



## Yewstock School

### Full Governing Board Meeting

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2021

**Meeting started at 5.02pm**

Clive Padgett, Mandy Morgan, Pete Lagden, Peter Bush, Sue Lauterwasser, Phil Ryall, Lucy Ross, Mark Hughes, Seonaid Walton, Linda Lee-Caride

**Also present – N/A**

#### **Clerk**

Vanessa Burton

#### **Apologies**

Jeanette Rogers

PL introduced two new Board Members. Seonaid Walton and Linda Lee-Caride who were both successful in their applications to become Parent Governors following the advertisement of two vacancies before the end of term. PL thanked them both for stepping up to support the school.

#### **Election of Board and Committee Chair and Vice Chairs**

The following was decided.

- Chair – Pete Lagden (Proposed by LR & Seconded by MM)
- Vice Chair – Peter Bush (Proposed by PL & Seconded by MM)
- Chair of Curriculum Committee – Mark Hughes
- Chair of Finance, Personnel & Environment Committee – Peter Bush
- Safeguarding Governor – Phil Ryall

PL's Term of Office is due to expire in October but he intends to renew his application as appointed Local Authority Governor.

#### **Declaration of Business Interests**

None

#### **Review Terms of Reference**

PL stated that there hadn't been any changes to the ToR. He confirmed that everyone had had a chance to review them and asked if there were any comments.

**The FGB Terms of Reference were agreed by the Board and signed by PL.**

#### **Review FGB Standing Orders**

**Agreed**

### **Appoint Governors for Headteacher's Performance Management**

The School's improvement Partner Lyn Gadreau will form part of the panel and can assist Governors with setting appropriate targets

#### **Governors appointed were:**

- **Pete Lagden**
- **Lucy Ross**
- **Mark Hughes**

### **Minutes of the last meeting**

No outstanding actions

**Agreed as a true copy and signed off accordingly by the Chair.**

### **Review Monitoring Planner**

The Monitoring planner and Subject Lead Monitoring List were discussed by the board with the following appointments being agreed:

Link Governors for Subject Leads;

- PR to take on Attachment and ASC
- LR to take on Early Years
- LC to take on English and Reading Champions
- MM to take on Humanities
- SW to take on Maths

Monitoring roles were agreed and the Monitoring planner will be updated and sent out by VB.

### **Headteacher's Report to Governors**

CP said that it felt great to come back to the new school term with a sense of normality, with classes no longer in bubbles and the school hall back in use. It has however been quite challenging with high levels of staff and pupil sickness. As a result, cover has been challenging. CP advised the board that if the situation deteriorated further he may have to close class bubbles.

Pupil numbers – There are currently 159 pupils on roll, and there has been plenty of interest and a number of parent visits have been conducted.

Covid Risk Assessment – CP confirmed that all members had reviewed the document. He went on to explain that he had been mindful of managing transitions and keeping an eye on local rates of transmission. If required, the school can operate under previous measures such as Bubble working and online learning. Class teams know what this looks like now and would be able to revert quickly if required. The Covid Risk Assessment will be updated accordingly following any changes to the current situation.

- Racial Incidents – None

- Bullying incidents – None. CP went on to say that he was really pleased how well the pupils had settled back into school and are coping well with transitions around school and seeing different subject teachers.
- Complaints – CP advised the board that there was a complaint from a member of the public in February concerning social media posts. CP will update when the situation is resolved.
- Staff update – The school has appointed two new TA's leaving two remaining vacancies to be filled. Interviews for a Maternity cover vacancy will also take place this week. CP said that the Senior TAs and Dawn Green have done an excellent job managing cover which has been very challenging.
- Staff Training Days – There are 5 training days this academic year. CP gave the dates and details of the planned training. He went on to say that Governors were welcome to attend the TADSS Conference on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2022.
- Curriculum Development – CP informed the board that Monitoring of subject leaders is a big focus this year.
- Assessment – CP explained the current assessment system that has been used for the last 2 years is no longer meeting the school's needs. It has therefore been replaced with a new system called Evidence for Learning (EfL). This should better suit the curriculum focus and enable progress to be better recorded. Kevin Viney is taking the lead on this approach and work is currently being undertaken to transfer data from the old system to the new one.
- Interventions – CP informed the board that Dawn Green is re-launching the Learning Resource Centre (LRC). He went on to explain that pupils who require a little extra support on a one to one basis are referred for interventions that take place in the LRC. Interventions include those for Maths and English, Rebound Therapy, Occupational Therapy, SALT, Music therapy and Drawing and Talking Therapy. CP went on to explain the referral process for these interventions and added that they are currently funded with catch up funding from central government and from Pupil Premium funding. Dawn Green keeps very good records. Interventions were put on hold due to Bubble working through the pandemic but they can resume now that restrictions have been lifted.
- Alternative Provision – CP explained that he was looking to reduce the use of alternative provision, however it was noted this remains a very useful option in preventing exclusions. If an alternative provision place is required, it must however come with a clear plan of how and when the pupil will resume learning at school.
- School Development Plan – CP explained that at the end of last year he was advised by Deidre Fitzpatrick to hold off on finalising priorities for the SDP until September, whereby there would be a much clearer picture of the situation relating to Covid. CP briefed the priorities that have now been agreed as follows;

1. Improve Mental Health & Wellbeing
2. Sensory Support
3. Assessment
4. Enhance Communication
5. Enhance the Yewstock Curriculum

- GDPR – There are no data breaches to report. Learning walks with Governor support will be planned for later on in the year.
- Premises – CP informed the board that it had been a very busy summer break for the Site team with various projects taking place. CP said a huge thanks needed to be expressed to Richard Hunt, Lucy Spooner and Bryan Trim for all of their hard work over the summer ensuring that this work was completed before the start of the new term. CP went on to say that a future project would be to have solar panels installed on the roof, and the door frames up at the college would need to be replaced.
- Safeguarding – CP gave an overview and reminded the board who all the DSL's were.

## **Policies**

Governing Body Delegation of Financial Power

Whistleblowing

School Financial Efficiency

Dorset Contract Procedure Rules

FGB Standing Orders

**All above were Adopted.**

## **AOB**

CP asked Governors to consider “What difference have we made to our children at Yewstock School by our decision and challenge at this meeting?”

PB – Said he had been impressed how the Board tackled decisions in a very calm, considered and unified way.

SW – Said it was lovely to hear how challenging pupils were discussed in a positive way. LR agreed with this.

LR – said that she was really happy things had returned to normal and was pleased that the pupils had come back to enjoy a new playground and being able to once again eat lunch in the hall with their friends.

MM – said that being the staff governor made it quite difficult to challenge as you run the risk of upsetting people. That said CP is very transparent, and she urged the rest of the board not to be afraid to challenge

PL - said if you don't come from an educational / teaching background then it can be hard to challenge academically, but you should ensure you challenge where you maybe don't fully understand a subject being briefed, or require additional information to satisfy your understanding. He further stated knowledge improves with training and experience and that the Governing Board is fortunate to have personnel with a breadth of knowledge and skills, so all Governors should never be concerned with asking any question. PL further commented that presentation and first impressions, in his mind, is crucial as to how the School is initially perceived and believes the school is currently looking really great as a result of the continued building and renovation projects being run. He went on to say that a key driver for him to provide a safe, welcoming and happy environment where pupils at Yewstock can develop and have lots of fun.

CP – Said he welcomes any questions or challenges and encourages this from the Governing Body and should he not have an answer to any question, he will endeavour to find the answer an update at the Governing Body at the earliest opportunity.

**Meeting closed at 19.15pm**

**After Meeting Note:** CP showed Governors around the site, specifically at the recent improvements made over the summer break, which all have had an instant positive impact on students and staff alike. The Chair thanked CP on behalf of the Governors.

Signed as a true copy..... Date.....