



## **Minutes of the meeting of the Governing Body of Stokesley School held on Wednesday 5th November 2014**

**Present:** P. Bartlett, H. Boal (Chair), S. Brennan, C. Brooker (Headteacher), B. Griffiths, P. Howes, P. Hutchinson, N. Land, A. Price, S. Thorogood, V. von Morgen,

**In support:** S. Newman (Clerk)

### **GB47/14: Apologies for Absence:**

It was agreed that the absence and reasons for absence received from L. Hugill and H. Wiseman be consented to.

### **GB48/14: Confidential Agenda Items**

No agenda items were considered to be confidential

### **GB49/14: Declarations of Interest.**

Governors were reminded to make declarations of interest, pecuniary or otherwise, for any agenda item.

### **GB50/14: Other Business**

There were no notifications of other business

### **GB51/14: Register of Business Interest**

Governors were reminded to declare any changes to Governors Register of Business Interest. None were declared

### **GB52/14: Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

**It was agreed that the minutes of**  
**the meeting held on 2nd July 2014 (minute nos. GB16/13 to GB37/14 inclusive)**  
**the extraordinary meeting held on 10th July 2014 (minute nos. GB38/14 to GB39/14 inclusive)**  
**the extraordinary meeting held on 10th October 2014 (minute nos. GB40/14 to GB46/14 inclusive)**

**be approved and signed as a true record subject to the removal of 'including Revd. P. Hutchinson' from minute no. GB46/14: agreed action point 2.**

### **GB53/14: Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising

### **GB54/14: Review of Committee Structure – Strategic Planning Committee:**

Discussions had taken place at the start of the academic year on how governor committees could be more effective in focusing on school improvement and rigorous governor self-evaluation and how the terms of reference of the committees must link directly to the School Improvement Plan. In the light of those discussions a draft of proposed changes to the terms of reference of the Strategic Planning committee had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Governors discussed the changes and how they related to the School Improvement Plan.

**It was agreed that the changes to the Terms of Reference of the Strategic Planning Committee be approved.**

#### **GB55/14: Minutes of Committees**

The minutes of the committees were circulated in advance of the meeting, the chair invited questions from governors.

#### **Personnel Committee minute no. P43/14:**

In the light of the introduction of performance related pay for teaching staff, a governor asked how teachers who had been unsuccessful in securing pay progression had reacted. The Headteacher explained that follow up meetings with constructive discussion on how to address weaknesses had been effective in ensuring those members of staff remained positive and focused.

#### **Teaching Learning and Student Support Committee minute number minute no. TLSS25/14:**

A governor asked for clarification on the Closing the Gap Project with regard to the selection of students. The chair of the TL&SS committee explained that the selection of students *with parents who would be likely to react positively* was only for the purpose of the pilot project. This would not be the selection method when the project is rolled out in the future.

#### **GB56/14: Link Governor Learning**

Link governors had been invited to attend the post exam results Heads of Faculty Meetings. The Headteacher asked governors if they felt the exercise had been worthwhile. Governors commented:

- It provided a good insight into the role of a Head of Faculty
- It was a good opportunity to hear open and honest discussion on issues that could be followed up at future link governor meetings. It gave a better understanding of strengths and weaknesses.
- It highlighted how challenges differ from one faculty to another and how different subjects have different requirements.
- It was interesting to listen to discussion in a year when some results were not so good

#### **GB57/14: Self Evaluation of Governance**

This item had been discussed at item 8 on the agenda. There was nothing further to add.

**It was agreed that: a date should be set for a meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee. A suggested date would be circulated to the committee.**

#### **GB58/14: Headteacher's Report**

The Headteacher presented her report to governors which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Governors discussed the changes to assessment at Key Stage 2 and the work being done with primary colleagues. Governors expressed concerns over how progress would be measured in future once KS2 SATs ceased to exist. The Headteacher summarised the SEF, a governor asked for more details about the English remark. The Headteacher said the English Literature results had triggered a full remark, when all of the remark outcomes have been received and analysed, and in the light of Raiseonline, governors would have the opportunity to discuss in detail the whole school results, with the benefit of comparative information, at the meeting on 9th December. A governor highlighted the exceptional improvement among disadvantaged students noting the average grade in English had moved from F to just below C and in Maths from E to C.

#### **GB59/14: Update from Academy Project Team**

P. Bartlett gave an oral report to governors and summarised progress so far:

The LA had been notified of the intention to convert and the implementation team was meeting regularly on Friday mornings at 8am. The application had been submitted to the DfE who had asked for supplementary information. Initial indications were that they welcomed the application

and the outcome should be known by 20th November. Legal support was under selection, four firms were being interviewed and a decision will have been made by 14th November. Property issues were being clarified. Consultation meetings had been arranged for 11th, 13th and 14th of November.

The Headteacher said she had notified the primary schools and asked for the information to be passed on to year 6 parents and had contacted the LA to invite them to the consultation meetings.

### **B. Griffiths left the meeting at 7.15pm**

S. Brennan was leading on investigating service contracts and a specialist education support company would be employed to oversee the initial period of conversion. H. Boal is leading the thinking on the nature of governance. Governors discussed the TUPE process and the importance of good financial management.

**It was agreed that: P Bartlett be thanked for his leadership of the working party**

### **GB60/14: Review of Governance**

The chair informed governors that she had received notification from Cllr. H Moorhouse that she wished to resign from her post as LA governor. The chair had contacted Cllr. Moorhouse to thank her for her work over the years.

Governors discussed the current vacancies on the governing body and the short period of time any new governor would serve should the conversion to academy status go ahead.

**It was agreed that: in the light of the intention to convert to academy status and the subsequent change of governing body constitution, new governors would not be appointed at this point in time.**

### **GB61/14: Policies for Approval**

**It was Agreed that the following Policies be adopted by the Governing Body:**

- NYCC recheck policy

### **GB62/14: Health and Safety**

There were no health and safety issues

### **GB63/14: Correspondence and Publications.**

None received

### **GB64/14: Other Urgent Business**

#### **Business Link Update**

S. Brennan presented a report to the governors which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Date of next meeting:

Signed: ..... (Chair)

Date: .....