

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL

Minutes of a meeting of the

Governing Body

held on 9 February 2017 at 5.30pm

Part One

Membership			
Richard Ault	IA	Pandora Kay-Kreizman	IA
Laura Concannon	IA	Fiona Millar - Chair	IA
Ronke Coote	IA	Daniel Monk	IA
Karen Dunnell	IA	Claire Ozkaya	IA
Julia Eccleshare	A	Imogen Sharp	IA
Professor Conor Gearty	A	Paul Tiffen	IA
Dr. Lee Elliot Major	A	Sam White – Head Teacher	IA
Georgia Gould	IA	Jonny Woolf	A
Omar Harmon	A		
Also in attendance			
7 Students from the Student Council			
Julian Turner – Chair, Acland Burghley			
Peter Lee – Deputy Head			
Bernie Lane – Assistant Head			
Jerry Glover for item on Student Council Presentation			
Clerk			
Elaine Peers			

IA – In Attendance, A – Apologies received, N – not in attendance, no apologies received

The meeting was quorate and started at 5.30pm.

1. **Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from: Julia Eccleshare, Lee Elliot Major, Conor Gearty, Omar Harmon and Johnny Woolf.

Julian Turner, Chair of Acland Burghley School, joined the meeting at 5.50pm and was welcomed as an observer.

Pandora Kay-Kreizman joined the meeting at 6.20pm.

Resolved: to accept apologies received for absence.

2. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Student Council Presentation

The Governing Body welcomed seven boys from the Student Council accompanied by Mr. Glover.

The students made a joint presentation to Governors highlighting the following points.

- Students provided feedback on the outcome of discussions the previous year regarding the inconsistency of the praise and concern system. Students noted that some short term improvements had been implemented but these hadn't become embedded. Students wanted to see consistency in rewards and punishments. In response to Governors questions, it was noted that the system worked well in Year 7, but there was a lack of enthusiasm towards praise from teachers as students got older.
- The focus of this presentation was on a "Curriculum for Life", a key Student Council priority which had been informed by the Make Your Mark campaign.
 - Students want to understand better why curriculum subjects are important and relevant to future opportunities beyond school.
 - Students would like more opportunities to learn about jobs, lifestyle and to focus on the future. This is partly delivered through deep learning days and discussions in the tutor period. Some teachers explain clearly why a particular curriculum subject is relevant for students. However, the content of deep learning days can be repetitive for older students and Year 8 and 9 and KS4 miss out from tutor periods. Noted that a visit from creative industries for Year 9 students was inspiring.
- Students offered the following solutions:
 - Teachers to take a minute to explain why a subject is helpful and relevant in and out of school.
 - Introduction of KS4 tutor time which would provide time to focus on:
 - careers for the future
 - food technology
 - handyman skills
 - first aid skills
- Governors queried whether the Mill might be used more, both as a place to deliver an outdoor curriculum, but also as an opportunity to build friendships.
- Governors noted to students that later in the meeting they would be discussing how changes might be made to the curriculum.

Students were thanked for their contributions and left the meeting with Mr. Glover.

4. Membership of the Governing Body

- Noted that this would be Paul Tiffen's last meeting and he was thanked for his contribution to the Governing Body.
- A parent election process would now need to be put in place to fill the Parent Governor vacancy.

- The Governing Body also has Foundation and Coopted Governor vacancies.
 - The Chair is proposing to the Trust that Omar Harmon becomes a Foundation Governor.
 - Governors had received a profile for a prospective Foundation Governor who is also a parent. Her expertise as an independent Art Consultant would be welcomed to support monitoring of provision in respect of the creative curriculum.

Governors agreed that the Chair would recommend the nomination to the Trust.

Governors were encouraged to look out for potential candidates, particularly with financial management expertise.

- More governors are required for the Personnel and Resources Committee.
- The Chair also proposed to ask Abdi Ahmed to become an Associate Member whose expertise could be called on from time to time. Governors agreed to this proposal.

Action: The Chair to recommend the two nominations for Foundation Governors to the Trust.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2016 were agreed.

6. Matters Arising from the previous minutes

6.1 Admissions Policy for 2018

Updated admissions criteria had been circulated to Governors. Governors agreed that foster siblings could be included in the sibling category.

In the penultimate paragraph, reference to parents' views to be amended to child's and parents' views.

There were no other matters arising not covered on the agenda.

7 Pupil Premium Report

This item was deferred and will be considered by the next School Improvement Committee.

8 School Self-evaluation

Governors considered a summary document of the self-evaluation. Noted that the full self-evaluation is a 20 page document used internally by the Senior Leadership Team. The two page summary references the Ofsted inspection framework and identifies strengths and areas for development. It is important for Governors to know where the strengths and challenges lie. The following comments were made:

- The Headteacher is working with Rob Robson, a former Headteacher from Hertfordshire to sharpen the self-evaluation.
- The introduction is important as it sets out why William Ellis is not an 'average' school.
- Attendance in the sixth form remains an issue from the previous inspection.
- Demands for literacy are greater than in 2012 – the new exams are tough. The school is building extended writing throughout the curriculum to support this.

- The Teaching, Learning and Assessment judgement is vulnerable because of outcomes. Progress 8 is a significant issue and it is not clear how this will impact on overall effectiveness. However, the school is able to demonstrate the impact of the small number of outliers. The Headteacher to recalculate P8 outcomes when the outliers are taken out.
- The school is sharpening up on the quality of teaching with a focus on the progress of every student. Mock exam results and an estimate of likely exam outcomes given KS2 scores will be used as a basis for enquiry to speak to teachers, matched with observations of teachers and work scrutiny.
- Student leadership to be recognised as a strength in the SEF.
- A key priority is for subject leads to understand the curriculum changes.
- Relationships with students in the classroom is a strength.
- In respect of the Personal Development and Welfare section, consistency of the praise and concern system remains a concern.

There has been a reduction in the most serious behaviours as well as low level behaviours but the school needs to remain on top of behavior management and not become complacent. Three factors have contributed to improvement in this area: the Safer School police officer; the CAMHS worker one day per week; and the appointment of the parent support worker.

Noted that Ronke Coote, as the designated Safeguarding Governor, had spent time with Bernie Lane reviewing safeguarding.

- On-line safety is a growing concern and the school is looking at some action in this area, potentially in a deep learning day.

Actions:

- **The Headteacher to recalculate the P8 measure without the outliers.**
- **An updated SEF summary to be available to Governors via the google link.**

9. Statutory Interventions for Persistent Absentees

Bernie Lane noted that he had been in discussion with the Education Welfare Team at Camden Council and Education Welfare time had been booked for discussions with relevant parents. Parents would be warned that lack of improvement in attendance of their child over a six week monitoring period could result in a £120 fine.

10. Governor Training and Development

The Chair proposed that training be provided to Governors using outside facilitators in May. Joint training with Acland Burghley to be considered. This would include guidance on completing school visits/learning walks.

All Governors were recommended to undertake the on-line Prevent training.

Actions: The Chair to consider further the training proposal.

11. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

12 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Governing Body will be Thursday 23 March 2017 at 6.00pm.

13. Confidential Business

There was one confidential business item and this is recorded in Part 2 of the minutes.

Julian Turner left the meeting prior to discussion of the confidential item.

Signed.....

Date:.....

Chair of the Governing Body