

**MINUTES OF THE FULL GOVERNING BODY  
TUESDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2008**

Present:           David Arnold (Chairman)           Jenny Ayres  
                      Liza Moore                           Steve Tucker  
                      Janet Turner                         Linda Evans  
                      Jim Romanos                         Chris Harris  
                      Jeremy Fothergill                 Sandra Gayer  
                      Nick Grodhunce                    Robin Tatam  
                      Paul Cox                             Roger Pope  
                      Ruth Commander

The Chairman welcomed Chris Harris to his first meeting of the Full Governing Body.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Jill Hannam, Michael Herring, Rob Johnstone

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

The Clerk reported that she had collated nomination papers, scrutinised by Janet Turner, 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:                         Michael Herring

*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 Principal reported that following the spate of recent burglaries the police had installed a dummy portacabin containing a laptop with a homing device. Its subsequent theft had led to the successful prosecution of the perpetrator.

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

*Community*

- Caretaking structure: The Community Committee had supported the increase to the current size of the Team and had noted problems with the management and morale which were now being addressed. Following the resignation of the Site Manager,



**5.3. To confirm suggested Committee Structure/Department Links**

These were agreed as tabled.

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

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

**5.5 To report on Governor Training Opportunities**

The Clerk circulated a paper outlining opportunities available to Governors and drew particular attention to the on-line NCSL Safer Recruitment training now open to all Governors and to the Child Protection Training being provided by the College for all its staff. Governors wishing to attend this should contact Sarah Evans.

**5.6. To confirm re-election of Community Governors**

The Clerk explained that as the terms of office for Janet Turner, David Arnold and Jenny Ayres expired before the second round of Committee meetings and prior to this meeting, an election by e-mail had been held and their reappointments confirmed. Governors RATIFIED the decision to reappoint them as Community Governors:

Proposed: Linda Evans

Seconded: Paul Cox

All those eligible to vote in favour

**6. To consider the Principal's Report**

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

**Learning Section**

- **Footprints:** This was a collaborative project between three Devon schools looking at sustainability and the carbon footprint through the media of Art, Music and Drama and culminated in two performances at the Barbican Theatre.
- **Opening Minds:** Linda Evans queried how the success of this is to be evaluated. The Principal explained that he was meeting with Wendy Ohlson and Head of Year 7 to discuss this later this week but that he was proposing using our School Improvement Partner to undertake the assessment later in the Spring/beginning of Summer term in time to make any necessary changes before September. His role would be to talk with students, staff and assess consistency of practice. Anecdotal feedback is that Opening Minds is having a big impact on the social development of the students and there is a need to address how this is moved across the curriculum and sustained as students go into Year 8 and Year 9. There is also a need to ensure rigor in terms of curriculum content, assessment and monitoring in its delivery and impact on students' learning.
- **Poetry Live:** Nick Grodhunce passed on the appreciation of himself and other parents on the very successful day at Plymouth Poetry Live attended by Year 11 students.

**Community Section**

- **Jeremy Fothergill** queried the reasons behind the decision not to hold a Year 7 residential. The Principal explained that many of the objectives of this had already been achieved through the Opening Minds curriculum and that the College was now looking at replacing this with something later in the summer or when students move into Year 8.
- **Linda Evans** congratulated Vero Thomas and her team for the way in which the profile of Careers has escalated over the last few months. The current list of contacts is appended to these minutes and Governors are encouraged to add their names and any other contacts by e-mailing details to Lis who will ensure they are passed to the relevant members of staff. **Robin Tatam** also offered himself as a gateway for students looking for help in a specific area not covered by the list.

## Strategy & Quality Section

- The 'entry' policy mentioned in section 3.1 is not related to admissions but to the need to review examination entry policy, particularly at GCSE.

The Chairman thanked the Principal for his report which once again demonstrated the huge number of initiatives and activities taking place in the College over the last term and asked the Principal to pass on his thanks and congratulations to department staff for all that they have achieved.

### **7. To consider developments in Primary Schools relating to Trust and Federation**

The Principal advised Governors that at a meeting attended by some 60 governors in September and representing all but one of the ten feeder Primary Schools in Kingsbridge, he had outlined the Trust arrangements and the way in which the Trust had been formed to allow "eligible schools" to join.

As a direct result of this interest from Primaries, the Trust attracted interest from DCC who put in a bid to the DCSF for a project to fund the appointment of a Business Manager across Primaries. Kingsbridge and South Molton's projects were both successful and £50K funding has been provided over three years for this post. All Primaries are now recognising that there is an acute need to address issues such as falling rolls, declining budgets and school viability in order to survive and this project has forced them to look at how to restructure. The need to monitor this appointment has proved a catalyst for exploration of other options including Trust and Federation. The Principal had asked Primaries to let him know by December if any were expressing an interest to join our Trust, the results of which are that 5/6 Primaries are actively exploring this with their Governing Bodies, 2 others are looking at Federating, another to form their own Trust, and the remaining ones not committing to anything at this stage.

The Principal advised Governors that at the meeting of the Trust Board earlier this evening, the Trustees had considered at length this issue and felt that some, rather than all, joining might be somewhat divisive. The Trust Board members had actively welcomed the involvement of Primaries and felt that there were clear benefits in joining our Trust. However, the view was that it would be better to give them time and space to sort out structural issues such as Federation first and then to look at the implications of the schools joining our Trust once these had been resolved. As Primaries will have to go out to consultation in order to join our Trust, this will not in any case be a quick process and there will be plenty of time to look at the implications for our Trust Board and governor representation before this is formalised.

Chris Harris queried the transfer of land and assets should Primaries join our Trust and the Principal confirmed that these would be transferred to the Trust under Full Membership but that those whose land and assets were already held in a Trust, eg Church of England schools, would only be eligible for Associate Membership.

The Principal confirmed that external agencies are assisting the Primary Schools with their discussions and that a meeting is planned for 14<sup>th</sup> January at which representatives will talk about the options available and give appropriate guidance and help to them. Jeremy Fothergill and himself will be attending this meeting and Jeremy will be presenting information about the Kingsbridge Learning Trust on behalf of the College.

### **8. To discuss recommendations of the Sub Committee on the Appointment of a Community Governor to the Governing Body**

Linda Evans withdrew from the meeting whilst this item was under discussion.

Following Jim Romanos's indication that he wished to step down from the Governing Body, Jenny Ayres explained that she had led a sub-committee consisting of herself, Liza Moore,

Linda Evans and David Arnold to find his replacement. An advertisement had been placed in the Gazette and six people responded, one of which was Linda. Linda had therefore stepped down from the sub-committee. Jenny explained that Linda had applied as she was a parent governor who no longer had children at the College and she felt that she was no longer eligible to represent parents' views on the Governing Body. Of the remaining five candidates, four were parents of students at the College. The recommendation of the sub-committee was that Linda Evans's appointment as a Community Governor be confirmed and that the four eligible candidates be encouraged to stand in the subsequent parent election.

This recommendation was unanimously RATIFIED as follows:

Proposed: Janet Turner  
Seconded: Jeremy Fothergill All in favour

9. Although there is no official 'any other business', the Chairman concluded the meeting by drawing the attention of Governors to the following:
- His thanks to Roger and the staff for the continuing success of the College and for their hard work over the past year.
  - The outstanding recent College production of 'Oliver' which had sold out to four audiences. He again offered his congratulations to the Director of Arts and Head of Music and to all those involved.
  - His thanks to Jim Romanos, on behalf of all the Governing Body, for all his work on the Governing Body and with the College over his time as a Governor.