GREAT TORRINGTON SCHOOL

Academy Trust
Company Number 769819.
A Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered in England

Full Governing Board Committee Meeting Thursday 8th December 2022 at 3.30pm in E5



Attendees	Initials	Position	Comments
Beer, Emma	EB	Member Appointed	Present
Bloodworth, Andy	ABL	Headteacher	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	Apologies
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	Clerk to the Governing body	Present

MINUTES

Agenda	Agenda Item		
Reference			
2022/23/	Apologies	Apologies were received and sanctioned from DS. DM was not present.	I, D
FGB/ 16			
2022/23/	Conflicts of	No changes to declaration of business interests from those present. DM is still to update his declaration of business	I
FGB/ 17	Interest	interests, outstanding since the summer.	
		MAR and ASP declared a conflict of interest with agenda item 2022/23/FGB/27	I
2022/23/	Minutes and	The minutes of the meeting held on the 29 th September 2022 were agreed as a true reflection of the meeting and the	I, D
FGB/18	Matters	minutes were approved to be signed.	
	Arising		

		Matters arising – CW reminded the board that it had been agreed to hold an open FGB meeting and advertise to attract potential governors. The board agreed that the meeting on 09/02/23 would be advertised to all, advising that spaces were limited and must be pre-booked. The Clerk to advertise via the school website, The Crier, Facebook, feeder primary schools and parish newsletters. The Clerk to meet with the Chair to put wording together for an advert. JAS joined at 3.46pm	I D
		Matters arising – DM outstanding AUP and cyber security training. DS outstanding cyber security training.	1
2022/23/ FGB/19	Committee Matters	The Safeguarding policy had been approved at resources. The board confirmed that all had read the policy and the policy was ratified by the full board.	I, D
		The resources committee had agreed to reduce the number of internal audits from 3 to 2 per year. This decision was ratified by the board.	I, D
		LW advised that the T&L meeting had been very productive with excellent presentations from JS on TLAC and from JSR on DDI.	1
2022/23/ FGB/ 20	Accounts	The accounts had been circulated to the board following the meeting with auditors on Friday 2 nd December 2022. The board agreed to adopt the accounts.	I, D
2022/23/ FGB/ 21	Staffing	CW had undertaken 8 exit interviews since the summer term and had provided feedback to the resources committee. Further exit interviews were scheduled before Christmas.	I
2022/23/ FGB/22	Safeguarding	ABL advised that as previously discussed at T&L and Resources, there are concerns around vaping and anti-social behaviour. Since the committees had met, ABL had received a Devon wide report relating to exclusion and behaviour, and GTS are currently third from the bottom out of North Devon schools. The patterns between schools clearly show a doubling of exclusions would which suggest all schools are having an increase in behaviour issues.	_
		The board discussed the role of the safeguarding governor. It was noted that DM had not attended several resources and FGB meetings, nor had he been into school recently. There were concerns that the role of the safeguarding governor is an integral role, and needs to be undertaken by somebody who can dedicate time to the role. In the interim, IN agreed to check the single central register, and to attend the fortnightly safeguarding meetings in school. IN will attempt to contact DM again to discuss this further. The board made the decision that if by the next FGB meeting i.e.,	I D
		9 th February 2023, DM had not been in contact and in school, the role of safeguarding governor would be passed to another governor.	
2022/23/ FGB/ 23	SIP	The board discussed and agreed monitoring responsibilities of the SIP. ABL advised that he had spread out sections and was aware that governor numbers were low. ABL reminded governors to contact the member of staff leading the specific strand on the SIP they are monitoring, and arrange to meet. Governors to provide a visit report back to the board.	I, D

2022/23/	Governance	The Academies Financial Handbook suggests that boards should have an annual governance review. GTS has not had	I
FGB/ 23	Review	a review for approximately 3 years. Governors discussed and agreed to schedule a review in the spring term and bi-	D
		annually after that. Babcock had already proposed dates and the board agreed to hold a governance review on 2 nd March 2023. The Clerk will contact the board with further details.	D
2022/23/ FGB/24	Polices	7B Equality Objectives to be reviewed, this is reviewed annually, although the policy is not due for renewal until 2024. JSR was unable to attend the meeting as on a school trip, governors requested that policy 7B be moved to the T&L agenda on 26.01.23.	I, D
2022/23/ FGB/25	Governor Visits	CW reported to the board that he had recently undertaken a finance visit with KLR. The report will be circulated once approved by KLR. CW looked at income streams, accounts and reserves. CW informed the board that the resources committee had agreed he would focus his next meeting on the audit and areas for the audit to focus on. CW informed the board that a meeting had been held with the external auditors last week to agree the accounts, this went well and there were no issues.	I
		MAR and ASP advised that they had recently undertake induction training for new governors. The leader of the national governance association had been in attendance and advised that the direction of travel remains towards MATs. Although the withdrawal of the white paper may slow this down, schools are still being advised to join a MAT and that schools risk being put into a MAT if they do not make their own decision to join one.	I
		The board discussed this at length, IN advised that this has been set as one of the Head's objectives this year to keep an eye on the educational landscape and to research potential MATs with a similar ethos. GTS has spent considerable time in the past investigating joining a MAT, potentially at the detriment to the running of the school. The position of the board is that it is not something we are actively pursuing but we recognise that it is the direction of travel and will keep scanning the horizon and having conversations with possible MATs.	1
		JAS advised that she had recently visited HVW and JSR in her role as CiC and PP governor. JAS will circulate her report.	1
		MAR informed the board of Governor Hub which had been suggested as a good platform for boards to use. It was agreed that MAR would look into this further. The clerk reminded the board that all governors have access to the shared area and to contact the clerk or IT if they were having problems accessing this.	I, D
2022/23/ FGB/26	Items Through the Chair	IN informed the board that the Headteacher appraisal is confidential, however he could confirm that the process had now taken place. CW raised the Headteacher appraisal panel, as he had previously been asked to join the panel but had not been invited to the appraisal meeting. IN apologised and advised that during the pay committee training with HR1, he was informed that the Chair should be on the panel and had therefore joined the panel himself. The Clerk	I

		advised that she thought CW was unable to attend the first appraisal date suggested, and that it was felt important to hold the appraisal as soon as possible. The Clerk advised she would check back through emails. IN apologised again.	
		IN discussed the schedule of meetings and the possibility of re-organising meetings as the resources agendas are particularly long, resulting in meetings ending very late. The board discussed and agreed to keep the meeting schedule as it is this academic year, but this will be added to the final FGB agenda in the summer to discuss how to proceed next	I D
		academic year.	
		ABL informed the board that the school has very high levels of scarlet fever/ Strep A and that he has been reporting numbers to the Southwest Hub. MAR and ASP left at 4.45pm.	I
2022/23/	Staff	The board agreed, following advice from the auditors, that the benefit of having staff governors outweighs the EFSA	I, D
FGB/27	Governors	guidance. This will be added to the annual cycle, discussed and agreed each academic year.	
2022/23/	Final Point	Improved monitoring by the governors.	
FGB/ 28		Trained governors, an agreement to retain staff governors on the board.	1
		A new audit schedule agreed.	
2022/23/	Date of next	Teaching & Learning – 26 th January 2023	
FGB/29	meeting	Resources – 2 nd February 2023	ı
		FGB – 9 th February 2023	

The meeting ended at 4.50pm