



Minutes of The King Alfred School Board of Governors Meeting

Held Tuesday 24th January 2017
18:00 Room G01

Present: Eur Ing H Mackay (Chair), Mrs N Augar, Mrs D Cornish, Mr R Dyer, Mr K Elliot, Mr M Ellis, Mrs D Hurr, Mr S Lodge, Mrs A Milburn, Mrs J Strong, and Mrs M Wellman

In Attendance: Mrs T Humphris (Clerk), Miss J Cahill (JAC), Mr D Herbert (DH), Mr S Aylward (SMA)

Apologies: Miss L Lamb and Miss P Matthews

1. Apologies were accepted from Lindsey Lamb and Polly Matthews. There were no **declarations of Business Interests** or **Conflict of Interests**.

2. **Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13th December 2016.**
The minutes were signed off as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. **Matters arising from the meeting on 1st November 2016**
The Keeping Children Safe in Education document was signed by the Governors present. Phil Reddish remains the only Governor left to sign this document.
Action: PR

Safeguarding Question: Why is private fostering included in the Keeping Children Safe in Education Part 1 as a specific safeguarding issue? JS said it is because private foster carers are not governed by Somerset County Council, so it is the responsibility of the School to report if they hear of a case. MW said a lot of private fostering goes "under the radar" and quoted the Victoria Climbié case. HM said foreign exchange visits could be construed as private fostering. NA advised that it is a criminal offense for a school not to disclose it if it is discovered.

4. **Urgent items:**
Virement of £8,584 from A001 to A002 (teachers' salaries to supply) - approved by the Governors.

Security fencing – The current open site arrangement at KAS is no longer considered secure enough, for safeguarding reasons. DCH outlined the concerns re 1610. SCC's advice is that the School's current arrangement is not sufficient. DCH said the School are at risk of going into Special Measures if they don't make the changes needed, as this has happened in other schools.

RD said he felt it was unreasonable for Ofsted to insist on these changes retrospectively.

DCH then outlined the possible short and long term plans to improve security at the School, with the new fencing gates shutting at 8.45am for the rest of the day, new security fencing erected and the relocation of Main Reception. DCH said she could refuse access to 1610, but this would leave Somerset in breach of our contract with them.

The first quote that has been received for the additional fencing was £27,000, but two further quotes are expected. DCH confirmed that she is in negotiation with the Local Authority about who will meet the cost of the work. *KE asked what was the response from the Local Authority as he would advise getting their agreement to paying first, before placing the order?* DCH said that they are in negotiation and the LA are trying to find a funding stream to cover the cost. *RD asked whether having the plans to show Ofsted would be sufficient?* DCH said she would consider this a risky strategy. KE said that he would think the Local Authority will definitely not pay if we have confirmed the order and then ask them to help with the cost.

JS said she had felt uncomfortable when she was accessing 1610 gym as a member. HM said he had received a complaint from a parent about the openness of the site. NA said she feels uncomfortable with her child being in the School as it is. *KE questioned how other schools are set up to be safe?* DCH outlined other schools locally and the layout of their sites. AM said most schools now have entry via a commentary gate. HM said with our two "entrances" we are wide open. *DC asked whether the new fencing would still allow for fire engines and ambulances to access the site in the event of an emergency?* DCH confirmed that they would be able to access the site without difficulty.

HM sought a proposer for the fencing to be undertaken and the award of the contract to be delegated to HM and DCH. MW proposed, NA seconded. This received unanimous agreement from the Governors. HM confirmed that the style of fencing is attractive and will not mean that the School looks like a prison. DCH said that she will still need to resolve how the Sixth Formers will be able to gain access.

DCH also confirmed that staff feel that "The Maze" fixture in the centre of the School is a safeguarding issue, as students cannot be easily seen when they are sitting at the centre of it. This will be demolished during the February half term.

5. **QA Reports**

- **Geography**
- **Pastoral**

JAC introduced herself to the Governors and outlined the QA Schedule. The QA Reports had been circulated to Governors before the meeting. JAC confirmed that they have been agreed with their Departments and both were awarded Good. JAC confirmed Catherine Owen is Head of Geography, as well as having the Associate Role for Learning and Teaching.

The Governors had no questions on the reports. HM thanked JAC for the reports and she left the meeting.

6. **SDP Report – Curriculum**

DH introduced himself to the Governors. He confirmed that he had last presented to them 12 months ago and said that there have been a lot of changes since then. He outlined the change to the School Day, which he said is proving successful. Lessons are now 1 hour long which allows for more in depth learning. There is a 5 minute changeover between lessons which is helpful, and staff and students alike are welcoming the fact that there is just one lesson after lunch.

The curriculum map for KS3 hasn't changed. KS4 has changed, with 4 options (current Year 10 onward) being taken with the lessons balanced over the two-week timetable and 9 hours of English, 8 of Maths and 9 of Science.

DH referred to the document he had circulated prior to the meeting and explained that our results will be negatively affected by the A8/P8 subjects in Year 11. This is because (unlike other schools) we felt it was not fair to expect our students to change their option choices midway through for the sake of our figures. This is a legacy of having a 3-year KS4 and will improve next year.

At KS5 there is only 1 subject which is not an A-Level. Our Sixth Form is a high quality and high performing Sixth Form, currently in the top 20% in the country. They are also offering the EPQ, which is highly rated by the universities.

Year 8 are currently considering their options and meeting with staff for extra help and advice about the choices.

Sixty Year 11s took up the offer of trialling being a Sixth Former for the Day and we are now taking applications. It is felt that more than sixty are considering Sixth Form for their next step. Our core offer is for 3 A-Levels + the EPQ. A small number of students may ask to do 4 A-Levels and we will try to facilitate this. We need our Sixth Form figures to be stronger. We are currently advising students that they need to achieve Grade 5 in English and

Maths, although the Government expectation is Grade 4. In two years' time they will need to achieve Grade 5 in both, which will be a difficult challenge. AM asked whether we could go back to offering English and Maths, if the students are only doing 3 A-Levels? DCH said that those students who were a "near miss" are offered the change of resitting the exam in November, but historically getting the other students through has proven to be very difficult. We don't want to set them up to fail. DH said that this can also create tension for the students between working for A-Levels and working for GCSEs.

HM thanked DH for the report and he left the meeting.

7. **Benchmarking**

RD confirmed that we are mid-table of all schools, according to most of the graphs. DCH confirmed that we will have spent what we were given in terms of funding. HM noted that Learning Resources seemed an anomaly, but that this was most likely to be due to how we classify the spending. Another factor affecting a report was on Premises – we employ our own cleaners and kitchen staff, unlike many schools. RD said that economies of scale can sometimes skew the figures. The Governors accepted the report.

8. **SLT/Governor Links Presentations**

- **SEND (JS)**

JS confirmed that she would be in School on Tuesday to revisit the Learning Support Department and meet with Sandra Lloyd.

- **Health and Safety (DC)**

DC confirmed that she had visited the School to look at a higher hazard area, so went to the Science Department and then toured the site. She noticed some gutters that needed clearing, but this has now been done. She was aware of some complaints about flooding during the storms, and she noticed some graffiti in a block, but this has now been cleaned off. DC confirmed that she visited a couple of lessons and felt she could see an improvement in atmosphere generally.

- **Sixth form (RD)**

RD said he had visited Mr Hoskins, but had not completed a report yet. HM asked RD to write the report up for Governors. **Action: RD.**

9. **Headteacher's Report**

DCH circulated the Raise Online report. Governors noted that it looked different to before and DCH explained the different sections. Once validated TJH to email a copy out to Governors. **Action: TJH.**

DCH told Governors about the Entry Levels and Progress (Sig+ on entry) and then explained Attainment 8 and Progress 8, which is what the School have to focus on. We must work on the Gifted and Talented provision for our more able

students. It was noted that girls out-perform boys. DCH said that a change this year was that there were no significant adjustments to grades unless there was a major difference in the mark.

DCH highlighted the results of 8 students which show up on the report as outliers. These students were not studying at KAS for their Year 11, but were being educated off-site. Removing their figures the data goes from -0.65 to -0.5, which is the floor standard for Ofsted. SMA said that 8 students can make a 1.5 point shift in the data.

DCH then outlined the English and Maths data, and pointed out that the open bucket shows a more positive picture, which is above the P8 threshold. However, the results still are not good for the disadvantaged students.

NA and AM left the meeting at this stage.

DCH's report also covered:

- Staffing.
- Sub-groups for pupil premium students.
- Girls' attendance – it was noted that this was worse than boys.
- EAL students are doing well.
- DCH and SMA have looked at the English and Maths data with their HODs.
- Mr Hoskins is currently supporting Year 11 intervention.
- SMA has now taken back the line management of Maths, as well as English, as there has been such a significant improvement in English.
- Mr Hoskins is giving extra support to DT Resistant Materials.

National Average for Grade 5 is likely to be 35% - 37%, with English and Maths. The PiXL paper is being designed and marked nationally and then the data will be put in to see where the results will be. Our data shows an improvement (38.1% Grade 5+ English and Maths), but it will depend on how everyone else does. In March we will complete another PPE, mark and moderate, and submit our students' data nationally to assess our performance.

JS asked how the Interventions are going? DCH said the students are set, so this means the work is differentiated and subjects target their interventions in terms of topics.

DCH confirmed that attendance of parents at the Year 11 Parents Evening was 65%, which is a good improvement on this year group's attendance in Year 10.

Report on visit by Faith Jarrett and Tony Wilde

KE asked what is used when deciding who teaches which set? DCH said generally teachers are given a range of sets, but have to be careful to select the right teachers for A-Level. Also some teachers for instance who really “get maths” aren’t always successful at teaching students who don’t “get maths”.

JS asked whether poor behaviour is mainly in Maths, or across all areas of the School? DCH said two very good appointments have been made this year in Maths, which have helped and now the Department are working hard to change students’ perception of the subject.

KE asked whether TW and FJ have been given an opportunity to meet with other members of the faculty? DCH said no not yet. KE said he thought they should be given the opportunity to meet with other staff from outside the Departments.

DCH confirmed that they will be visiting next on Tuesday 31st January 2017.

MAT Update

The CLT have been given a contract for opening a new primary school in Bridgwater and, as a consequence, KAS have been asked to re-examine other possible sponsors or look for new sponsors. John Wells (JW) and DCH have met to discuss this. The CLT remains committed to include KAS in their MAT. Sue Rogers, Deputy Director, Somerset CC, has suggested an alternative, which is that we defer joining the CLT until the Autumn.

JS asked if the School was to be put into Special Measures, could Ofsted insist that we join a different MAT? DCH said yes possibly.

DCH said that JW and Zoe Elder have been very supportive and have identified what we need to improve:

- Developing SLT.
- Middle Leaders – making them ready for an Ofsted visit and talking about the non-negotiables.
- CSPD.
- Learning walks and recognising good practice.
- Learning environments.
- Inset Days.
- Helen Naunton – Consultant from CLT supporting our Maths Department currently and later our English Department.
- Visit made to the Castle School.

If we can get all that they have suggested right then we will be consistently good.

KE said we have talked a lot about behaviour this year. Has behaviour generally improved? DCH said low level behaviour has improved, but it's not perfect. The number of permanent exclusions is higher than last year (5), but four of these are for one-off incidents and one is for persistent disruption. ME said there are still some inconsistencies and commented that he could see three different posters in the classroom we were in which referred to behaviour. KE said it seemed strange that there would be confusion when there has been so much discussion about it. DCH said the flow chart is there for clarity and the students need to see positive and negative consequences for their actions. The flow chart was considered to be useful for staff, but not students. It was felt that the green/red/yellow poster shouldn't be on display, nor the flow chart. SMA said that if the basics are in place during a lesson and we are getting these absolutely right then we can pick up the "outliers" in terms of students who persistently do not follow the School Rules. ME said the majority comply, but there are a small minority who are turning the simplest thing into something big, and this is becoming a "normal" thing for them. These students are sanctioned. ME said he thought the orange poster is the only one needed on the wall of a classroom. DCH said that at her meeting with the Unions before Christmas behaviour was one of the major concerns that was talked about. The next Union meeting is tomorrow (25th January 2017).

KE asked whether we could put it on the agenda for the next meeting for a debate? **Action: TJH**

HM thanked DCH for her report. He asked Governors to reaffirm their wish to continue to pursue joining the CLT, but to accept that the School's application will be frozen until the Autumn. We will, however, continue to work closely with them with a view to joining them after 1st September 2017. This was agreed unanimously.

10. **Governor Training Feedback**

JS confirmed there was no training to report.

Next Meeting Tuesday 21st February 2017

6pm in GO1

Signed as an accurate record of the Meeting:

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Eur Ing Hugh Mackay (Chair of Governing Body) Dated: