



## St Laurence Governors FGB

### Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11 October 2023

**Governors present:** K Kilgallen (chair), A Craddock, S Cooper, P Lambert, M Peters, M Smith, T Chatfield, D Roberts, P Robertson, A Dixon Patterson, A Ensom, M Lee (online)

**Apologies:** J Abecassis, M Horan, L Ash, L Wicks, M Dooley

Not present: none

Also present: R Beesley (clerk)

**Head student presentation**, governors welcomed Michaela.

She detailed the thorough process of application and appointment, from Easter 2023.

The Head Students have made contributions to Collective Worship and briefings. The themes of celebration and encouraging performance opportunities are part of the year's aims. They also lead on charity appeals. A film with consent and mental health themes will be developed, for viewing by year 12 and below. They will input to moving-up days for year 11.

Governors commended the significant contribution of the Head Students to the life of the school and the development of important areas.

A budget for their work might be considered but requests for funding were welcomed and had been granted by the school.

Governors invited the Head Students to give a report back on the full year, possibly via a video as well as desiring to see the completed film.

Apologies were noted and no further declarations of interest were made.

Minutes

11/23 [Minutes](#) of previous meeting July '23, these were approved.

**Actions**, report on staff wellbeing to Strategy (complete), update to Articles of Association – Academy Trust secretary & MH to liaise (in progress), consultation on amendments to scheme of delegation (in committees)

12/23 Head's [report](#)

Since the report the Fisher Family Trust Progress8 data had been received with score of +0.26. The DfE's official statistics presented in the Inspection Data Summary Report would follow. These were above National Average figures.

There was a positive update on the staff member who was severely unwell.

On recruitment, a number of support staff positions were to be filled by the end of the week.

Numbers for the student school population census were not available for the meeting.

Whilst the Designated Safeguarding Lead team is complete, training has to be completed by DDSL appointee. There is additional cover in place in the interim and during an absence.

**Governor comment**, in 2019 the P8 score was +0.24. All re-marks for A level have resulted in higher grades, however a higher overall average could not be confirmed.

13/23 School development plan, finalisation after Strategy Day

**Chair's comments.**

From governor discussion it was desired to change governors' involvement from the approval of the SDP document with operational task to a strategy document with measurable features, this would likely be a 3-5 year plan. The next steps would be considered at the Strategy committee.

**Head's comments.** The current form of the SDP is familiar and has served the school well and is a 3-year document but a refreshed approach could be considered. SLT is open to strategic direction suggestions.

Governor's comments. In the context of a move away from the MAT journey, this was essential underpinning for decisions.

**Decision**, Strategy committee to commence discussion of this point.

**Head's comment**, defining a longer-term vision would require a timescale and space for iterations. A recommendation would be to retain the current SDP and arrange two days for governor / SLT discussion for a Sept '24 implementation of a 5-year plan.

**Governor comments**, on the significant issues to be addressed.

The school's PAN and financial robustness. Devising a *USP* for the school to guide parents. The changing nature of the school's cohort (more disadvantage, a wider ability profile). Being a community nucleus. Campus resilience. New housing plans. Staff wellbeing (to encourage recruitment and retention). Having the best outcome for every child. Building on the school's successful Ofsted and SIAMS reports and the decision to retain Single Academy status, being financially sustainable and educationally excellent.

**Decision**, dates to be planned for these discussions, likely in terms 3 and 4.

14/23 Committee minutes & update from Chairs

[Standards](#)

Governors were welcome to attend the exams review meeting and the committees where subject staff make presentations. Recruitment of strong teaching staff was shown by the number offering second subject teaching.

[FFE](#)

Since the meeting, the notification of the DfE funding error had been received and was being analysed. The fencing improvement has been acknowledged by the Music Centre. It has been confirmed that there is no RAAC in school.

The Trust would be required to appoint new external auditors from next year.

[C&E](#)

Governors should note the success of peer mentoring with the development in numbers from 12 and 32 to 50 year-12 mentors over the last three years. Sixth Form Active was the extension of Learning Outside the Classroom for years 12 & 13. On safeguarding, all staff training was complete and myConcern was being used to log issues and incidents.

(note that [Strategy](#) minutes are also in the folder)

15/23 Policy

Admissions [policy](#) for '25-26

There would be a full consultation next year and at that time the Published Admission Number of the school would be reviewed. Governors needed to be aware of the Wiltshire discussion of falling cohort population.

**The policy was determined to be that of the Academy Trust.**

6<sup>th</sup> form Admissions [policy](#) for '24-25

Minimum academic criteria for entry are in the prospectus. Some subjects have specific expected grade attainment for entry. There is comment in HT report over this matter. Specific contexts were given for three students by way of illustration. There is no timetabling capacity for English or maths retake lessons.

Governors commended the progressive policy of entry criteria based on individual strengths.

**The policy was approved.**

Other policies approved this term:

See committee minutes

16/23 Governing Body matters

- a. Training offer [guidance](#), Safeguarding governors' course must be completed by the end of half-term. The FFE committee have asked that all governors read the revised Academies Handbook in the next half-term.
- b. [Calendar](#) for meetings, the next FGB meeting would be on 13<sup>th</sup> December, **1630**.

17/23

1. The retirement of Rev Joanna Abecassis, Dan Roberts of the SDBE would be the Member representative of the Trust Board.
2. Very positive feedback had been received, from year 7 parents, on the transition process from primary and receiving commendations of good work / attitude to learning so early in the term.

The meeting closed at 1830.