

Governors General Meeting Minutes Worthing High School

Wednesday 1 December 2021
1600-1800
by Zoom

Members:	Sasha Scambler - Chair	John Bull
	David Oakton - Vice Chair	Louise Sivyer
	Pan Panayiotou	Matt Micaiah
	Amanda Allibone	Neil Ambrose
Clerk to Governors:	Tracy Reed	
Invited Guests:	Richard Cohen - Chair of Trustees	Karen Hayler - CFO
	Scott Swift - Deputy Headteacher	Adrian Cook - Deputy Headteacher

1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting including new Governor NAM, followed by brief introductions from those present. The Chair thanked DOA for stepping in at the previous meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies had been received from LSI.</p>	
3.	<p>Notice and Quorum</p> <p>Due notice had been served and the meeting was declared quorate.</p>	
4.	<p>Pecuniary Interests</p> <p>There were no pecuniary interests declared.</p>	
5.	<p>Resignations/Vacancies/Appointments to Governing Body</p> <p>NAM had been appointed to the Governing Body as of 20 October 2021.</p>	
6.	<p>Minutes of previous meeting</p> <p>The minutes from 6 October 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p>	Clerk
7.	<p>Matters arising from item 6</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
8.	<p>Headteacher's Report</p> <p><u>Covid 19 / Vaccinations update</u></p> <p>The flu and Covid vaccination days on 15 and 17 November 2021 respectively went well with 67% take up by those eligible. There was a noticeable drop in attendance</p>	

in the following days but this recovered quickly. PPU thanked KHA, Facilities, and Support staff for their efforts. JBU asked for his thanks to be conveyed to the staff.

The vaccination team would be returning. It was asked whether children over the age of 16 would be able to have the vaccine. Current guidance stated that this was for 12- to 15-year-olds; 16-year-olds would be able to get the vaccine externally.

Late notice from the Government regarding the reinstatement of face coverings was frustrating. Plans were in place for testing students upon the return to school after Christmas. There would be a note in the weekly newsletter to remind people where they could pick up LFT kits at school.

LSI had emailed requesting an update on Covid numbers. It was advised that three staff were off with Covid and one or two students.

Trips

In response to another email query from LSI, PPU was not optimistic that it would be possible to run the ski trip to Austria this year; other countries were being considered. The trip may have to be put back from February half term to the Easter half term but current vaccination requirements made the timing of the trip difficult. Parents would be advised once the options were clear.

Admissions

Referring to the table of secondary preferences for the locality for 2022 PPU pointed out that Worthing High School (WHS) was the only school to achieve four figures at 1,046. SSW advised that the latest figure included EHCP consultations and had gone up to 1,087. The gender breakdown of preferences was 46% girls, 54% boys but actual admissions would differ.

There were currently seven EHCP students allocated to WHS but this would increase. SSW advised of significantly higher numbers this year with 32 EHCP consultations so far. The overall trend was for increasing numbers and there were likely to be about twelve EHCP students per year group in addition to eighteen in the Special Support Centre (SSC). It was difficult to breakdown EHCP figures by school, but WHS admitted disproportionately more than other schools.

PPU would endeavour to find out the gender split and EHCP numbers in schools at a forthcoming meeting with WSCC. If the information was not forthcoming, PPU asked the Governors' permission to instigate a Freedom of Information (FOI) request. Previous requests for such information had met with obfuscation by WSCC.

The admissions data was positive in terms of numbers, and it was testament to all our staff that WHS was the main school of choice in the locality.

Behaviour Hub

Re the Behaviour Hub process, PPU reported that the DfE were very favourable in their feedback. The outcome would be known end February/beginning March 2022.

The reason for endeavouring to become a Behaviour Hub lead school was that it gave WHS the opportunity to share what it was doing in terms of improving

behavioural culture and to work towards achieving an outstanding Ofsted rating. If successful, the school would receive extra funding for the work involved.

Mock data review

ACO referred the Governors to p6 of the Report. Mock data showed performance currently was better in all areas than it had been historically. Year 11 students were attaining better results than they had at an equivalent point in previous examinations. However, teachers were predicting more conservatively due to the uncertainty around how outcomes would be decided this year.

The message to Year 11 students was to prepare and revise for terminal exams in the summer. JBU was advised that there would be further mocks in February. There was speculation that schools would be steered towards doing three sets of mocks if exams did not take place in the summer. It was important to ensure that the messages to Year 11 s remained positive.

High Prior Attainers (HPA) report

The Chair asked why there were 26 Year 11 students completing Higher Project Qualifications (HPQ) but only 13 Year 10s had been accepted onto the HPQ this year. ACO explained it was a case of ensuring the right students with the capacity to do it were able to do it: it was a big undertaking and it was extracurricular. He confirmed that the figures were a result of students not applying rather than applying and being turned down.

Google education

There would be updates forthcoming to inform parents and carers about access protocols such as logging in to their child's student account.

JBU asked about Governors attending the external speaker event in April. PPU responded that Governors were more than welcome to attend any such events and should contact the Clerk.

Student matters / numbers

SSW provided an update for the figures in table 3.1 (p18):

Year 7 - 211

Year 8 - 210

Year 9 - 214

Year 10 - 230

Year 11 - 201

There were two asylum seeker students joining the school.

In table 3.6, the number of female pupils excluded should read 3 not 36.

SSW would send out the 5-year behaviour trends data; one of the reasons for working towards the Behaviour Hub was because of such good data and the trends of improving behaviours over the last five years.

SSW

There was an issue with SEN K students: Covid had made a definite impact on their learning, together with inconsistencies in the home learning environment. Others were presenting with anxiety and emotionally based disorders. Consequently, a

number of students were struggling to adjust back into school. However, the pastoral team had achieved significant success in integrating students back into school.

There was discussion about the comprehensive nature of the school and whether it's popularity due to a reputation for good behaviour would change the demographic of pupils attending. SSW suggested the varied catchment area ensured that the comprehensive nature of the school was maintained. Teachers should be applauded for delivering an outstanding standard of teaching and learning

In response to JBU's query SSW explained that excellence was defined as when a student demonstrated an excellent effort or produced an excellent piece of work. The definition was deliberately kept broad in order to give that member of staff autonomy in how they made that award, as well as to maintain consistency.

SSW pointed out that in table 3.5 on page 18, the number of safeguarding incidents quoted for Year 8 was an error and he would rectify it.

SSW

The Chair asked that it be minuted how impressed a number of different people had been recently with all the work going on across the school in terms of behaviour: there was a huge amount of work ongoing that was clearly working.

Student Council and Leadership update

A new student leadership accreditation would be created having ceased membership of SSAT. NMA would update governors later in the year

The school would ensure that all students had the opportunity to put themselves forward as candidates for senior prefects and prefects. Referring to last year, the Chair asked if anything was being done to encourage boys to apply. PPU responded that there had not been much opportunity for progress leaders to act last year but it should definitely happen this year.

Parent Forum

PPU thanked NMA for organising the cheese and wine event. It was very well attended and at least 12 new parents came forward to get involved with fundraising events / Friends of Worthing High.

JBU noted that both sets of minutes bore the same date: it was confirmed that the first set of minutes related to the first Parent Forum meeting on 10 November 2021.

DfE Parent View

There was discussion around the response to question 7, 'My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support that they need', with which 25% of respondents strongly disagreed. It was not possible to know who made the response or indeed how many: given that only 10 parents responded to question 7 in total, it could just be one person. Parent expectations and their interpretation of the EHCP did not always match the mainstream limitations or the environment that we have to operate with.

Management accounts

KHA presented the accounts as at just before the beginning of November.

The current in year deficit was £15k but the final audited accounts for the year ended August 2021 had now been received. Revenue surplus was just under £600k and the Trust was in a positive position having met the reserves target of £400k.

About £70k of the revenue surplus belonged to Clapham & Patching.

Some of the surplus would be used to deal with the potential deficit for this year which had been agreed should the SEN grants not come in as expected. The hope was to break even this year. The expectation was that the SEN funding would match the additional staff put into inclusion at the beginning of the year.

In response to a query from JBU, KHA said that the new finance system was working sufficiently in the main and the accountants were confident with the data that they had at this year's audit. The focus of the internal audit taking place with Kreston Reeves in the next week would be journal processes.

JBU thanked KHA and her team.

School Calendar events

A number of events had been moved to virtual including the Xmas Show which would be in the new year.

Social media policy

Following discussion of recent events involving TikTok, memes, and other social media activity, KHA and PPU were tasked to produce a Trust-wide social media policy for review at the next Trustee meeting on 9 February 2022.

Wellbeing Charter

PPU said he was acutely aware of the way all staff were having to work in the current times. He urged Governors to support the Wellbeing charter, with a view to signing up to it as staff at WHS and then Trust-wide.

PPU addressed the disconnect between what the DfE said and did, giving no consideration to the wellbeing of head teachers senior colleagues, etc. Headteachers had complained about communications being sent out to schools with ridiculously short notice. JBU said he was sure that the Governors would support the school wholeheartedly in adopting the Wellbeing Charter and suggested writing to the Secretary of State for Education Nadhim Zahawi with their concerns.

RCO expressed concern about the number of inset days and complying with guided hours. PPU said that if student outcomes started to fall below where they should be it would be absolutely correct for the Governors and Trustees to challenge and hold school leaders to account.

Complying with guided hours in a pandemic was challenging for everyone but the school received really positive feedback following an inspection in 2020 regarding the school's curriculum and new subjects.

KHA /
PPU

	<p>PPU would draft a response to the DfE Wellbeing Charter with regard to the lack of sufficient notice regarding the introduction of measures and the resulting disconnect between what the DfE says and does. All Governors supported PPU in this: RCO and the Chair agreed they would be happy to co-sign the letter.</p>	<p>PPU / SSC / RCO</p>
9.	<p>Clerking Matters</p> <p><u>Safeguarding update training</u>: JBU, RCO, SSC, LSI, and NAM had all attended. The Clerk would list those who have not attended latest round of updates.</p> <p><u>Link Governor reports</u>: none received.</p> <p>The Chair asked Governors to see if they could pick up some of the vacant subjects. It was agreed that there should be a way of recording link governor meetings and reports. The Clerk would create a log and Google drive folder for link reports.</p> <p><u>Pecuniary interests forms</u>: the Clerk would chase up outstanding returns.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
10.	<p>Policies for Review</p> <p>There were no policies for review.</p>	
11.	<p>Chair's actions</p> <p><u>PEX hearing 24 November 2021</u>: the panel upheld the Headteacher's decision to exclude the student.</p> <p>The Chair reported that there were several agencies involved with the panel. At the start of his section the Virtual Education representative from Camden made a point of saying explicitly that he had not come across a school that had put as much provision in place to try and keep a child in mainstream education as WHS and that they were extremely impressed with the amount of work that SSW and ASI and the team had done to support the child. The Chair said this was a huge credit to SSW and ASI and the whole team and she asked that it be minuted.</p> <p>PPU said one of the things that was particularly disturbing was that the level of advocacy for the child was woefully inadequate.</p>	
12.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>There was no other business.</p> <p>The Chair wished everyone a happy Christmas and hoped to meet face to face in February.</p>	
13.	<p>Dates and Times of GB Meetings for Academic Year 2021/22</p> <p>2 February 2022 23 March 2022 25 May 2022 13 July 2022 All at 1600-1800.</p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 1747</p>	