



Yewstock School

Full Governing Board Meeting

Monday 25th of September 2023

Meeting started at 5.00pm

Clive Padgett, Pete Lagden, Peter Bush, Phil Ryall, Lucy Ross, & Mark Hughes

Also present – Chris Chadwick

Clerk

Vanessa Burton

Apologies

Linda Caride, Sue Lauterwasser, Mandy Morgan & Seonaid Walton

PL welcomed all to the first Full Governing Board meeting of the new academic year and said it was good to finish the last term on a high in terms of the schools successful Ofsted visit.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

PL said he was happy for anyone else to stand for Chair and wouldn't oppose. The board agreed that it would be better to keep the status quo and so proposed that PL stay on as Chair and PB stay on as Vice Chair. **This decision was unanimous.**

Declaration of Business Interests

None

All Governors signed their yearly Register of Business Interests forms.

GDPR Declaration

All Governors signed the annual GDPR Declaration

Governor Code of Conduct

All Governors confirmed that they had re read the Code of Conduct. (All have signed a copy at the start of their term) PL said that if anyone had any questions about it or anything else, please ask.

Terms of Reference

PL asked if anyone had any points they would like to raise or anything that they think should be removed or included? He went on to say that the current terms of reference have served the board well and that he saw no reason to change them. **All agreed.**

PL Signed and dated a copy of the Terms of Reference

Standing Orders

PL informed the board that our current Standing Orders are a Dorset County best practice template that have been adopted for Yewstock. He asked for confirmation that all Governors had read the Standing Orders. PL said there were no changes required. **The board unanimously agreed to adopt this policy.**

Appointment of Governors for the Headteacher's Performance Management

CP informed the board that his Performance Management meeting would take place on the morning of the 15th of November. Lynn Gadreau has been booked but 3 Governors would also be needed. It was agreed that PL, LR & PR would attend.

Minutes of the last Meeting

No outstanding actions or comments
Agreed as a true copy and signed off.

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

CP informed the board that there had been no changes to this over the Summer. All Governors endorsed the plans.

Academisation

CP informed the board that the deadline in which schools need to convert still remains 2030. CP went on to say that he has continued to look into this over this time period. AB (The Director for Inclusion at the SAST) will be visiting Yewstock and CP will feedback on this. ***PR said he attended the Collaborative High Needs Block Options Workshop on Friday. PL said if you are a school in special measures, you are automatically required to become an Academy or a Mutli Academy Trust (MAT). PL went on to say that he thinks our approach is the right one and that CP should continue to observe, make contacts and continue putting feelers out there. CP said that existing academy chains are under pressure to show their expansion plans.***

Discussion took place.

PL said that Yewstock is incredibly important to the Sturminster Newton Community and is one of the biggest employers. Any decision needs to be carefully thought through.

Governor Development Plan

PL said focus has been on students, staff and the environment but we need to make sure that what is laid out in the plan is implemented. PL went on to urge Governors to think about how this could be done. CP said that one of the actions on the SDP was attendance and as such he will be looking for a Governor who will monitor attendance as Attendance Champion. LR had previously done this and she was happy to continue.

Review Monitoring Planner

VB said this will need some further tweaks in light of Governor changes. VB will liaise with CP and CC over this and send out the updated planner as soon as it has been finalised.

Headteachers Update

Premises – CP informed the board that fortunately there wasn't any RAAC concrete in school but a more detailed survey would be carried out at some point in the year. All school lights were replaced with LED lights over the summer which have made a real difference to the school. Initial work had also been carried out on the phone system.

Pupils – There were 12 new pupils at the start of the term, they have settled really well.

Governors Subject Monitoring Cycle

Both monitoring planners were discussed and how they blend together.

VB to send both planners out

Policies

Finance, Personnel & Environment

FGB Standing Orders
Governing Body Delegation of Fin Powers
Whistleblowing
Teacher Professional Performance & Growth
CPD Policy

Curriculum

Safeguarding & Child Protection
Conflict of Interests (Exams)

All Adopted

AOB

CP – Ofsted are looking to do a research paper on CPD. Yewstock have signed up to take part and they will be due in on the 19th of October. Inspectors will come into meet with staff. CP went on to say that in total 40 Special Schools are taking part nationally. PL said that Yewstock does CPD very well.

CC – Reminded all Governors to confirm when they have read parts 1 & 2 of the KCSIE and watched the training recordings for Cyber security and Equality and Diversity.

CP – Thanked all Governors for doing the training and said it was very much appreciated.

Meeting closed at 6.00pm

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