

Dorset Studio School

Minutes of the Governors meeting held on Thursday 2 May 2019, 4.00pm in the Dorset Studio School

Governors (GB)	*Kaye Chittenden; Andy Daw; *Mark Gibbens (Chair); *Avril Harrison; *Robert Lasseter; *Joanne Manley (Parent Governor); *Annetta Minard (Principal); *Luke Rake (Member); *Jim Tirrell (Member); *Martha Vigar
Other Attendees	*Vanessa Gifford (KMC Clerk); Chris Pedder (Deputy Principal, Finance & Corporate Services KMC)

* *Indicates actual presence at this meeting*

AGENDA ITEM		Challenge and Action
1.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>Representatives of Kingston Maurward College (KMC) and The Thomas Hardy School (THS) reaffirmed their standing declaration of interests in items relating to the financial / legal relationships between those sponsoring bodies and the Dorset Studio School (DSS).</p> <p>There were no further declarations of interest.</p>	
2.	<p>APOLOGIES</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Andy Daw and Chris Pedder.</p>	
3.	<p>MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2019</p> <p>The Governing Body (GB) APPROVED the minutes of 13 February 2019 as a true and accurate record and APPROVED them for website publication.</p>	
4.	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</p> <p>There were no matters arising NOTED.</p>	
5.	<p>PRINCIPALS REPORT</p> <p>Progress Review The Principal reported that progress was positive and the Academy Members had scrutinised the intervention in place to give quality assurance.</p> <p>Year 9: It was noted that the average grade for this year was just below 3, and with the the current Year 11 having not yet achieved a 4 this highlighted the change in ability of incoming students. The overall Progress 8 was -0.64 with 2 ½ years to progress.</p>	



	<p>Year 10: The Principal advised that this was a brighter cohort with 10% projected to achieve their English and maths already. It was also noted that the gender mix had now changed to a higher number of girls than boys enrolling. The Progress 8 was -0.18 below the national average with one year and one term left, so progress was looking promising.</p> <p>Year 11: The Principal advised that this was a weaker year group for English and maths with much work and intervention being undertaken, with attainment below national benchmarks. The Progress 8 score was slightly above the national benchmark and the Principal considered that if progress could continue to be line with national average, this would be a positive outcome.</p> <p>Attendance It was agreed that Attendance was solid and intervention had improved the situation but was ongoing.</p> <p>It was AGREED that the Principal KMC would be the Link Governor for Attendance/Behaviour to enforce expectations for progression to the College.</p> <p>Student Numbers It was NOTED that current numbers at the school were 187, and with the current applications for Years 7 and 8 would see over 300 students for 2019/20. The implications for this increase is significant, particularly in terms of curriculum development, teacher recruitment and accommodation.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO 28 FEBRUARY 2019</p> <p>In the absence of the Deputy Principal (Finance & Corporate Services KMC) the Management Accounts to 28 February 2019 were SCRUTINISED, noting that he had advised the Clerk that there were currently no risks.</p> <p>The Principal KMC advised that the Deputy Principal (Finance & Corporate Services KMC) would be retiring at the end of the financial year and the College was in the progress of recruiting. He added that he would be working with the Principal DSS to look at future structures. The Deputy Principal (Finance & Corporate Services KMC) was thanked for his work, and the Principal KMC agreed to pass this on.</p>	<p>LR/AM</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>FINANCIAL RETURN REQUIREMENTS FOR 2019</p> <p>The letter dated 15 March 2019 from the Chief Executive of the ESFA was NOTED, the Deputy Principal (Finance & Corporate Services KMC) having advised that the Budget forecast returns was in hand.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>DEVELOPMENT PLANNING</p>	



	<p>The Principal outlined her plans for the admission of Years 7 and 8 in September 2019, which included Curriculum analysis; Teaching Requirement; Staffing; Budget; and Concerns with the following points NOTED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The unique Mission Statement was shared highlighting the experiential learning experience across the whole campus. • It was noted that there were currently 130 applications for Years 7 and 8 to commence in September 2019, which would require 3 classes for year 7 and 2 for Year 8. • This would require additional staffing and the original costings for the bid had been completed for 1 class and there were now 5, so the calculations had been completely re-figured. • It was noted that the staffing budget for 2019/20 would be 76% and 78% the following year which was in line with national school benchmarks, and acceptable financially. • The Principal advised that the Assistant Principal responsible for Safeguarding was leaving and the responsibility was currently with the Vice-Principal, and continuity would be ensured. • The Principal advised that she had received 70 applicants, and carried out 31 interviews for 13 jobs. Appointments had been successful and the successful candidates were noted. The GB questioned that the appropriate checks had been carried out for those from overseas and the Principal noted they had. She considered that an experienced base of teachers had been appointed with additional experience of benefit to the school. • It was noted that a new Funding Agreement would be agreed with the DfE/ESFA. It was agreed that Avril Harrison would review with the Principal having been the Project Manager when the original document was agreed. • It was noted that the biggest issue with this large and rapid intake of students was accommodation. The Principal and the Principal KMC had been deliberating the issue and shared resources had been agreed whilst additional capital funding was explored. The Principal KMC advised that at the current time he could not assure an additional 5 classrooms, but would investigate classroom utilisation and timetabling further as he had thought that the original assumption was that 3 classrooms were required, but emphasised that any shared resources would only be for the short term. • The Principal KMC added that the rapid increase of younger students was a strategic challenge and a risk for the College as well. There could be a negative impact on the students at the College and a risk to the staffing body. He added there could also be a subtle risk if the addition of Years 7 and 8 did not work out as there would be a negative impact for both organisations. <p>These were significant challenges, however both Principals were in regular conversation and positive, innovative ideas were being explored and solutions found in the short term. The Principal KMC considered that the College itself would grow with demographics starting to pick up and it was not the College responsibility to foot any capital investment for the school as it did not have the funding. It was also emphasised that any long term plans would have to fit in with</p>	<p>AM/AH</p>
--	---	--------------



	<p>the College Masterplan. It was suggested that the College Estates Manager be included in any discussions to ensure there was good communication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An additional issue would be the increased movement of cars and the requirement for additional car parking. Planning for this would have to commence immediately with further discussions required to apply for capital funding on land belonging to the College. • It was agreed that the Principal should continue to inform the DfE and ESFA of the serious challenges and attempt to get a visit by an appropriate person. It was also agreed to invite the new Cabinet Member for Skills of the new Dorset Council to visit, once elections had been completed. It was agreed that the original documentation would be used as leverage with the DfE as the original plan for the DSS had been for a building that was a third larger, and the current building did not meet its statutory requirements, therefore not fit for purpose. The original documentation would be sourced. It was suggested that there were many empty schools across the country, which should mean un-used capital funding being available. • It was acknowledged that the school had not increased its numbers with the addition of Years 7 and 8, so lobbying for capital funding would have to focus on the fact that the school was not big enough from the beginning, with capital funding having been cut from the outset with the building not meeting some of the regularity requirements. • The priority for the Principal was to obtain the best deal for the students when they arrived, and to pursue all avenues for capital funding. It was noted that the LEP would not allocate funding to a school, only the College. • However Members agreed that it had to be acknowledged that the DSS was a successful exemplar Studio School, with many having failed. • The Principal KMC suggested that in time central timetabling could be developed to ensure full utilisation. • Porta-cabins had been considered to provide additional space, including office space and toilets, however there were planning sensitivities across the estate and the College Masterplan had been developed with these in mind, and included the expansion of the DSS. It was the rapid growth that was causing the issue, but temporary arrangements could be put in place for the short term. It was also noted that school class sizes were in the region of 25 pupils and KMC classrooms were provided for lower numbers. The statutory requirements within the Funding Agreement would be checked as additional leverage with the DfE. • The Principal noted that any capital funding that became available would benefit the whole campus, with both organisations working together. • All avenues for funding would be pursued by both DSS and KMC. <p>The GB was confident that both Principals would work together to resolve the issues and a vote of thanks was given, as this rapid growth had not been foreseen at the previous meeting, but medium/longer term solutions would have to be considered.</p>	<p>AM</p> <p>AH</p>
9.	ACCOMMODATION	



	This item had been discussed in great detail during the previous agenda item. And there was nothing further to add.	
10.	WORK EXPERIENCE/EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT It was agreed that the Assistant Principal would attend the next meeting to present the up to date situation on Work Experience. The Principal advised that going forward 10 out of 12 students had now obtained apprenticeships with their work experience employers.	
11.	CORPORATE RISK REGISTER The Corporate Risk Register was NOTED , having been updated for the Years 7 and 8 bid, however the risks attached to the rapid growth would be explored further for the next meeting. No additional risks were NOTED .	AM/CP
12.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS FOR REPORT The following further business NOTED : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was suggested that there could be some small ‘pots’ of funding available through the Dorchester and Melplash Show committees. The Principal advised that she had pursued but had not been successful. It was agreed that this would be discussed further out of the meeting. • A new area for ‘Food & Farming’ was being planned for Dorchester Show and could involve students. • The Principal KMC advised that KMC Corporation were aware of the challenges and risks associated with the rapid growth of the DSS but was assured that mitigation was in place and supported the DSS. There would be benefits for KMC in the longer term with more Level 3 learners progressing through to the College, having completed Level 2 at the DSS. 	AM/MV
12.	2018/19 MEETINGS The dates for 2018/19 meetings were NOTED : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 July 2019 	
<i>The Meeting closed at 5.50pm with no further business</i>		

Chair Date

