



St Laurence Governors FGB

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22 May, 1700 in the school restaurant

Governors present: A Craddock (vice chair, chairing this meeting), T Farrer (Head), P Robertson, L Wicks, P Lambert, T Chatfield, A Ensom, A Dixon Patterson, M Smith, L Ash, M Lee (online)

Apologies: K Kilgallen, D Roberts, M Peters, M Smith

Also, R Beesley (clerk)

The governors warmly thanked Mr Ted O’Leary for his significant service at the school. He reflected on his time at the school, very positively.

39/23 Minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2024. These were approved.

Matters arising: none

Proposed AE, Seconded TC

40/23 Head’s report,

Highlighted points were:

Governors noted the extent of stakeholder engagement in this last term, parental forum, staff wellbeing lunch, student voice.

Safeguarding visit, the background to this visit was that it followed a formal complaint to OFSTED. This latter instructed a Wiltshire LA review meeting and a highly satisfactory rating was received, with one recommendation, to have an LA safeguarding effectiveness review.

The draft report had been received and the recommendations were shared, all had *amber* ratings.

TF went through these and the school’s actions in response.

The final report will be presented at the term 6 FGB meeting.

Question, in what ways is student voice recorded and monitored?

R, governor records of student voice visits are in the minutes of committee meetings following the meetings. The bank of question & answer material which informed this was retained in school.

Comment, it was suggested that these are held on the governor portal for future reference. This will be the approach from the next student voice opportunity.

Question, on student wellbeing, in the context of the student hospitalisations after serious incidents, has there been a review of whether there is a trend of this issue?

R, a domino effect is possible and this was being carefully monitored. Both students were known to agencies, risk assessments were in place. A third incident was mentioned. The safeguarding team is fully aware and students are monitored.

Comment, could there be a governor representative at the staff wellbeing lunch?

R, it would be welcomed as a means of oversight and gathering feedback. This is an informal opportunity. A more formal mid-year review by governors of the action plan could be a good start. There will be a staff wellbeing survey in term 6.

Question, what is the mobile devices policy and approach in the light of recent press and government commentary?

R, the background to this matter was discussed. Following the new year 7 intake evening, parental responses were to tighten up on any smart phone access during the school day. As a result of a staff survey, in KS5 lessons there is some use of devices, KS4 limited use and KS3, usage was sparse and infrequent. The policy of use in the classroom from term 6 will be communicated to staff, this would be to reflect this. No use in KS3, limited use in KS4 and allowed in KS5. The main point being, not to disadvantage any student without access to a smart phone if its use was asked for in a lesson. Governors supported this.

The context of the parental engagement meeting was discussed and information on how parents were included was mentioned.

41/23 Strategy, summary of Strategic Review meeting,

7th May, a meeting of governors with SLT members to discuss the Chair's initial strategy document.

As a draft of ideas, involving SLT, this was a positive opportunity. The SLT away-day discussed seven of the areas of suggestion. A workable plan is to be reported at the FGB meeting in July.

A revised version of the school's vision statement has been devised for approval.

Question, to what extent is there overlap between the SLT's points for discussion and the governors' ones?

R, yes, there is clear overlap and some parts have been incorporated into others. For example, behaviour is under the pastoral header

Question, what about the point on the Sixth Form?

R, the offer at Key Stage 5 was discussed, making this wider than an academic route. Accommodation would have to be revised in the light of more than 300 in this section of the school.

Question, what was the main point of the discussion under the teaching and learning header?

R, the aim for students to experience great teaching and learning opportunities, every day, in every lesson.

Action, KK to meet with TF to devise the finalised, core strategy document. All notes from the SLT meeting can be shared, there is a unity between the initial strategy and the plan. Some operational matters might be clarified.

42/23 SDP mid-term review

The SLT's mid-term review had been discussed in committees.

43/23 Committee minutes & update from Chairs, Standards,

On Year 8 data, the comparative progress of Learning Groups and achievement in different subjects are being investigated to gain a more consistent approach.

For curriculum subject focus in the committee for '24-25, Maths – following the work with the external consultant and other subjects from their exam results.

FFE,

A parent has raised the issue of measured CO2 levels. This has been monitored by the Health & Safety governor. The school is following DfE guidance. In addition, CO2 levels are being monitored in all classrooms and concerns are reported by staff. PR was satisfied that the response to the parent's concerns was measured and reasonable. FFE committee would continue a watching brief on this issue.

TF commented on the analysis of the supply staff spending. The purpose being to have a more granular level of detail. This would likely alter the external trip timetable. The approach to leave of absence would be communicated to staff.

Comment, the leave of absence policy could be amended, as an Academy. There was a balance between being compassionate and managing the budget. TF mentioned the change in expectation since the Covid period. There was discretion.

It was suggested that the analysis of staff absence would provide context for budget discussion in term 6.

The committee had approved capital works expenditure.

C&E,

The committee had received a presentation on anti-bullying and the school's approach. More reporting of this is seen as a positive, students are listened to and action is taken (noted in the student panel of the safeguarding review). Governors had recommended that the work in the school was commended to parents, especially those who were new to the school.

Behaviour hub work was ongoing, suspensions are less compared to national trends. Consistent language and approaches by staff were positive. Attendance is very positive, an even higher % is aimed for.

(note that Strategy minutes are also in the folder)

Safeguarding, verbal update to FGB (L Ash),

Trends in myConcern reporting were outlined.

Mental health first aiders (student) will establish a programme of response (SLSA funding). Succession planning is built into this plan.

Careers, verbal update to FGB (L Wicks), a meeting update will be given at the next FGB.

It was noted that there is a national apprenticeship show in Bristol in term 2, '24-25.

Could the school consider this as a valuable trip?

All year 9 will go to Bath University later this year.

44/23 Policy – none for this meeting, committees have approved policies – see minutes

AOB

The work of a charity that highlights work with students affected by eating disorders was commended to the school. L Barber would receive that.

The meeting closed at 1830