

GREAT TORRINGTON SCHOOL
Academy Trust
 Company Number 769819.
 A Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered in England
Full Governing Board Committee Meeting
Thursday 29th September 2022 at 3.30pm in E5



Attendees	Initials	Position	Comments
Bloodworth, Andy	ABL	Headteacher	Present
Beer, Emma	EB	Member Appointed	Present
Major, David	DM	Parent Governor	Not Present
Newberry, Ian	IN	Member Appointed (Committee Chair)	Present
Rhymer, Matt	MAR	Staff Governor	Present
Smith, Doug	DS	Co-opted Governor	Present
Sparrow, Annie	ASP	Staff Governor	Present
Stevens, Jo-Anne	JSA	Parent Governor	Present
Wall, Lesley	LW	Co-opted Governor (Vice Chair)	Present
Wynne, Colin	CW	Co-opted Governor	Present
Pateman, Jo	JMP	Governance Professional	Present

Minutes

Agenda Reference	Agenda Item	Minutes	Action
2022/23/ FGB/ 1	Election of Committee Chair	IN nominated by LW, IN left the room, unanimous vote for IN. IN elected as Chair of Governors for the academic year 2022/23. Vice chair nominations, IN nominated LW, seconded by DS, voted in as Vice Chair of Governors.	I, D D
2022/23/ FGB/ 2	Apologies	DM not present.	I
2022/23/ FGB/3	Conflicts of interest	None. Declaration of business interests still outstanding from DM. JAS has completed cyber security training but has now not downloaded a certificate, will try to do it again, IN, LW and EB have all completed cyber security	I

2022/23/ FGB/ 4	Code of Conduct	Circulated prior to the meeting, agreed, and signed by all governors for the academic year 2022/23.	I, D
2022/23/ FGB/5	Minutes and Matters Arising	<p>2021/22/FGB/75 – HT appraisal – it should be DS and CW will join LW on the panel, IN is not on the HT panel. With that amendment the minutes were agreed as a true reflection of the meeting and approved to be signed once the amendment above has been made.</p> <p>CW had previously suggested inviting people to an open FGB meeting as this may help attract new governors. Agreed, to confirm a date.</p> <p>The kitchen was not discussed at resources on 22nd September 2022 but will be discussed at the next meeting on 1st December 2022.</p>	<p>I, D</p> <p>D</p> <p>I</p>
2022/23/ FGB/6	Committee Matters	<p>Teaching & Learning – LW reported that GTS had achieved our best results and everyone’s hard work had paid off. We have bucked national trends and risen up the ranks in term of performance in the Devon. IN asked to pass on the thanks and congratulations of the board to staff.</p> <p>Resources – the new build was discussed at length and a contractor has been appointed. The committee had met again earlier this week as the contractor, upon closer inspection by TFQ, had not included any contingency costs. TFQ worked with the second contractor to reduce 17 discrepancies to 1 (which was simply a matter of flooring in the new block and considered to be a minor point). This made Skinner the cheapest option and the committee had therefore appointed Skinner as the contractors for the build.</p> <p>IN advised that board that he had today signed the letter of intent for the new build and we are therefore committed to a new classroom block. The build schedule will start shortly. ABL will announce to staff on Monday and will arrange to meet with staff working in areas where there will be the most impact. This is an extremely exciting opportunity for the school.</p> <p>Q – what will happen to the library? The library will move to the new block and the old library will become an extension of the canteen.</p> <p>Sports facilities – IN has also signed the deed of surrender for the sports facilities today and as soon as the final repairs are carried out by TDC, we will hand over the deed of surrender and officially own and manage the sport facilities.</p>	<p>I</p> <p>I</p> <p>I</p> <p>Q</p> <p>I</p>
2022/23/ FGB/ 7	Safeguarding	ABL provided a brief update to FGB that he had also shared with the committees. The school have been running assemblies focusing on ‘1 punch deaths’ and knife crimes. The next stage is to look at hate and race crimes. DA will put a group together to work with the diversity contact within the Police.	I

2022/23/ FGB/ 8	Policies	Policy number 8 (complaints policy) and policy number 34 (pay policy), were circulated to the board. These are both model policies, however the Clerk advised that they should have been circulated over a week ago, to enable governors sufficient time to review these policies. Governors were requested to review the policies over the next few days and confirm, by email to the Clerk before Wednesday 5 th October, that they are happy to adopt these policies.	I
2022/23/ FGB/9	Academic dates	ABL requested to move the adoption of the academic dates for 2023/24, to the next FGB meeting. The reason for this is that the new build may impact on subject areas significantly and an additional INSET day may be needed at the beginning of the Autumn term, to allow staff to set up their rooms etc., and ensure they are ready for the beginning of term. The new build should allow for all teaching staff to have a designated classroom i.e., not a shared classroom. Governors agreed to add the approval of the academic dates for 2023/24 to the FGB meeting in December.	I D
2022/23/ FGB/ 10	Strategic Priorities/ strategy document	Governors discussed whether should needed to be amended/ updated. ABL suggested 'closing attainment gap between those identified as disadvantaged pupils and those pupils with special education needs, and other pupils. ABL will finalise wording.	I, D
2022/23/ FGB/ 11	SIP	SLT are due to work on the SIP at the strategic meeting on Tuesday. ABL Will add what has been learnt from Ofsted and the priorities for this. The SIP will be circulated to the board later next week. At the next FGB we will decide which governors will be allocated to which priorities. Staff were reminded to provide information to governors in black and white only, and not colour.	I I
2022/23/ FGB/12	Governor Visits	<p>IN advised the board that he had met with the Members at the beginning of September. The Members asked the board to ensure that they continued to monitor the SIP. They also discussed the new build at great length and discussed MATS. The Members do not want the board to lose site of the possible need to join a MAT in the future. Whilst they do not want the board to spend too much time on this, they have asked that the board continue to actively look ahead.</p> <p>Q – have there been any contact from MATS? Yes, DMAT have been in contact again. However, they are not a viable option after the GCSE results at Okehampton this year and in addition, Tavistock has just gone into special measures. Ted Wragg is good, with proven results, however this would be a big change in terms of our school ethos.</p> <p>ABL has recently met with the NORDAB heads, who are rebranding as the Education Futures North Devon Partnership (EFNDP), and there have been lots of interesting discussions around MATs and how they have evolved in other areas.</p> <p>Q – can we remain as a SAT? The Government have made it clear that they want all schools to be MATs. This agenda has died down slightly, however if we were to have a bad set of results and/or a bad Ofsted, we could be forced into a MAT.</p>	I Q I Q

		Q – can we set up our own MAT? The Government are reluctant to set up new MATs and are encouraging schools to join existing MATs. However, ABL has discussed this recently with Braunton School, we are both successful schools and do not envisage being forced to join a MAT with less successful schools.	Q
		Governors agreed that ABL would start looking at different options and reporting back to the board twice each year. Governors also agreed to investigate inviting somebody impartial to speak to the board about different options.	D
2022/23/ FGB/13	Items Through the Chair	There was one item through the Chair but IN advised that this would be discussed at the end of the meeting as it would be Part 2 minutes.	I
2022/23/ FGB/ 15	Dates of next meetings	T&L 24 th November 2022 Resources 1 st December 2022 FGB 8 th December 2022	I
2022/23/ FGB/7	Safeguarding	MAR and ASP left at 4.39pm. IN advised that he wished to speak to the board about safeguarding and an incident in school. However, the discussion may enable governors to identify the pupil involved and the meeting was therefore moved to Part 2. due to conflict of interests (back to safeguarding). The meeting closed at 5.07pm	I I

ACTIONS

Minute reference	Action	By whom and when
2022/23/FGB/3	All governors to complete the online cyber security training	24.11.22 – All
2022/23/FGB/5	Governors to agree a date for an open FGB meeting to enable potential governors/ interested people to attend	08.12.22 – All
2022/23/FGB/8	All governors to review the Complaints policy and Pay policy and email the Clerk to confirm they are happy to adopt these policies	05.10.22 – All
2022/23/FGB/9	Add Academic Dates 2023/24 to the FGB December agenda	08.12.22 – Clerk
2022/23/FGB/10	Update strategy document	24.11.22 – ABL
2022/23/FGB/11	SIP to be circulated to the board	07.10.22 – ABL
2022/23/FGB/12	ABL to begin investigating potential MATs	09.02.23 - ABL

Signed by Ian Newberry, Chair of Governors Date