

WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL



MEETING OF THE FULL GOVERNING BODY held at the school on Thursday 30 January 2020

MINUTES

GOVERNORS		Present
Headteacher	Mr Sam White (SWH)	✓
LA	Ms Georgia Gould (GGO)	✓
Parent	Ms Sophie Jenkins (SJE)	x
	Mr Stuart Taylor (STA)	✓
Staff	Ms Jennifer Meechan (JMN)	x
Foundation	Mr Richard Ault (RAU)	x
	Ms Ronke Coote (RCO)	✓
	Dame Karen Dunnell (KDU)	✓
	Dr Lee Elliot-Major (LEM)	x
	Prof Conor Gearty (CGE) Vice chair	✓
	Mr Omar Harmon (OHA)	x
	Ms Fiona Millar (FMI) Chair	✓
	Prof Daniel Monk (DMO)	✓
	Ms Selina Skipwith (SSK)	✓
Co-opted	Mr Jonny Woolf (JWO)	✓
	Ms Imogen Sharp (ISH)	✓
ATTENDING		
	Ms Izzy Jones (IJO) Deputy head	
	Mr Bernard Lane (BLA) Assistant head	
	Mr Mike Hutchinson (MHU) Clerk	

1. Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest

FMI welcomed everyone to this meeting of William Ellis School's Governing Body, which began at 5.09pm. Apologies for absence were received from, and permission for absence granted to, RAU, LEM, OHA and JMN. CGE had apologised for a late arrival. There were no apologies from SJE. A quorum was present. There were no declarations of interest, pecuniary or otherwise, in respect of any items on this agenda. All papers had been circulated in advance.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

2.1 The minutes of the meeting of 5 December 2019 were **AGREED** as a full and accurate record. FMI to sign them after the meeting. There were two matters arising, both from item 7.5.

2.2 Item 7.5 STA apologised that he and SJE had not yet discussed the recommendations of their student focus group report with IJO but would do so.

ACTION Item 2.2 *SJE and STA to discuss the recommendations of their student focus group report directly with IJO.*

2.3 Item 7.5 MHU noted that SJE had not yet anonymised the report for him to upload onto GovernorHub.

ACTION Item 2.2 *SJE to anonymise student focus group report and forward to MHU for him to upload to GovernorHub.*

[CGE joined the meeting at 5.11pm.]

3. Receive committee reports and agree terms of reference

3.1 Given that Katherine MacLennon (KMA – the school's lead on personal, social and health education) had not arrived – and would not arrive – to present to governors on the school's proposed new relationships and sex education policy, FMI proposed moving on to the next items on the agenda.

3.2 School Improvement Committee LEM, who chairs this committee, having given apologies, FMI reported that it had met on 16 January 2020. Minutes were not yet available. The meeting had reviewed the school's self-evaluation and outline curriculum plan for 2020-21, and received progress updates on Years 8, 10 and 13, as well as termly reports on attendance and exclusion.

[GGO joined the meeting with apologies at 5.13pm.]

3.2.1 Governors **AGREED** the terms of reference of the School Improvement Committee.

3.3 Personnel and Resources Committee RAU, who chairs this committee, having given apologies, JWO, who is vice chair, reported that it had met on 23 January 2020. Minutes were not yet available.

3.3.1 The meeting had received updates on the decisions of the Pay Committee, a data breach and a draft SFVS (Schools Financial Value Standard – a form enabling governors to annually audit the school's financial probity and effectiveness).

3.3.2 The meeting had also reviewed future staffing issues, a safeguarding checklist, SWH's performance management objectives, and a draft budget for the financial year 2020-21. The school was heading for an in-year deficit of some £70k. However, with a £90k contingency brought forward from 2018-19, the figure became a £20k surplus. On current trends, the school was likely to be in deficit thereafter.

4. Allocate governors to committees

4.1 Jennifer Meechan Governors **AGREED** that JMN should join the School Improvement Committee.

4.2 Stuart Taylor STA to attend next meeting of Personnel and Resources Committee before proposing which committee he wishes to join.

5. Receive presentation on Relationships and Sex Education Policy

5.1 SWH explained that the model Camden Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy which had been circulated had been customised for the school: it was this customised policy which was to have been presented by KMA. He could not explain her absence, but it was Y12 parents' evening and KMA taught Y12. In her absence, he explained the background.

[BLA joined the meeting with apologies at 5.17pm.]

5.2 The government requirements on teaching RSE in secondary schools had been contentious in some parts of the country, despite a duty to consult parents.

5.3 Many aspects of the policy were already taught at William Ellis, and had been for many years. However, the school was under a statutory duty to introduce the new curriculum in September 2020, and would consult with parents shortly. The school had received assurances of support from Camden Learning and the council.

5.4 GGO thought that, in Camden at least, and with the support of the local authority, most headteachers had been able to counter any misinformation circulated by campaigners, although one public meeting had been particularly fraught. Most parents' fears had been allayed.

5.5 FMI thanked SWH and GGO for their remarks and called for questions, of which there were two, which SWH answered as follows.

5.6 How did SWH propose prioritising what was taught under the policy [KDU]? The new policy explained how – and where in the curriculum – RSE was being taught at the moment, as well as which aspects were statutory and which were not.

5.7 Could governors assist in the consultation [DMO]? SWH welcomed this, although he had little idea of how many parents would turn up to consultation meetings.

5.8 DMO, STA and GGO volunteered to attend consultation meetings if possible. BLA to inform them of dates when scheduled.

ACTION *Item 5.8* **GGO, DMO and STA** to attend parents' RSE consultation meeting if possible; **BLA** to inform them of dates.

5.9 Governors **AGREED** that approval or otherwise of the policy should be deferred to the next (26 March 2020) FGB meeting, following the (deferred) presentation on it.

6. Any other business

Reappointment FMI congratulated CGE on his reappointment by the Birkbeck and William Ellis Schools Trust as a foundation governor, as from 28 January 2020.

Next scheduled meeting: Thursday 26 March 2020

There being no further business in this part of the meeting, FMI thanked all present for attending and closed this part of the meeting at 5.28pm. IJO and BLA withdrew from the meeting at this point.

Signed..... Date.....

Fiona Millar
Chair of the Governing Body, William Ellis School

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MINUTES

ACTION *Item 2.2* **SJE and STA** to discuss the recommendations of their student focus group report directly with IJO.

ACTION *Item 2.2* **SJE** to anonymise student focus group report and forward to MHU for him to upload to GovernorHub.

ACTION *Item 5.8* **GGO, DMO and STA** to attend parents' RSE consultation meeting if possible; **BLA** to inform them of dates.