Governors asked if this is a similar approach to other Eastbourne schools; SRv confirmed yes. Governors asked what the provision will be for vulnerable students who need to catch up without the Prep and Twilight opportunities being available to them. AHT-SEN said he has already 	SLT

contacted all parents of SEND students to establish where they are, and the trend seems to be they have largely coped well from a mental health perspective but academically they have slipped behind.

- AHT-SEN said he has also asked the same parents to give an indication of the needs they think their children will have upon returning. He does not want to impose a blanket approach.
- **Governors asked** about how an individual approach can fit with Year Group bubbling. AHT-SEN said he has started to design how Oasis will work in terms of access and egress and explained how he plans to split the provision for different year groups to keep them apart. There will also be a triage area in the entrance for those students who self-refer to Oasis.

MB joined meeting at 5.35pm

- AHT-A&C said the rationale for Years 10/11 and 12/13 being classed as joint bubbles is to limit the disruption to their curriculum because they need access to specialist rooms, i.e. Music Room. However, for the vast majority of time they will be isolated away from the other Year Group.
- **Chair asked** about external Year 7s and welcoming them to the school. SRv said Year 7 will be alone in the Secondary phase on 7 September and they will be toured around the school without the normal hustle and bustle of other Year Groups – this is for all Year 7s.
- **Governors asked** AHT-SEN about those students who need ad-hoc support. AHT-SEN said he has a meeting with AHT-B&A next week to combine their efforts. He is going to try to ensure that only students who have a Retreat Card come to the Oasis. **Governors asked** what a Retreat Card is, and AHT-SEN advised it is a new system he is implementing from September.
- DSF added that there will be staff out and about and in classrooms to look for signs of anxiety and mental health issues – this will be a whole pastoral team effort. She added that support can, of course, take place outside of the Oasis.
- **Governors said** they are aware of familiarisation sessions taking place at another Eastbourne school and asked if anything like this is planned. AHT-SEN said he has asked parents of SEND children if they would like to come in next week and only 4 have opted to do so.
- **Governors suggested** it would be worthwhile to conduct a monitoring visit with a focus on these students early in the new term.
- DSF said all staff have had training regarding safeguarding and she talked about Sussex Police's Operation Encompass. Staff have spent time looking at increases in social and emotional health issues post-Covid at the last INSET day and they will do so again on 3 September. There has also been a lot of Educare training taking place too. She is going to handover properly to AHT-SEN and the new Pastoral Support Assistants to ensure all vulnerable students' needs are addressed.
- **Governors asked** if staff have had training on recognising gambling and alcohol issues through lockdown. DSF said they have had training around issues at home and a lot of work will be done about enabling students to talk and open up to staff about their concerns.
- DSF said she has been in communication with ESCC throughout regarding those students who have a Child Protection status. In her view it is about making students once again feel safe and secure enough to make disclosures and for staff to feel comfortable dealing with those disclosures.
- **Governors added** there will also be issues with lots of parents being made redundant and often people behave in different ways when faced with financial insecurity. DSF said the staff are good at bringing areas of concern to her attention.
- AHT-SEN said lots of these issues will be individualised and the school needs to identify these things as such so that each student's needs are met whatever they may be.
- **Governors asked** about PPG funding. SRv said he routinely sends out reminders to all families twice a year to register for this if they qualify because it means they will be able to enjoy the

Governors

	<p>revert to CAGs seems much fairer. For Gildredge House last year 86% received grades A-C, whereas this year it is 87%. He said CAGs will always result in a slight uplift compared to real exams.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In GCSEs there was a similar uplift. Results here were more generous though as any algorithm upgrades were allowed on top of the CAGs and in Maths, for example, 28 students got a higher score as a result. • Governors asked about the subjects that were adversely affected and whether this was related to coursework during lockdown. SRv advised he is unsure what impact coursework had on the algorithm calculations as this has not been explained. He advised there seems to be no way of fathoming how the algorithm worked. DSF said the school was not asked to submit a separate coursework grade for the CAGs – they were just required to submit one grade. • Chair asked about teachers being criticised for some of the CAGs as mentioned in the national press because there is now pressure on teachers to defend those grades, whereas originally they were going to be moderated via the algorithm. • AHT-A&C said after the A-Level results came out all schools were seen as the heroes because the CAGs were largely better than those the algorithm produced, whereas for GCSEs there was never that initial algorithm sense of downgrading so the feeling was very different. However, most GH students were satisfied with judgments that were made. • Chair thanked all school staff for supporting students through the recent grading fiasco. SRv said the staff will continue to support all students whatever their situation is. 	
6.	<p>Any other urgent business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair advised Governors that SQ has resigned as Clerk and is now working his notice and will leave his position with effect from 30 September. Chair has been in touch with the school about advertising the vacancy. • JM and GF will be completing a preliminary visit for Health & Safety in September. • Chair advised he is still working on the Governor’s monitoring schedule for next school year. • Governors agreed the next meeting will remain virtual and they will keep an eye on government guidance regarding when physical meetings should resume. 	<p>Chair</p> <p>JM/GF</p> <p>Chair</p> <p>Clerk</p>
7.	<p>Confirmation of future meeting dates:</p> <p>FULL GOVERNING BOARD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 17 September 2020 • Thursday 14 January 2021 • Thursday 29 April 2021 • Thursday 8 July 2021 <p>EDUCATION COMMITTEE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 1 October 2020 • Thursday 11 February 2021 • Thursday 6 May 2021 <p>ENTERPRISE COMMITTEE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 10 December 2020 • Thursday 18 March 2021 • Thursday 17 June 2021 <p>Chair closed meeting at 6.20pm</p>	