



Yewstock School

Full Governing Board Meeting

Monday 26th of September 2022

Meeting started at 4.55pm

Clive Padgett, Peter Bush, Phil Ryall, Mark Hughes, Sue Lauterwasser, Linda Caride, & Pete Lagden, Seonaid Walton, Mandy Morgan & Jeanette Rogers

Also present – Chris Chadwick

Clerk

Vanessa Burton

Apologies

Lucy Ross

PL welcomed all to the first FGB Meeting of the new academic year.

Election of Board Chair & Vice Chair

PL said that as we were entering into Ofsted inspection timescales, he advised the Board maintained some continuity whilst considering the positions of Chair and Vice Chair. Once the inspection had taken place, changes to the Chair and Vice Chairs for all forums could be made.

It was agreed that the position of Chair and Vice Chair would remain the same.

Chair – Pete Lagden

Vice Chair – Peter Bush

Declaration of Business Interests

All Governors were issued with their register of interests forms and would sign at the end of the meeting but none were declared.

Review of FGB Terms of Reference

PL confirmed that all had read the copy that had been sent out. He went on to say that there were no changes to the current terms and as Chair he was content to recommend they be endorsed for him to sign them off.

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

Review FGB Standing Orders

PL explained what these were to new Governors and informed them that they were a statutory document that Governing Boards must have and follow. He confirmed that everyone had had a chance to read through them and asked if there were any comments. PL went on to say that as there were no changes he was happy to recommend its adoption.

The board agreed.

Appointment of Governors for the Headteacher's Performance Management review

It was agreed that the same panel of Governors would sit on the review panel this year. All had had training. The panel was made up of the following;

Pete Lagden, Lucy Ross (to be confirmed) Mark Hughes. Phil Ryall will stand in as a reserve.

Minutes of the last Meeting

PL confirmed that everyone had read the minutes and that there were no outstanding actions.

Agreed as a true copy and signed off

Discuss and agree Priorities for the Academic Year – SDP & SEF

The board scrutinised their copies of both the SDP and SEF and CP explained that they are working documents that are constantly evolving.

SEF – CP made the following points:

- It was useful to have an overview of the school and the different needs of pupils
- Excellent progress has been made since the last inspection, in both Phonics in KS3 and Communication
- It is challenging to keep the SEF limited to 10 pages (previously it had been 36 pages)
- There is good evidence to support quality of education and behaviour.
- The SEF is constantly evaluated and should ideally be updated every half term.
- Ofsted would look at the SEF and website information some weeks before a planned visit so must be kept current.

SDP

- There are 5 key priority areas.
- English and Communication are a real focus for development
- The curriculum can never be completed as it is always evolving to meet the needs of all pupils.
- The complexity of pupils at Yewstock continues to be more diverse, so it is essential the curriculum stretches everyone.
- Claire Donohoe will present a Curriculum update at the next Curriculum committee meeting.
- Subject Leaders must take responsibility for driving progress in their designated subjects.
- Maths teaching remains a key focus alongside English. Caroline Latimer is the new Subject Lead for Maths and gets a TLR for taking it on.
- There is a focus on joining the Mastering Number programme and ensure that there are adequate Maths resources.

- Jules Daulby is the lead for Communication and Mandy Marks will lead English but both will work very well together.
- Priority 4 focuses on Lifting & Handling (MOVE) which is a need for a small number of pupils at Yewstock. Jenni Pike leads on this and she is extremely knowledgeable and competent. CP wants to ensure that these pupils receive a gold standard service around this with a view of achieving a quality mark in the future.
- Attachment – the focus is about making the very most out of the new attachment base and to further spread knowledge and skills across the school. Steph Sanders (The sensory lead) will partner with Josh Tun Pe who leads attachment. He has already made a great start and has previously worked with Andi Loveridge (the school's OT), incorporating the BUSS Model.

Academisation

PL briefed that Governors really need to think about Academisation this year in line with current Government plans. He went on to say that there remains a push for all schools to become academies or to join MATs. PL went on to say he and CP had met with "Fritz" and John White who visited from a local academy (Delta) to brief on how they had established and grown their MAT.

CP gave the board some background and said that Yewstock's options going forward could include a SEN focussed academy with non-aligned Primary schools included. This was proposed by Vic Virma. CP said he envisioned it being similar to the Delta trust as he liked their ethos. However, all options need to be fully explored and CP would very much like to be in the driving seat to ensure any decision taken in the future has Yewstock's best interests at the core of it. CP went on to explain that the current period is about information gathering and that the topic of Academisation would remain an ongoing agenda item.

PL said that at some point there would cease to be any maintained schools and that Yewstock must have control over its own destiny. He went on to say that Yewstock is a relatively big school with a budget to match and this makes the school very attractive to other Academy trusts. PL explained how the finances in an academy worked and how they differed to maintained schools. CP said that any potential partner would need to have a very clear understanding of SEN to prevent things such as challenging our high staff to pupil ratios.

PL explained how devolved capital would be affected in the event of becoming an academy and how the funding would work. He went on to outline the support we currently enjoy from the local authority such as assistance in building works and maintenance. PL suggested that after each consultation regarding this matter, a report be produced so that Governors can be fully appraised. Discussion took place and CP confirmed that there are stand alone academies but this is no longer allowed so wouldn't be an option the Board would need to consider. PL explained how the process of becoming an academy starts and went on to say ultimately, it will be inevitable COA for all Schools. CP also said that the LA had been very supportive as they have understood that if investment in SEN schools is not made then it will inevitably it will cost more down the line, in funding of out of county placements. ***MH asked what the legal status was with regards to land maintained schools sit on?*** PL said that it would all get transferred over to the academy. PL went on to say that once a school has become an academy it is only allowed a single bank account and would also need its own solicitor whilst going through the transition / process.

Further discussion took place about starting a MAT and PL said that it is in our interest to have a say in what happens and that things must be considered in order to rule them out. ***MM asked if a TADSS***

Academy would be an option? CP said the smallest academy is only allowed a minimum of 10 schools and as there are only 5 TADSS schools, this would mean it would need to be made up with the inclusion of a further 5 schools. The suggested minimum pupil numbers would be 2,500 but ideally it would be 3,000 plus. CP went on to say that he would be meeting with Vik Virma at the upcoming Heads meeting and would feedback any information.

Governor Development Plan

CP informed the board that he would share updates from last year and agree priorities at the next meeting.

Review Monitoring Planner

Copies of these were handed out and PL asked if everyone was happy with what had been allocated. He went on to urge Governors to stick to the timeline and said that monitoring reports are very good evidence for Ofsted. CP added that it is especially useful in support of Curriculum development.

VB to email updated Subject Monitoring planner out to all Governors

Head teacher's Report to Governors

- At the time the report was written there were 165 pupils on roll but 1 has since left.
- The budget is on track in terms of pupils but some high funded pupils will be due to leave.
- Attendance is at 89% from Easter to the end of the Summer term. CP said this was good but below pre Covid rates. Since the start of this term the rate has gone up to 94%. This needs to be maintained which will be aided by the schools well developed attendance procedures. CP went on to explain that an attendance meeting is held every 2 weeks and the Attendance policy has been updated.
- Safeguarding – CC has done some great work around this particularly looking at My Concern to ensure it is being used effectively and to show the follow up measures that have been recorded. Staff have also received training around this. CP thanked CC for all of her hard work, especially over the summer holiday, ensuring all would be in place for September.
- Behaviour – CP directed the board to the attached Behaviour report which illustrates the level of depth and analysis. Emily Briggs has returned from Maternity leave and is supporting on behaviour across the school.
- Wellbeing – The Wellbeing award has been achieved which is great as it was a SDP Priority. Josh Tun Pe has taken over Wellbeing from Kat Jory who has now left.
- No Racial Incidents
- No Bullying Incidents
- No complaints
- Staff training days – CP advised Governors to see the staff meeting schedule attached to the back of his report. CP concluded his Heads Report.

Policies

Finance, Personnel & Environment

FGB Standing Orders
Governing Body Delegation of Fin Powers
Whistleblowing
School Financial Efficiency
Dorset Contract Procedure Rules
Code of Conduct
Teacher Appraisal

Curriculum

Safeguarding & Child Protection
Communication with Parents & Carers

All Adopted

AOB

PL – confirmed with PB that an investigation last term had been completed. PB also confirmed that the case was now closed. PL thanked PB for his work on this.

PR – Thanked CP for his Friday round up reports and said they were very much appreciated.

CC – Thanked SW for coming into school for the Safeguarding audit which will be submitted tomorrow. CC will feedback any comments. Anyone who hasn't done the Safer Recruitment course was urged to do it. CC also asked Governors to sign up to Creative Education where there were lots of relevant training courses.

CP thanked all Governors for their continued support and Monitoring contributions.

Meeting closed at 6.32pm

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