



**Strategy Committee Meeting
 MINUTES
 Thursday, 2nd July 2015
 Blenheim Centre @ 05.00 pm**

Committee: Ms C Geisler (Chair of Strategy), Mr H Aswat (Vice-Chair of Governors), Mr G Alvy, Mrs J Fox (Chair of Curriculum and Standards), Mr A Megahy (Chair of Finance & Resources), & Ms S Vickers (Headteacher).

Guests:

Minutes: Mr W Schonenberg

Agenda Items		Actions
20. <u>Apologies for absence and declarations of interest</u> All members were present. No disclosures were made.	CG	
21. <u>Minutes of the 6 May 2015</u> These were reviewed, page by page, accepted, and subsequently signed by the Chair as being a true copy of events.	ALL	
23. <u>Matters Arising</u> <u>Chair's 1:1 (item 13 refers)</u> CG began by stating that this piece of work had originally been agreed when GA was chair of governors. As such GA had readily agreed and he had already made a start by writing the letter that was meant for all governors explaining why the GB was introducing annual 1:1's between all governors and their Chair. This letter he was happy to share with CG. Having recently been elected as chair, CG would now take on this task. August was a good month for CG work-wise so she planned to use the summer break to undertake this task. It would also be a pleasant way for CG to get to know all governors. CG went on to explain that in her new role as Chair that she had just enrolled in a chair of governors-leadership development programme. As part of her course she would be <u>undertaking a 360° review of the role of chair</u> , as previously recommended in inspections (and part of the advised 20 questions by the NGA).	CG	Action: CG to write to all governors and set up 1:1 meetings in August.



<p><u>Governors Link to BGHS</u></p> <p>HA had attended the 14.05.15 meeting, but he was unsure as to whether this was a one-off or not. Members felt that it was a one-off.</p> <p>Please Note: After the meeting, the Clerk subsequently checked his minutes, (item 5 refers) as he felt that this was not correct. On the 01.04.15 the Strategy Committee agreed with BGHS co-heads that it wanted a permanent seat on their governing body. Additionally it was agreed that neither the Chair nor the HT should be that person. Therefore HA was chosen to be BBEC's permanent link to BGHS.</p> <p><u>Staff Interviews</u></p> <p>GA and AM had taken part in the most recent interviews for AHT and DHT on the 29.06.15 and members expressed their satisfaction at the outcomes.</p> <p><u>Deep Dives & Learning Walks</u></p> <p>Q. Can we undertake more learning walks, so that governors can obtain a better feel for the school?</p> <p>A. Yes, but these walks then need a focus point. Say looking at behaviour, or marking, or questioning in class.</p> <p>SV gave an example of how this could work. CG felt that looking at the physical environment within school, say displays, can really add value to teaching. The deep dives schedule itself will be updated for 2015/16 and it could include some new areas. The most recent HMI inspection had spoken positively about the important contribution that governors made regarding Extremisms and British Values.</p>		
<p>24. <u>Monitoring and Progress against the SIP – HMI Feedback</u></p> <p>The Chair felt that there was no better update on SIP improvement than referring to the 25th June 2015 inspection by Chris Smith HMI. This was the second monitoring inspection since the school was judged to have serious weaknesses in October 2014. Having considered all the evidence CS was of the opinion that the school is making reasonable progress towards the removal of the serious weakness designation.</p>	<p>SV</p>	



SV explained how CS had spent the day; observing 7 lessons, talking to several groups, analysing progress data, interviewing SV.

Identified strengths were:

- HT and SLT have a clear vision for the school's direction and actions prove that the school is gaining momentum
- Actions to tackle the historic budget deficit have been taken. There has been an effective staff restructure. Governors and SLs are managing the use of PP monies effectively
- GB is increasingly effective in holding SLs to account. The introduction of the Strategy Committee is becoming an effective forum in evaluating school progress and identifying areas of underperformance
- Teacher performance is managed robustly and poor performance is effectively challenged. HT and governors have successfully managed the turbulence in staffing and recruited more effective middle leaders and teachers. This and appropriate professional support has considerably raised the levels of good and better teaching
- Teachers are directly held accountable for the progress that their students make
- Improvements in behaviour are contributing to a growing culture of aspiration and endeavour.

Two other areas need some further work. These relate to middle leaders evaluating their improvement actions, and mapping out how far the spread of British Values has been embedded.

CG felt that at the end of the school year, now that the school had had all of this year's inspections, governors need to summarise and collate, with the last data-set, where the school was now. All of this information will then inform a new updated SDP. In turn the newest SDP will be the toolkit for the next school year. SV informed that the school has already started this process. School was colour rating all of the improvements moving subject areas from red, to amber, to green as the case may be.



<p>Governors entered into a discussion around “good” teaching versus “outstanding” teaching. Again the percentage of outstanding teaching had increased over the school year and now stood at around 30% of all lessons. The target for next year may well be pushed to 50%. In total the aim for both good or better could then be 90%.</p> <p><u>Meeting Timetable</u></p> <p>CG informed that SLT was currently working on a meeting agenda for 2015/16 which will be emailed to all governors. This would carry on around the existing 3 committees plus GB with a similar frequency as was trialled this year.</p> <p>Governors then entered into a discussion on “life after levels” for schools and how might BBEC create its own grading system.</p> <p>Q. How will anyone know how good the system chosen is?</p> <p>A. This is a very good point. Ofsted will not know either. We are in unchartered waters here. It would make sense to do something with BGHS jointly so that parents do not face 2 sets of gradings.</p>		
<p>25. <u>Monitoring Progress against the GB Action Plan</u></p> <p>CG shared out copies of the updated NGA 20 questions (2nd edition 2015) for members to keep. This followed Tony Pruchniewicz 's original set of questions which he had left the GB to work through. CG stated that these need cross-referencing with the Action Plan to evidence how and to which degree all points are covered.</p> <p>Q. When do you want us to feed back to you so that this task can be completed?</p> <p>A. In some ways I don't want your feedback now, as the HMI inspection gave us all the evidence that we need. An updated GB action plan for 2015/16 will be shared with governors at the next strategy meeting and will reflect the updated NGA 20 questions and information from the 1:1 conversations</p> <p>SV informed that if members agreed, Tony Pruchniewicz could be brought back in for 2 hours to review the HMI report. He originally stated that with new evidence, that he would alter some of his original findings. Members agreed to this.</p>		



<p>26. <u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>The meeting ended at this point as it was under time pressure from the following GB meeting also scheduled for today.</p>		
<p>27. <u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>As mentioned above, a timetable will come out in due course.</p>	CG/SV	
<p>28. <u>School Copy</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: That no part of these minutes, agenda or related papers be excluded from the copy to be made available at the School.</p>	CG	