

GREAT TORRINGTON SCHOOL
Academy Trust
 Company Number 769819.
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Full Governing Board Committee Meeting
FGB Meeting – 4th February 2021 at 3.30pm



Attendees	Initials	Position	Comments
Newberry, Ian	IN	Member Appointed (Committee Chair)	Apologies
Bloodworth, Andy	ABL	Headteacher	Present
Meardon, Lucy	LM	Member Appointed Governor	Present
Smith, Doug	DS	Co-opted Governor	Present
Major, David	DM	Parent Governor	Present
Higgs, Rachel	RHI	Staff Governor	Present
Meeson, Sam	SM	Member Appointed Governor (Vice Chair)	Present
Stevens, Jo-Anne	JSA	Parent Governor	Present
Anstee, Sarah	SJA	Staff Governor	Present
Hemsworth, Robert	RH	Parent Governor	Apologies
Wall, Lesley	LW	Co-opted Governor (Vice Chair)	Present
Turnwell, Michael	MT	Parent Governor	Present
Pateman, Jo	JMP	Clerk to the Governing body	Present

MINUTES

2020/21/ FGB/ 28	Apologies	Apologies were received and sanctioned from IN and RH.	I, D
2020/21/ FGB/ 29	Conflicts of Interest	RHI and SJA declared a conflict of interest for agenda item 37. It was agreed that this agenda item would be discussed at the end of the meeting so that RHI and SJA could leave.	I, D
2020/21/ FGB/ 30	Declaration of Business Interests	None to update.	I
2020/21/ FGB/ 34	Policies	NMM attended for this agenda item and presented the Attendance Policy to governors. The only change to policy is the addition of appendix G <i>Daily Attendance</i> Procedures. It was noted that the policy had no additional impact on staff. Governors voted and agreed to adopt the policy. NMM left at 3.36pm	I, D I
2020/21/ FGB/33	Safeguarding	DA joined at 3.43pm to discuss the safeguarding report. 240 incidents relating to 145 separate students and we have seen an increase across the board in terms of type of incident. This is worrying, particularly with self-harm and e-safety, which saw big increases. We are concerned that these figures are probably higher as there will be a number we are not	I

		<p>aware of. Staff often hear about safeguarding incidents through relationships with pupils in school, but with pupils not being in school, there is probably a lot we do not know about.</p> <p>Governors had previously questioned the 'other' incident type, this is the biggest area and relates to general wellbeing. Staff can look for signs of abuse and neglect, however safeguarding often manifests through behaviour and lots of incidents are initially logged under the 'other' category.</p> <p>Year 7s – we knew there would be issues in terms of behaviour but there are several safeguarding incidents too.</p> <p><u>Q- is there anything the school is doing to offer specific help and support?</u> We continue to work as a good team, the only element that is missing is pupils talking about other pupils, we are missing that link. We are still capturing significant safeguarding concerns via teaching staff, parents, and outside agencies. DA has also set up termly meetings with Early Help and is involving the primary school too, as there is lots of cross over due to siblings.</p> <p><u>Q – regarding the high number of safeguarding incidents in Year 7, is that simply because they are a large year group?</u> Yes, they are a large year group, however there is lots of risk-taking behaviour, they are quite immature and suddenly have online technology and the language of older children, but the maturity of much younger children. ABL reminded governors that the lack of transition, two lockdowns and no real end to their primary school journey, had all contributed.</p> <p><u>Q – during the last lockdown, staff did several home visits and had a safeguarding phone, is that going ahead this time?</u> Yes, the EWO is visiting homes on our behalf, we always have the safeguarding phone too. We have not had as many issues contacting people this time; engagement is better than the first lockdown. DA left at 3.53pm.</p>	<p>I</p> <p>I</p> <p>Q</p> <p>I</p> <p>Q</p> <p>I</p> <p>Q</p> <p>I</p>
2020/21/ FGB/ 31	Minutes and Matters Arising	<p><u>Governors voted and agreed to adopt the minutes as a true reflection of the meeting.</u></p> <p>SM asked whether governors would be interested in having a 'social' meeting on Teams to help the group get to know one another, particularly the new governors who had never actually been into the school for a meeting. Governors agreed that this would be a good idea.</p>	<p>I, D</p> <p>I</p>
2020/21/ FGB/ 32	Committee Matters	<p>Resources – the PDPM process was discussed at length in resources to clarify the procedure and guidance given to staff. Governors were happy with the outcome and agree that staff have been sufficiently trained and that PDPM is not a 'rubber stamping' exercise.</p> <p>Teaching & Learning - Year 11 attendance was discussed as being low. Overall, our attendance is high, however a small number of Year 11s are affecting the figures. It is difficult keeping the Year 11s motivated due to the announcement regarding exams. We do need Year 11s to keep working to a high standard as we are still unsure of the assessment procedures.</p>	<p>I</p> <p>I</p>
2020/21/ FGB/ 35	Headteacher Report	<p>ABL briefly ran through the HT report which summarises the current situation. As previously discussed, there are issues with Year 7. We also cannot underestimate the challenges of online learning and workload on our teachers. We have moved back to a 2-year KS4, as discussed last year. ABL wanted to realign the pastoral structure, but due to 'bubbles' this was not possible. The ongoing impact of bubbles and another lockdown means that the school is not running as we want it to be. It will take time to work through this. Our staff are fantastic with online learning; however, some pupils simply work harder than others, and it will take time to unpick and determine the long-term impact of the pandemic.</p>	<p>I</p> <p>I</p>

		We continue to wait to hear when and how schools will fully reopen. The Arms Trust has contacted the school this week and offered to fund 10 laptops to pass on to our pupils. <u>Q – how many pupils are currently attending?</u> Approximately 85 per week.	Q
2020/21/ FGB/ 34	Policies	Safeguarding Policy 5a – this has been amended as we previously decided not to offer live lessons, however we now wish to trial this and NTP have also advised that pupils can now work online from home. We therefore need to adapt our policy to reflect this. <u>Governors discussed and agreed to adopt the updated policy.</u> ABL reminded governors that live lessons is not a caveat to gold standard teaching.	I D
2020/21/ FGB/ 36	Covid-19	ABL advised that there were no further updates since the previous COVID-19 update meeting on the 27 th of January 2021. <u>Q – we previously discussed the online learning offer information on our website and governors questioned why the DfE template had not been used?</u> JS is updating the information on our website, we have not used the template, although the content added to the website is very similar. MT left at 4.30pm.	I Q
2020/21/ FGB/ 39	Governor Working Party	SM, LW, DS and IN had formed a working party to address governor recruitment. SM advised that needed to step down from this role. LW has contacted several accountancy firms, but with no success. We currently have 4 governor vacancies and particularly need someone with a financial background, as LM will be stepping down in the future. DS added a letter to the Crier but has not received any response. DS will contact MT to ask whether he would join the working party. SM will send information to LW regarding volunteers available for governance. The governor roles and responsibilities were discussed, and it was noted that some of the responsibilities were difficult to maintain during the lockdown and pandemic. Governors agreed that they needed to be realistic of their limitations during the current climate. RHI and SJA left at 4.49pm.	I A I
2020/21/ FGB/ 37	Staff consultation	ABL reminded governors that he had initially raised the staffing restructure 18 months ago and wished to realign the subject leads so that they were in receipt of a TLR for their role and took on more responsibility and bring more stability to their roles. <u>Two options were presented to governors and after much discussion, governors voted and unanimously agreed to adopt option 2.</u> A period of consultation will now begin with staff and unions before the final plans are presented to governors on the 24 th February 2021.	I D
2020/21/ FGB/ 40	Items Through the Chair	The school has been approached with the possibility of creating a resource base for children with SEN.	
2020/21/ FGB/ 41	Final point	What is the impact of this meeting on outcomes for pupils in the school? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The staffing restructure will raise standards and drive forward success for all pupils. • The resources base for children with special education needs would impact positively both on those GTS pupils who might benefit directly and on the wider learning community, addressing a real need for such facility in the area. 	D D

2020/21/ FGB/ 42	Dates of next Meeting	Thursday 1 st April 2021 at 3.30pm on Teams	I
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The meeting closed at 5.30pm

Action Log

WHO	WHAT	BY WHEN	Reference
Clerk	Attendance and Safeguarding Policies to be saved to the T drive and added to the website	12.02.21	2020/21/FGB/34
DS	To approach MT re: joining the working party	01.04.21	2020/21/FGB/39
SM	Send information to LW re: possible volunteers available as governors	01.04.21	2020/21/FGB/39
All	Please attend the governor meeting on 24 th February 2021 to agree the final staffing restructure	24.02.21	2020/21/FGB/37

Signed as a true record Committee Chair

Date