

Dorset Studio School

Minutes of the Governors meeting held on Thursday 6 February 2020, 4.00pm in the Pengelly Room, KMC

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); Catriona Wood (Deputy Principal, Finance & Commercial Services KMC)	
* <i>Indicates actual presence at this meeting</i>		
AGENDA ITEM		Challenge and Action
	This meeting followed an earlier Strategy session, which included some formal items as minuted.	
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 interests declared.</p>	
2.	<p>APOLOGIES</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Avril Harrison and Robert Lasseter.</p>	
3.	<p>MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 5 DECEMBER 2019</p> <p>The Governing Body (GB) APPROVED the minutes of 5 December 2019 as a true and accurate record and APPROVED the non-confidential minutes for website publication.</p>	
4.	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</p> <p>The following matters arising were NOTED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Staffing paragraph had been withdrawn from the minutes as Confidential • The Principal would review the Admissions Policy in due course • Management Accounts had been uploaded to GVO • The Principal was continuing to work with the Dorset Council and DfE on the over crowding • An Employer Engagement update had occurred during the Strategy session earlier. 	AM



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clerk advised that Michael Clarke had agreed to be a co-opted independent Governor of the Audit Committee and his appointment was APPROVED. • Following DfE guidance it was AGREED that the Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee would be reviewed to include financial monitoring and become the Audit & Finance Committee. When reviewed this document would be shared on GVO for approval. • The Clerk advised that the new Parent Governor had resigned as her children no longer attended the school, and a replacement would be sought. 	
<p>5.</p>	<p>PRINCIPALS REPORT</p> <p>The following points were NOTED from the Principal's Report:</p> <p>Year 11 Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress 8 stood at +0.21 which was slightly up from the previous report, but the progress outcome for the end of the year is expected to be considerably higher than this. • It was noted that the performance in vocational studies had carried the year group in previous years but that the new members of staff who joined in September were reporting improved progress across all subjects. Core subject moderation with the THS was currently being undertaken. There was additional intervention in place for maths which was having positive results. • There was a year on year improvement on average attainment. The national average was 4.5 and the DSS was 3.9, and this is expected to improve by the end of the academic year, based on the mock exams. • Members questioned why vocational progress had declined. This is due to the number of students with special educational needs who are working at pre-entry level, in the current cohort. This means that they are not able to pass the exam, despite being knowledgeable in land and animal studies. The Principal was currently investigating unaccredited qualifications that would be more suitable for this characteristic group. There had also been a change in staffing with a specialist teacher now appointed. • The high proportion of SEND learners, suffering with emotional and mental health issues, had effected attendance but there were no significant worries. Extensive work, through regular meetings, collaboration with external agencies and potential managed moves is being carried out. • Other Year Groups • Assessments for Years 7 and 8 were different to those of years 9, 10 and 11. • Five areas had been defined: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Accessing ➤ Emerging ➤ Developing ➤ Secure ➤ Mastery 	



	<p>This was a big piece of work for staff and a report would be produced that enabled tracking by inputting equivalent GCSE grades against the definitions. This was a skills based assessment, with the aim of ensuring that children understand each aspect of the curriculum before moving on. It also supports targeted intervention where needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 2 key areas of development with staff understanding the assessment criteria and secondly, ensuring tracking was meaningful. It was confirmed that, the process this would not be shared with parents, only the outcome, as too much data would be confusing at this stage. <p>Attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance was marginally down from the previous year at 94.2%, where the previous year it had been 94.7%. • The target across the school was 95.2. • The School tended to be slightly below the average with 0.5% making a big difference and this could be just a small cohort of learners but they tend to be persistent and hard to reach. • There was a large proportion of SEN students with mental health issues which had an impact on attendance. • It was confirmed that if the SEN was not included in the calculation the rest of the school would be 96%. • Those students with persistent absence was 13% with the national average being 13.6%. • The school was working with the students and parents to get them to attend. Governors questioned whether there was a correlation with the distance the student travelled and it was considered that this did not make a difference. • It was noted that the Dorset Council had introduced a new reporting system, however, no analysis had been received, and it appeared to be just for information. It was also noted that students could not be excluded due to non-attendance. • A full dialogue and evidence was being logged to provide explanations and this would be discussed in a meeting with MG, governor for attendance. <p>Student Numbers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers currently enrolled were consistent with any leavers being replaced from the waiting list. • There were 106 applications for September 2020, with 66 as Preference 1, and 9 on the waiting list. It was noted that this was around 50:50 male/female. <p>Years 7 and 8 Curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no further points to make following the presentation of this paper at the last meeting. 	<p>MG</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>DEVELOPMENT PLAN</p>	



	The updated Development Plan was NOTED .	
7.	<p>MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO 31 DECEMBER 2019</p> <p>The Management Accounts to 31 December were discussed. Governors noted that the school finances were in line with expectation with any variances being accounted for.</p> <p>It was also noted that the school was fully staffed with subject specialists. Due to the significant increase in student numbers, lagged funding is expected to become available from February. However, it was noted that the cash flow has been positive even without this additional funding.</p> <p>The principal will present some benchmarks against similar schools for consideration at the next meeting.</p>	AM
8.	<p>WORK EXPERIENCE/EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT</p> <p>A presentation was received during the earlier Strategy session.</p>	
9.	<p>CORPORATE RISK REGISTER</p> <p>The Principal had updated the Corporate Risk Register and this was NOTED.</p>	
10.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS FOR REPORT</p> <p>No further business was NOTED.</p>	
17.	<p>2019/20 MEETINGS</p> <p>The dates for 2019/20 meetings were NOTED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 April 2020 • 25 June 2020 	
<p><i>The Meeting closed at 5.15pm with no further business</i></p>		

Chair Date

