

**MINUTES OF THE FULL GOVERNING BODY
MONDAY, 4TH APRIL 2011**

Present:	David Arnold (Chairman)	Jenny Ayres
	Steve Tucker	Matthew Bindon
	Rob Johnstone	Jeremy Fothergill
	Nick Grodhunce	Anita Johnson
	Kathryn Dunning	Liz Matthews
	Roger Pope	Sarah Anderson
	In attendance:	Lis Collard

Prior to the meeting the Clerk gave Governors the opportunity to update their Register of Business Interests. She advised that declarations must include the interests of related persons where such interests could be used to exert influence over a governor or member of staff.

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last formal meeting held on 3rd February 2011 were confirmed and signed as a true and correct record.

There were no additional matters arising.

3. Governors Business

3.1. Points of Interest from Committee Meetings:

The minutes of Committee meetings were noted and the following additional points noted:

Community

Jenny confirmed the contents of minutes from the last Committee meeting which had been circulated to all Governors. She drew attention to three main discussion areas from that meeting:

- New proposals for the pastoral system from September
- Curriculum option choices across all key stages
- Maths team review

She confirmed that she and Nick Grodhunce had achieved Level 3 accreditation in Safeguarding and that this would be an agenda item on the next Committee meeting.

Strategy & Quality Committee

Jeremy confirmed the content of minutes from the last Committee meeting which had been circulated to all Governors and which had concentrated its attention on finalising the Academy budget for submission to the YPLA. No progress has yet been made on completing a risk register.

The Committee recommended to the Full Governing Body the appointment of the following officers:

Accounting Officer	Roger Pope
Principal Finance Officer	Stuart White
Responsible Officer	Nick Grodhunce

These appointments were approved by Governors:

Proposed:	David Arnold	
Seconded:	Jeremy Fothergill	All in favour

3.2. To report on Governor Training Opportunities

Jenny Ayres confirmed that she and Nick Grodhunce had attended the advanced safeguarding course at Ivybridge in February.

Steve Tucker is attending a Health & Safety course in May.

New Governors courses:

Thursday 5th May: Buckfast Abbey, Buckfast: Sarah Anderson & Anita Johnson

Tuesday 17th May: Devon Hotel, Exeter: Matt Bindon

Saturday 25th June at Great Moor House, Exeter: Kathryn Dunning

The Clerk reminded Governors the College would be charged for non-attendance of Governors on previously booked courses if not cancelled 5 days prior to the event

4. To consider the Principal's Report to Governors

The contents of the Principal's Report to Governors were noted and the following additional points raised:

Learning Section

- The possibility of using Sixth Formers to cascade their use of FROG to younger students.
- A common 'risk' in the department reports is perceived as lack of time and conflicting demands on it. Jeremy suggested that human resources should form part of the discussions for further investment when considering future capital projects. Although it was recognised that there has been considerable uncertainty over future budgets, David suggested that the College should look at recruiting additional staff in the core critical subjects to prevent the danger of staff shortages in key areas later in the year.
- The Principal confirmed that he is aware of the difficulties surrounding rooming Photography lessons and that options to refurbish one of the art rooms are currently being explored.
- The Principal confirmed that Jim Barnicott has secured a new post as SENCO at Tavistock and that Karen Sewell has been appointed Head of Learning Support from September.
- Jenny reported that she had attended the excellent Box Clever Romeo & Juliet event at the College.
- Rob commented that it was good to see continuing links with our ex-Trust partners.

Community Section

- Rob drew attention to the considerable reduction in fixed term exclusions since the last report. The Principal felt that this could be due to a combination of initiatives:
 - A more active approach to Leadership Team 'duty' which now means whichever member of the Leadership Team who is on duty for each period visits every Year 10 and Year 11 class. He paid tribute to the members of the Leadership Team who are effectively giving up 5 free periods during the week to achieve this.
 - A more proactive approach to pastoral support through the work of the Learning Co-ordinators.
 - More appropriate curriculum pathways suited to the individual needs of students.

Strategy & Quality Section

- Governors were pleased to hear about the extremely successful Speed Enforcement Day run by multi-agency emergency services where students had the opportunity to witness hard-hitting videos and listen to first hand accounts of the unhappiness and devastation caused by speeding motorists and dangerous driving.
- Thanks again to Steve Tucker for his assistance in completing the area of parking used by Sixth Formers and which, along with the yellow lines, has helped considerably in reducing the congestion around the car park entrance and exits.
- The Clerk confirmed that the papers to dissolve the Kingsbridge Learning Trust have now been submitted to Companies House.

- The Principal confirmed that negotiations are now underway for the lease of an industrial unit in Kingsbridge on a short term lease, probably two years. Although only 7/8 KS4 students have currently signed up for the construction course, it is hoped to recruit Sixth Formers in the future which will attract funding and help to finance the course. There may also be other opportunities to market short accredited courses to adult learners and attract finance.
- David Arnold asked that thanks be passed to Stuart White for his and his team's work in getting the Academy up and running.
- Governors also asked that their congratulations be passed onto all the College sporting teams for their outstanding achievements across a huge variety of events. The Principal updated Governors on the success at the recent Biathlon National Finals at Crystal Palace where the Year 9 Boys and Girls' teams both came third, the Year 10 team came 4th and Louis Goutier achieved individual 7th place overall.

5. To confirm the Governors' Decision Planner

The Clerk drew attention to the Decision Planner which highlighted the levels to which the Governing Body could legally delegate its responsibilities and the decision level identified against each key function. She drew particular attention to the dismissal of staff on fixed-term contracts and Governors agreed with the principle that this could be delegated to the Principal.

Whilst recognising that this may require updating in the future, the Decision Planner as outlined was proposed for adoption by Governors:

Proposed:	Jenny Ayres	
Seconded:	Steve Tucker	All in favour

6. To update on the proposals to develop the playing fields off West Alvington Hill

The Principal paid tribute to the entrepreneurial spirit of Steve Tucker, Rob Johnstone and Nick Grodhunce in their efforts to push forward proposals to develop playing fields opposite the College. He explained the background to the scheme which had started with the purchase of fields by the LA back in the 1990s. In 2003 a high spec proposal to develop rugby and football pitches, along with a state-of-the-art pavilion, had proved too expensive and planning permission to develop the pitches has now lapsed. Steve and Rob have spent considerable time talking with contractors and utility companies to develop an affordable scheme to develop one part of the fields to create a full size Rugby pitch and training area at a cost of around £40,000. Steve has also persuaded two local councillors, Sir Simon Day and Julian Brazil, to allocate their capital funds (£25K each) to the project. Forms have been submitted for the funding and final confirmation of this is awaited. Nick Grodhunce is in discussion with Malcolm Elliott to push forward on planning requirements for the application and Alex Lammie is being commissioned to complete the application on the College's behalf. His remit will be determined by the outcome of discussions with Malcolm. All agreed that it is important to keep the momentum of the project going in order to maximise the best possible time to develop the project during the summer months.

Once the fields have been developed, it is hoped to lease Belle Hill to Kingsbridge & Kellaton Football Club who have also agreed to use in-house expertise to renovate the pavilion themselves. This way the land is retained by the College and available for use in the future as required.

7. To update Governors on Teaching Schools

The Principal confirmed that the application round has now opened and closes on 29th April. Approximately 50/100 schools are expected to be accredited in the first round with totals of around 500 nationally in due course. He explained that the College is at a crossroads: it can either decide to focus on raising standards in this College and maintaining the status quo in terms of its operation or it can take a more strategic decision to take a leadership role in the

