



Minutes of the Governing Body Meeting
Wednesday 13th February 2013, 6.30pm, Conference Centre

Present

Richard Stephens – Chair	(LA Governor)	Roger Luxton	(LA Governor)
Mark Lewis	(Headteacher)	Eirwen Palmer	(Parent Governor)
Alan Browne	(Community Governor)	Rod Pullen	(Sponsor Governor)
Paul Cheadle	(Parent Governor)	Graham Tooze	(Parent Governor)
Robin Cherney,	(LA Governor)	Darren Lead	(Parent Governor)
Julia Cooke	(Staff Governor)		
Howard Crompton	(Community Governor)	Others	
Jonathan Ellam	(Parent Governor)	Julia Flanagan (Deputy Head)	
John Finnerty	(Parent Governor)	Lynn Hunt - Clerk to the Governing body	

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	Welcome, introductions, apologies and absences	
1.1	The Governing Body (GB) consented to the following absences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol Hayman (Staff Governor) – transportation problems • Murad Chowdhury (Community Governor) – family commitment 	
1.2	It was agreed that the CoG would write to Governors who have missed 50% of GB or committee meetings (with or without apologies offered) to remind them of their obligations as members of an effective Governing Body.	RSS
2.	Declarations of pecuniary interests or conflicts of interests There were no declarations or conflicts of interest.	
3.	Minutes of the last meeting – 18th December 2012 and matters arising The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record. Governors noted the updates in the actions table. In particular it was noted that the CoG, Head and Staff Governors will continue to seek a volunteer to become a Teacher Governor.	
4	To receive Headteacher’s report	
4.1	<u>Student numbers for September 2013</u> Governors were pleased to note the increase in numbers for year 7 in September and asked the Head to see if there were a core group of students from our local primary schools in order to identify a group of confirmed feeder schools.	MLS
4.2	<u>Sixth form Renaissance Group</u> Governors were pleased to note that things were progressing with the sixth form Renaissance Group. It has been well received by parents and students and NHC and Da Vinci Schools are working with and supporting the school, and TAS is supporting them, in a partnership of equals.	

<p>4.3</p> <p>4.4</p>	<p><u>Transitional Funding and Capital Funding</u> Governors asked about transitional funding for increased student numbers, and the Head said that he was in discussions with county and that he had received verbal confirmation about the dowry for the school in relation to the Maltings, School House etc and he continues to press County for firm commitments.</p> <p><u>Quality of Teaching and Student Outcomes</u> Governors had challenged the Head at the recent T&L Committee meeting regarding poor teaching in some subjects. Action is being taken with some teachers and middle leaders as per the Performance Management Policy.</p>	<p>MLS</p>
<p>5.</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.1.1</p> <p>5.2</p> <p>5.2.1</p> <p>5.3</p>	<p>To receive termly reports from the committee chairs</p> <p><u>Resources and Personnel Committee</u> The committee had met on Monday 11th February, a change of date that meant draft Minutes were unavailable. The main discussion points had been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial position shows an £80K carry forward • The school is still spending more than comes in • 3 year plan has a combination of restructure, potentially improved numbers in year 7 and sixth form but it is still very uncertain. • Building works in D block start after half term <p><u>Policies</u> The Fol Publication Scheme was approved at the December GB meeting subject to change of wording. The new amended version is now in place.</p> <p><u>Guidance and Support Committee</u> The draft minutes were noted, especially the positive impact that the Student Parliament is having on the school. Governors noted that the CoG had attended the last session of the Student Parliament, at the invitation of the students. The CoG commented that a notable feature was students working in groups across ages, and that Year 7s were playing full active roles.</p> <p><u>Child Protection Policy</u> Governors reviewed the draft Child Protection policy, based on HCC's model. Governors suggested that it needed to cover digital records and to have specific links to Safer Internet policies. Governors approved the policy, subject to these amendments being made and the G&S Committee checking them.</p> <p>Governors raised concern about the current CP Governor and prolonged absence. It agreed that a second governor be appointed, and volunteers who wish to undertake the training should contact the Clerk.</p> <p><u>Teaching and Learning Committee</u> The draft minutes were noted with the following highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions on Raise on Line dominated the meeting to understand and question the performance across the school. Governors thanked Julia Flanagan for the work that she had done on this. • Whole School Literacy Policy was presented by Helen Russell and that a debating society has been set up for fortnightly Friday lunchtimes. • Reversion to a 3 year KS3 curriculum will give a better foundation for students in year 10 and 11. • Continuing concern over maths and assessment processes and 	<p>EPR</p> <p>ALL</p>

<p>5.4</p> <p>5.4.1</p>	<p>schemes of learning for year 10 students are being reviewed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school is committed to ensuring that every student makes at least 3 levels of progress regardless of their starting level. <p><u>Planning and Implementation Committee</u></p> <p>The draft minutes were noted with the following highlights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee is proving extremely useful in allowing Committee Chairs to keep the balance between a lot of new business and the need to maintain the GB's routine agenda items. It is also useful for the Head in having a sounding board of experienced Governors. The GovernorMark application has been put on hold until the decision on whether the school will become a Sponsored Academy. However the process has been useful in improving the way the GB works. <p><u>To co-opt a NHC representative as a Community Governor</u></p> <p>The CoG proposed that as the school is working closely with NHC and the Da Vinci schools in the Renaissance Group, the GB should co-opt as a Community Governor Mr Keith Turner, Assistant Principal at NHC, whose responsibilities include A-Level Provision. Governors approved this suggestion.</p>	<p>RSS</p>
<p>6.0</p>	<p>Strategic Direction of the school</p> <p>The CoG wished the GB to discuss and vote on the following proposal:</p> <p>The Governing Body of the Thomas Alleyne School proposes that the school will become a Sponsored Academy on 1st September 2013, with North Herts College Foundation as the Sponsor.</p> <p>The CoG asked Govenors to note the crucial changes in wording and position:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The wording is now "will" become an Academy and not "intends to" There is now a date for the change NHCF is identified as the actual sponsor, not the preferred sponsor <p>NHC's principal and vice-principal had met with Governors on 6th February, and full notes had been circulated to all Governors. The very constructive meeting had clarified how the college and the DV schools will work with TAS as a Sponsored Academy to improve opportunities and outcomes for TAS students, and also for DV and NHC students. Highlights of the discussion were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KS3 and 4 learning opportunities for students STEM opportunities Children's university Staff Development training opportunities Embedding and sustaining the Renaissance Group consortium for post 16 <p>The Head said that the school is already seeing many practical advantages working with the college, such as the brochure for the Renaissance Group and the creation of the new TAS website. The college has invested resources in the school, and whilst the resources may be small for the college, they are far beyond anything that the TAS budget and structures could deliver.</p> <p>A discussion ensued on the meeting notes and the effects this would have on the</p>	

school in terms of curriculum and teaching and learning for the students. Governors also discussed how becoming a sponsored academy would affect the current governing body and what changes would need to be made in the future.

Governors were pleased with the opportunities that becoming a sponsored academy would bring to the school and the benefits to staff in terms of training and development. Concerns were expressed around Governance under an Academy, but the CoG asked the meeting to focus on the benefits for students, and said that he was firmly in support of the proposal. He asked Governors to agree the proposal, so that the school community can engage in consultation on becoming an Academy with a named sponsor and clear deadline.

Governors agreed unanimously the proposal:

The Governing Body of the Thomas Alleyne School proposes that the school will become a Sponsored Academy on 1st September 2013, with North Herts College Foundation as the Sponsor.

The consultation process was agreed:

- Week beginning Monday, 4th March – letter home to parents
- Tues-Thurs 12th-14th March – student assemblies
- Friday, 15th March, extraordinary Student Parliament Meeting
- Monday, 18th March, staff consultation 15:30-17:00,
- Monday, 18th March, parent/community consultation 18:30-20:00.

Outcomes from the consultations will be reported back to the Governing Body on 25th March where Governors will be asked to confirm the proposal as a decision.

7.0

Any other business

There being no AOB, part one of the meeting concluded at 8.20 p.m.
Staff Governors and the Clerk left the meeting.

8.0

Part 2 – To approve the proposed restructure

The Governing Body considered the amended restructure diagram and information presented by the Head.

Governors noted that the new structure had been revised as a result of suggestions made by staff during the consultation process. Governors felt that the suggestions had improved the structure, especially in resourcing pastoral care to focus on student progress and outcomes.

Governors also noted that all representations made by staff had been considered by the Resources and Personnel Committee, and that the committee recommended adoption of the new revised structure.

Governors agreed unanimously to adopt the new revised structure.