

Minutes of KING EDWARD VI COMMUNITY COLLEGE FGB Meeting Tuesday 16th March 2021, 5.45pm

The meeting was held remotely, due to Coronavirus restrictions and Government advice



Present: Jim Lodge (JL), Alan Salt (AS), Michael Young (MY), Andrew Waterman (AW), Louise Darvid (LD), James Hartridge (JH), Gillian Healey (GH), Wendy Ormsby (WO), Jon Rae (JR), Julian Carnell (JC), Karen Sewell (KS), Helen Beetham (HB) & Jo Cooke (JCK – joined 5.50pm).

In attendance: Yvette Elliott, Clerk (YE) and Stephen Corline, Business & Finance Director (SC).

Ref.	FOCUS OF THIS FGB MEETING: Ensuring Clarity of Vision, Ethos and Strategic Direction	Actions
1	<p>Welcome & Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apologies, sanctioned by the FGB: Laura Hetherington (LH) • Absent without apology: None • Declarations of interest: None <p>JL reported that Andrew Otty (AO) has resigned from the Board, as of 7th March 2021.</p>	
2	<p>Recruitment – Co-opted Governor</p> <p>Following the consideration of a request from Jo Cooke to join the FGB, Jo Cooke was nominated by GH, Secinded by JL and unanimously voted onto the Board as a Co-opted Governor.</p> <p><i>JCK joined the meeting and was welcomed by JL.</i></p>	
3	<p>Matters Arising (other than those on the agenda)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign pecuniary interests register when in College - Ongoing • Confirm KCSiE 2020 has been read - 3 Governors outstanding. • Update & save ratified policies - Done 	<p>YE/Gov's YE/Gov's</p>
4	<p>Review Draft Minutes of the 14th December 2020 FGB Meeting</p> <p>Minutes were reviewed and approved. JL to sign when next in school.</p>	<p>JL</p>
5	<p>Data Protection Officer Report – Steve Sherwood</p> <p>Steve Sherwood sent his apologies.</p> <p>Governor agreed that they would like to invite Steve to the next FGB meeting in April to present then instead and requested an advance copy of his report to be circulated with the agenda.</p> <p><i>HB specifically requested the inclusion of data protection information in relation to the use of Google Classrooms.</i></p>	<p>YE/Agenda</p>
6	<p>Principal's Report</p> <p>AS highlighted that due to the partial school closure since his December FGB report, there is limited additional information and anything covered at the February Standards Committee meeting has not been repeated here.</p> <p><i>MY noted the positive Progress 8 data and asked for AS's view of this.</i> AS is pleased, but caveated this to explain that as these are internal grades, they are typically higher than exam grades would be. Historically, Progress 8 data reduces from staff predictions because of an assumption that there will be continued work at the same level up until</p>	

	<p>exams. We now have another year of internal quality assurance and no exams, so results are likely to be higher than exam year grades, as teachers are assessing learning rather than exam performance.</p> <p><i>KS noted that disadvantaged pupils' outcomes also looked healthy by comparison.</i> AS stated that these are in-line with historic patterns but expected a few pupils in this cohort to achieve significantly better results that they would in an exam scenario.</p> <p><i>KS asked if the KS3 curriculum is working?</i> AS confirmed that this has been in place since September, but it is continually being reviewed for teething problems.</p> <p><i>GH asked AS to elaborate on his statement that 'attendance remains a significant issue'.</i> AS stated that persistent absence was a historic issue prior to Covid-19 and poor attendance will not have improved over the last 12 months. The potential for negative impacts on mental health are also expected to affect attendance. Some headline measures in the Autumn Term were encouraging versus the national picture, but national averages were lower than usual due to Covid-19.</p> <p><i>AW asked about feedback on the 8th March return to school?</i> AS stated that there was good feedback from parents & carers at their Q&A sessions. Only 3 parents from the school community have raised LFT or face covering concerns, which is encouragingly low. Mental health issues for a few children are now being dealt with by the Safeguarding team, but it is not yet clear if these are Covid-related.</p> <p><i>JL asked how the school reopening has been for staff?</i> AS offered additional staff briefings ahead of re-opening but these were not required by staff as information was already being shared well. Staff do move between bubbles and feedback from a staff consultation was that there is a clear preference to return to a 'normal' timetable. The updated Risk Assessment shows that this can be achieved and AS is looking at recommencing this after Easter (to avoid a timetable/room change mid-term). AS added that there has been no evidence of in-school Covid-19 transmission to date.</p> <p><i>JC asked if break-time activities can be started again to improve mental health in bubbles?</i> AS stated that separate social areas will be maintained, but the Summer Term see extra playing field spaces becoming accessible again.</p> <p><i>LD asked if there has been any clear guidance from the DfE yet on centre assessed grades, including for BTEC courses?</i> DfE guidance has just been received, but Exam Board guidance is still awaited. Faculty Leaders have met to plan summer assessments and this will be shared with parents & carers next week. No mock exams are planned for Year 11 or 13, but in-lesson exam board questions will be set and there will be a clear moderation process, with extreme clarity for teachers that assessment is on the level of learning and not how a pupil would perform in an exam. The Art Foundation course for Year 14 is a BTEC course.</p> <p><i>HB highlighted the importance of the need to celebrate, together, KEVICC's success throughout the pandemic when this is possible and also asked if there is recovery funding to support the quality of learning and mental health?</i> AS hinted that the Performing Arts department are putting plans in place for after 21st June. Regarding recovery plans, there are funding constraints to spend the ring-fenced £60,000 by the end of the academic year, but AS wants to do this meaningfully. Foundation Governor support has been invaluable and this includes counselling.</p> <p><i>JL asked how staff are feeling about another year of centre assessed grades?</i> AS stated that each course will be subject to moderation three times and this will be completed in May ahead of the June external moderation. AS is mindful of trying to keep staff workload manageable.</p>	
7	Governors moved to Part 2 minutes	

8	<p>Site Development Committee</p> <p><i>Governors moved to Part 2 minutes</i></p>	
9	<p>Operations Committee</p> <p>MY reported that SC will be circulating a draft Budget for 2021-22 soon for comment along with a Q&A session date before the Easter holidays, so amendments can be made ahead of the upcoming Operations Committee meeting. The Schools Financial Values Standard (SFVS) return has been granted an extension to 28th May, so this will come to the April FGB for Governor approval.</p> <p>Recommendations from the Health & Safety Audit are being addressed.</p> <p>Remedial action has been taken following the fire at the Elmhirst changing rooms.</p> <p>Thanks were once again given to the Foundation Governors for their financial support.</p> <p><i>Governors moved to Part 2 minutes.</i></p>	
10	<p>Standards Committee</p> <p>KS reported that the last Standards Committee meeting had been a celebration of the work of staff and SLT, particularly for SEND, Children in Care (CiC), vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils.</p> <p>It is reassuring that CPD has continued, in a new way, during lock-down for staff.</p> <p>HB highlighted that the school contribution over the last 12 months has been positively noted and celebrated in Totnes Town Hub meetings.</p>	
11	<p>Governor Training, Visits & Reports</p> <p>Visit reports have been circulated from KS (SEND) and LH (Performing Arts).</p>	
12	<p>Consider an external review of Governance</p> <p>JL suggested that in the light of AO's resignation, this would be a good opportunity for an external review of Governance. YE shared information on the service that Babcock offer and SC confirmed that the current Governor budget underspend will cover the cost of this (£621+VAT).</p> <p>HB was clear that she is confident in governance at KEVICC but that there can be a positive value in engaging in this process for understanding potential areas of improvement.</p> <p>WO stressed that the result of an external review must give clear recommendations for improvement to make it worthwhile.</p> <p>Governors unanimously agreed to move forward with this process – YE to arrange for the Summer Term.</p>	YE
13	<p>Agree Governor meeting dates for 2021-22</p> <p>Draft meeting dates were discussed.</p> <p><i>KS proposed them, HB seconded and Governors voted unanimously to approve them.</i></p>	

14	<p>Safeguarding JL viewed the SCR in January and confirmed that this is a well-maintained record. JL has completed his Level 3 Safeguarding training. GH is actively engaging with Kirsty Matthews and the Safeguarding Team. Nothing new to report.</p>	
15	<p>Policies for approval this meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEND Information Report (<i>to be rec. by Standards Ctte</i>) – Ratified • SEND Policy (<i>to be rec. by Standards Ctte</i>) – Ratified • Finance Policy (<i>to be rec. by Operations Ctte</i>) – Ratified • Privacy Notices (Staff & Pupils) – Ratified • (Supporting pupils at school with) Medical Conditions Policy – Ratified • Managing Unreasonable Behaviour Policy – Ratified • Virtual Meeting Attendance Protocol for Governors – Ratified • COVID Safeguarding Policy addendum – Ratified <p>YE to update and save all ratified policies.</p>	<p>HB LD JL AO GH</p> <p>YE</p>
16	<p>Policies to be reviewed at July FGB meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & Safety Policy (<i>to be rec. by Operations Ctte</i>) • Staff Code of Conduct • Staff Redundancy Policy • Volunteers Policy 	<p>LD WO JR</p>
17	<p>Meeting closed at 7.55pm. The date of next FGB meeting is 27th April 2021 at 5.45pm for BUDGET APPROVAL</p>	

Signed.....

Date:.....

Jim Lodge, Chair of Governors