

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL

Minutes of a meeting of the

Governing Body

held on 18 May 2017 at 5.00pm

Membership			
Richard Ault	A	Pandora Kay-Kreizman	A
Laura Concannon	IA	Fiona Millar - Chair	IA
Ronke Coote	IA	Daniel Monk	IA
Karen Dunnell	IA	Claire Ozkaya	IA
Julia Eccleshare	IA	Imogen Sharp	IA
Professor Conor Gearty	A	Selina Skipwith	IA
Dr. Lee Elliot Major	IA	Sam White – Head Teacher	IA
Georgia Gould	IA	Jonny Woolf	A
Omar Harmon	A		
Also in attendance			
Rob Robson			
Clerk			
Elaine Peers			

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

The meeting was quorate and started at 5.00pm.

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Richard Ault, Omar Harmon, Pandora Kay-Kreizman and Johnny Woolf.

Professor Conor Gearty remains on sabbatical.

Resolved: to accept apologies received for absence.

2. Governors' Strategic Planning Session (incorporates the standing item on membership of the Governing Body)

The Governing Body welcomed Rob Robson to facilitate the Governors' strategic planning session. His presentation focused on:

- Vision and values of the school
- Stakeholder engagement
- School Development Plan
- Leadership

- Governing Body size and constitution

Key messages:

Rob Robson set out a number of points for Governors to think about, bearing in mind that most governing bodies don't have the expertise to get bogged down in operational detail:

- Importance of listening to the Headteacher, although Governors can't just accept the Headteacher is right. Rob identified 2 key activities for Governors:
 - using school visits to talk, look and test, ensuring that every school visit has a focus which relates to the School Improvement Plan
 - engaging with school stakeholders (boys, parents and staff). The challenge to Governors is how to engage with the whole school community, not just the accessible stakeholders.
- Reporting should be focused as much on the risk of not achieving objectives as possible. Data should support the identification of issues to be concerned about. This will require some changes to the Headteacher's report. Governors will also need to consider:
 - what the school is doing to improve?
 - what is the school prepared to stop to introduce something new?
 - what is the school prepared to adjust and change?
- However, Governors can't just focus on a deficit model, Governors also need to look at the strengths of the school.
- Governors should interact with school leaders, understanding how the following leadership skills are provided:
 - Leadership learning
 - Pedagogy and curriculum skills
 - Business and change management skills
 - Emotional support for well-being
 - Peer support
- The Governing Body could consider the inclusion of a "so what" statement in the School Development Plan, which embodies the key principles of William Ellis School such as:

"A William Ellis graduate is.....".

This might incorporate shared values with other Camden Schools but should articulate what is unique about William Ellis School. The statement should be tested with stakeholders so that everyone is clear what it means.
- Rob Robson also outlined possible options for the size and constitution of the Governing Body bearing in mind statutory guidance on membership. The Governing Body would have further discussions on the size as well as skills required in relation to the School Improvement Plan., Any subsequent recommendations would be referred to the Foundation for approval. Agreed that the Governors' attendance sheet be circulated for review.

Actions

- **Governors to consider how to develop stakeholder engagement.**
- **Governors to agree a timetable of visits.**
- **Governors to discuss further options for the size and constitution of the Governing Body**
- **The Headteacher to review risk reporting to the Governing Body.**
- **Governors' attendance sheet to be circulated to all Governors.**

Rob Robson was thanked for his facilitation of the discussion and left the meeting.

