

Dorset Studio School

Meeting of the Full Governing Body

THURSDAY 08 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 4.00pm, at Poundbury

Minutes

The Code of Conduct for Governors requires governors to be honest and open with regard to conflicts of interest (either real or perceived). Governors must not use their position for personal gain in business, political or social relationships. Therefore, a governor who has, or may be perceived to have, such a personal interest in a particular matter under consideration should declare that interest, withdraw from all discussions relating to it and take no part in any vote on such matter.

Items marked * are those in which a majority of Governors may have an interest because of some shared attribute. When considering these items, Governors should aim to achieve a balanced view, paying particular attention to the sources of information and advice, and remind themselves of their duties as governors and to act in the public interest.

Governors:

In attendance:

Item		Detail	
1.		WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS The Chair welcomed the governors	Chair
2.	Verbal	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To Note any Declarations of Interest Andy Daw declared that he will be working one day a week at Kingston Maurward	Chair
3.	Verbal	APOLOGIES To Note any apologies for absence The clerk noted apologies from Chris Biggs and that Governor R Pike had finished her term as Parent Governor. The Chair thanked her for her service.	Chair
4	Verbal	UPDATE ON MAT The Chair welcomed Mike Foley CEO of WMAT. A presentation was given to the governing body about the Wessex Multi Academy Trust. He presented the current structure of the MAT and the schools within the trust, consisting of Primaries, Middle and Upper Schools. The Governance was explained in depth regarding joining the MAT and the staffing structure.	

	<p>Mike Foley opened the table to all governors to ask questions.</p> <p>The Chair of Governors reiterated to the governors the discussions that had taken place over the last 18 months to join a MAT and that the decision had been made to explore the WMAT. The school had been through due diligence and an application to join had been made, which was accepted by the regional commissioner. Recent advice had been given to ensure the conversion goes through this academic year as it works with the existing project of the new build project.</p> <p>Q – A governor asked what the connections were between the new build projects and joining of the MAT, are they linked? A – Advised that the DFE were describing the new build and entrance into the WMAT as linked projects.</p> <p>Q – A governor asked why the DFE was requiring this? A – It has been general government policy that schools are encouraged to be in a MAT as it has been felt that a single academy model is not sustainable. The direction of travel is that schools are more than likely going to be expected to be in a MAT and there is no indication that an alternative government would change this policy.</p> <p>Q – A governor stated that the governors need to ensure it is the right move for the school and that they need to be clear how the school could benefit by joining the MAT as it is a unique school and would not want to lose the schools ethos.</p> <p>A – Schools can be asked to join MAT due to an Ofsted grading, ending up being forced when they have been deemed inadequate. This has shown that schools can improve the quality of education when benefitting from working within in a group of schools. WMAT is not looking to grow but they are excited to have the studio school as part of the MAT, as it brings a different curriculum to the MAT. DSS will benefit from the enhanced services the MAT can provide, as well as an enhanced training and development offer.</p> <p>A governor expressed that there is uncertainty within school finances nationally and recruitment and retention.</p> <p>Q – A governor asked how the future role of the school governing body will be? A – The FGB will continue as it is an important part of running the school. Scheme of delegation of powers can be delegated back to the school.</p> <p>Q – A governor asked whether the delegation terms could be taken back by the MAT? A - This can be actioned but would be case by case. It could be where governance has broken down for example, then change of format within the Governing Body would take place or removal of key delegation powers.</p> <p>The MAT RAG rates the schools, some run with full delegated powers. The Studio School has three risk areas, imminent Ofsted, building, and the service level agreement with the College.</p> <p>Q – A governor asked the procedures with respect to surplus budgets when joining? A – The MAT will work with the school to ensure viability</p>	
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		<p>The preliminary date to join the WMAT is 01/06/2024 therefore the next stage is the legal business.</p> <p>Governors agreed for the joining of the Wessex MAT process to move forward, as they felt confident that the MAT are in support of the specialism continuing within the school.</p> <p>The Chair provided an update with respect to the new build.</p> <p>The Principal discussed with the governors that he had investigated the potential to apply for an exceptional revenue funding grant</p> <p>The governors thanked the WMAT for the presentation and clarity and Mike Foley and Karen Weir left the meeting at 17.25pm</p> <p>Kaye Chittenden left the meeting for the board to agree the process of joining the Wessex MAT, left 17.37</p> <p>Kaye was invited back to join the meeting</p>													
5.	Verbal	<p>MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD 08th February 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To Approve minutes as correct record To Approve non confidential minutes for website publication <p>All minutes were confirmed as correct and AGREED</p>													
6.	Verbal	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Item</th> <th>Action</th> <th>Actionee</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Upload new build plans to GVO</td> <td>Clerk</td> <td>Completed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Upload School Newsletters to GVO</td> <td>Clerk</td> <td>Completed</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Item	Action	Actionee	Status	5	Upload new build plans to GVO	Clerk	Completed	5	Upload School Newsletters to GVO	Clerk	Completed	
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7	Paper	<p>PRINCIPAL REPORT / UPDATE</p> <p>Principal report was distributed prior to the meeting, which included numbers on roll, exclusions, and statistics on progress.</p> <p>The principal opened the table for questions.</p> <p>Q – A governor asked with regards to the Teaching staff who had been identified on support programme? A – Following observations there had been concerns regarding the Quality of Education provided by three members of staff, and therefore support plans had been put in place to improve. However at this time there are no ongoing concerns.</p> <p>Q – A governor asked if there are concerns with student mobility. A - Pupil numbers remain a concern for all schools (with falling rolls county-wide),</p>													

		<p>however the school has a strategy document, which looks at future years with the new build, staff recruitment and retention. Governors need to be aware of this. The school continues to work with the waiting list and has meetings this week with new students starting after half term.</p> <p>The principal advised that a visit and talk had been attending by the Mental Health School team this term.</p> <p>Year 11 parents attended a Year 11 revision strategy training sessions aimed at parents.</p> <p>The overall attendance figure is lower than national and regional averages. However, for the most part, this is a symptom of the vulnerable cohort within school. The school has a detailed strategy and detailed analysis regarding the attendance in readiness for Ofsted.</p> <p>Performance</p> <p>Year 11 progress is marginally lower than we would have hoped at this point, as is year 10 progress. This is likely to be a symptom of the introduction of synoptic and terminal assessments within the vocational courses.</p> <p>The School day</p> <p>The college as altered their lesson times, which has lead to difficulties with regards to booking resources (as the School's day does not align to the college).</p> <p>Governors need to be aware that the school may need to review the timings of the day but if this is to happen reasonable notice would need to be given.</p> <p>There may be potential advantages to this by having the end of the school day finish earlier. There would need to ensure there are adequate learning hours as recommended by the DFE. This may be welcomed by parents and staff. No decisions would be taken until clarity is provided by the college. Parents would need to be consulted in any case.</p> <p>Governors highlighted that students traveling on school buses would have a shorter day which may improve attendance.</p> <p>Governors AGREED that if the school wish to consult with parents to proceed.</p> <p>A strategy documents was tabled for discussion. The Chair expressed to have more time to view this and set a future date for discussion.</p> <p>The Principal expressed thanks to the link governor who had recently attending the school for a behaviour and personal development visit to the school. Also a governors who attending the interview for the post of Assistant Principal, which had attracted 26 applications, showing a strong field of applicants, of which six were shortlisted for interview. A comprehensive interview process took place with all SLT and middle leaders being involved, along with pupils. The school is excited to appoint an experienced Assistant Head who had had experience in the post for 4 years. Her role with the school will start September 2024.</p>	
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		<p>DESTINATIONS</p> <p>Director of Specialism tabled a report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Post 16 education Students who leave are tracked by the Local Authority to ensure they remain in education or training.</p> <p>Tracking throughout KS4 takes place and their intended destinations are monitored before leaving year 11. A flavor of careers are given throughout KS3 and KS4 by introducing them into work experience in Year 10 and in Year 11 they continue with the placement throughout.</p> <p>Some students do not follow the specialism, and work in other industries following the careers and guidance programme. The data has been tracked over the last 2 years and current year, showing a trend which changed following covid, showing a reduction in the specialism. The current year is showing a 68% statistic in the land based sector.</p> <p>Q – A governor asked how travel & tourism fits into the specialism?</p>	

		<p>A – Dorset being a rural area in which tourism is a major industry</p> <p>Q – Does the school track the intended survey to the actual outcome?</p> <p>A - Yes, Post 16 does not always show long term aims, non-land based results could be studying A levels but could return to the land based following university or future.</p> <p>A reduction in students continuing into Kingston Maurward College has reduced following the offer of apprenticeship being withdrawn.</p> <p>The school has seen an increase in apprenticeships and interest in A levels following taster days at Thomas Hardy School and university visits.</p> <p>The Principal addressed that the school is coming up to its 10th anniversary of opening, it could be a celebration where previous students would be invited to give talks.</p>	
	AOB	<p>A governor was made aware that there is a new grant for electrical charging points to be installed. Further investigation will be made to the DFE regarding this.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 6.45pm</p>	