

**MINUTES OF THE FULL GOVERNING BODY
MONDAY, 14TH DECEMBER 2009**

Present:	David Arnold (Chairman)	Jenny Ayres
	Steve Tucker	Jill Hannam
	Janet Turner	Linda Evans
	Rob Johnstone	Lesley Whitley
	Jeremy Fothergill	Ruth Commander
	Nick Grodhunce	Robin Tatam
	Paul Cox	Roger Pope

The Chairman welcomed Lesley Whitley, newly appointed Staff Governor and Head of Resources at the College, to the Governing Body. David Arnold presented Lis with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the Governors to congratulate her on her Silver Award at the National Headteacher's PA of the Year Awards and to thank her for her work for the Governing Body.

1. Apologies for Absence

Liza Moore	Chris Harris
Jim Dryburgh	Sandra Gayer

2/3. Election of Chairman And Vice Chairman of Governing Body and of Individual Committees

The Clerk reported that she had received 13 completed nomination papers and one emailed endorsement and that all those nominated had been duly elected to serve for the next 12 months in accordance with agreed procedures as follows:

Chairman of Governing Body:	David Arnold
Vice Chairman of Governing Body	Linda Evans

Learning Committee:

Chairman:	Linda Evans
Vice Chairman:	Rob Johnstone

Community Committee:

Chairman:	Jenny Ayres
Vice Chairman:	Nick Grodhunce

Strategy & Quality Committee:

Chairman:	Jeremy Fothergill
Vice Chairman:	Steve Tucker

4. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed and signed as a true and correct record. There were no additional matters arising.

5. Governors Business

5.1. Points of Interest from Committee Meetings:

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

Strategy & Quality Committee

- Jeremy reported that the resignation of Geoff Addy, Bursar, has been received and that the College is now advertising for a College Business Manager to fulfil this role.

- Cashless catering and Parentpay have now been introduced. There have been some teething problems, in particular with allowing parents to see reducing balances on their child's dinner money account, but it is hoped that this has now been resolved.
- Steelwork has been erected for the new English & Literacy Centre and the project is currently on budget and on time for its projected completion in September 2010.
- Although the College's financial position is currently secure, the Committee is well aware that changes in the political climate could cause problems in the future.

Learning

- Linda advised that the Committee had looked at the curriculum proposals due to be discussed by all Governors later in this meeting.
- The continued excellent examination results had been discussed along with plans to continue to raise standards in English and Maths.
- The Committee had enjoyed an informative presentation by Dylan Fitzpatrick, Head of Opening Minds and the results of a dissertation being undertaken by a student from Exeter University on its effectiveness were awaited with interest. She advised Governors of discussions between the RSA and the College to become a 'hub school' to promote and quality assure the consistent use of Opening Minds in the South West.

Community

- Jenny reported that the Community Committee had also looked at the excellent Summer examination results.
- She also confirmed that following consultation and discussion, the Committee had ratified the decision for the phased introduction of new uniform from September 2010.
- The Committee had also reviewed the work of the PSHE department through the Department Review.
- Discussions on car parking had resulted in Highways trialling cones along the entrance to Balkwill Road and across entrance and exit of the College car park. The next step is consultation plans on the proposed yellow lining of this area but as yet no information has been received from Highways. The Principal will chase this.
- The Principal also advised Governors that the architect is costing two potential areas of parking: (1) the site of temporary English huts and (2) the old grass tennis courts. He thought that costs will probably be prohibitive because of the need to install motorway style crash barriers.

5.2. To confirm the decisions of the Pay Committee

David Arnold confirmed that the Pay Committee had met and had followed procedures in accordance with the Pay Policy. He also confirmed that the Principal's Pay Committee had met with the new School Improvement Partner and at a separate meeting following this had subsequently confirmed that the Principal had met and exceeded the targets set for 2008/9 . and that his salary has consequently been reviewed in line with national guidelines. In conjunction with the SIP, new targets had been set for 2009/10. Confidential minutes of both meetings are available from the Clerk to the Governors.

The decisions of the Pay Committee were RATIFIED as follows:

Proposed:	Janet Turner	
Seconded:	Linda Evans	All in favour

5.3. To confirm changes to the Governors' Register of Business Interests

Governors were given the opportunity to update the Register. No changes were recorded.

5.4. To report on Governor Training Opportunities

The Clerk thanked Governors who had signed up for the Local Learning Community sessions specifically designed for Ofsted training. Any Governors who still wished to attend should advise her quickly so that their names can be added to the list being collated by the KASP Business Manager.

6. 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 pleasing turnout to the Successtracker evenings
- Excellent achievement in sporting activities
- The disappointing interest in the proposed Alabama trip (probably due to its high cost)
- The request for Governors with 'celebrity' links to contact the Science department for help during Science Week 2010.

Community Section

- The Principal confirmed that equipment is now on order for the proposed radio station. This will initially be piloted via wire.
- The negative feedback to the pastoral pilot by the Year 7/8 Leader, possibly due to pressures of sickness and also the need for him to move from a more day-to-day to a strategic role.
- Although we have the best attendance rates in the County, Governors were still concerned at the below 80% attendance of some 3.5% of students. The Principal confirmed that increased efforts to tackle attendance have now resulted in a declining trend over the last two years.
- Proposals to link with Oaklands School. This is an 800 student 11-16 school in the heart of Tower Hamlets with a similar ethos, also designated outstanding in its last Ofsted. This link will enable our students to benefit from exposure to a multi-cultural city school; the first contact is planned for Challenge Week 2010 when students will spend half-a day there as part of a trip to London.
- Exclusions: the descriptors are generic and as recorded on CMIS.

Strategy & Quality Section

- The Principal updated Governors on the bid to Sport England. He confirmed that he was in ongoing discussions with Sport Optima and that he had been impressed by the amount of work the consultants are putting into the bid which is due to be submitted to Sport England this week. Getting the three Colleges to move together at the same pace is challenging. Plans for the funding include: KEVICC have problems with a financial shortfall for their ongoing plans to extend playing fields and replace their ATP and intend to use funding to support this ongoing project; Dartmouth wish to develop Coronation Park as a community water sports' facility and Kingsbridge for floodlighting on the ATP and a second 3G pitch with a rubber-crumbs all-weather surface. A formal decision is expected next March, although unofficially we may hear towards the end of January.
- Cashless catering: there have been some problems with parents accessing the reducing balance on their child's dinner money account, but these have now been resolved. There has also been some stress and tension in the Finance office during its introduction but the situation is now easing following the decision to be a little more relaxed in terms of allowing cash purchases to continue at till points. Throughput of students using cashless catering is much quicker, although as uptake of canteen facilities increases this may be less definable. Sixth Formers have been much more reluctant to participate in cashless catering and the Principal plans to talk to the Sixth Form Council about their concerns in the Spring Term. Several parents have asked for more details of their child's purchases and although the original intention had not been to provide this information, Governors may be asked to look at this again once the system has bedded down.

The Chairman thanked the Principal for his report and asked the Principal to pass on the Governors' thanks and congratulations to staff for all that they have achieved.

7. To formally confirm Term Dates 2010-11

The Principal advised that the ideal day for the start of the academic year falls on 31st August. However, under Teachers' National Pay and Conditions this date forms part of the previous academic year. Having consulted with staff, he had failed to reach agreement with unions to begin term on this date and there will therefore be no staggered start for students. Term will begin on 1st September with a non-pupil day, followed by all students in College for 2nd September.

The term dates were formally proposed for ratification:

Proposed: Steve Tucker
Seconded: Robin Tatam All in favour

8. To ratify Curriculum Proposals for September 2010

The Principal briefly outlined the background to the paper being presented to Governors and which had been discussed in more detail at the Learning Committee meetings during the Autumn term.

- He advised that in response to significant doubts from staff, the Leadership Team had decided not to pursue one year GCSEs as their introduction would affect the ability to provide a wide range of options at Sixth Form.
- Lesson length is planned for 100 minutes, but can be halved to 50 mins in some subjects where this is more appropriate. The rationale behind this is to achieve the objective of thinking about teaching and learning in a different and less didactic way,
- In view of the number of initiatives which already have been or are being introduced in September, the decision to shorten lunchtimes has been postponed for the time being. The rationale behind this had been to tighten up on behaviour at lunchtimes which deteriorates as the lunch hour progresses. The Principal has offered free lunches to staff in return for supervising one lunchtime per week and has also asked Sixth Formers to run lunchtime clubs in return for payment. Rob Johnstone suggested that payment should be on a per capita basis to encourage active participation. He also expressed concern that any future decision to reduce the lunchtime period could adversely affect the provision of successful lunchtime activities including Superstars.
- Half-year semesters: this will enable staff to meet fewer students at any one time.

These initiatives, along with changes in the pastoral and reporting systems, have been developed following extensive consultation with staff and students through College Councils, and following visits to many other schools,

Governors RESOLVED to ratify the proposed curriculum proposals for introduction from September 2010:

Proposed: Jenny Ayres
Seconded: Janet Turner All in favour

9. To ratify budget proposal for server utilisation

In the absence of Adrian Green, this item was deferred for initial discussions at the next meeting of the Strategy & Quality Committee.

10. To discuss the role of Governors in the light of the new Ofsted Framework

The Chairman tabled a paper looking at the effectiveness of our Governing Body in the light of the new Ofsted Framework. He asked all Governors to look carefully at both what was perceived as good and that which needs further development and to let him have feedback on these by the **beginning of January** (davidisobel@hotmail.com). It is important that as many Governors as possible respond in order to get as wide a view as possible as to ways in

which the Governors can achieve the maximum grade in an Ofsted assessment of its effectiveness. Governors should also indicate whether or not they would be interested in joining a small Committee to discuss areas for improvement and to draw up a plan for presentation to the next Committee meetings in the Spring Term. Consultation should also include stakeholders such as the PTFA., Leadership Team and middle managers either by canvassing their viewpoints or by representation on this committee.

Finally on behalf of the Governing Body, the Chairman passed on their best wishes for a restful break over the Christmas holidays to the Principal and all the staff of the College.