

# CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, YORK

# LOCAL GOVERNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 6.30pm

Present:

In Attendance:

Simon Barber (Principal)

Andy Richardson (Chair)

Debbie Cooper Cerys Mawson Martyn Quick Sue Duxbury

Edie Jones Graham Reagan Steve King

David Judson (until 7.32pm)

\*

Mrs Liz Andrews-Wilson (Governance Support Office - Clerk)

		Action
	Presentation on the Combined Cadet Force A number of staff members, in full Army uniform, gave a presentation on the new initiative which had been introduced to MCEA. They explained that the aim of the Combined Cadet Force was to encourage the aspirations of the pupils, especially boys, who had become disillusioned and spent much of their time on their X-Box or electronic devices. The ultimate aim was for these aspirations to transpire into the classroom and exam results. The Army were providing bursaries for state schools to allow them to introduce CCF to children and young people outside of private school.	
	Governors were informed that 100 cadets had initially signed up, but this number had to be reduced due to staffing. The Army had agreed to a Unit of 60 pupils, which was supported by the Sergeant from Strensall. It was noted that the other 40 pupils had gone on a waiting list, as they all still wanted to be involved. Of the 60 cadets, about 40 were boys and about 20 were girls. A governor asked how the 60 cadet had been selected. It was reported that those individuals with high need had been given priority, but the other places were all allocated to pupils whose names had been drawn out of a hat.	
	The Cadets had been invited to attend a camp at Catterick Garrison. A flyer was tabled informing governors about the camp and the invitation was extended to anyway who wanted to attend to see the sorts of activities that the pupils are involved with. The speakers showed a video highlighting some of the activities and adventures that the cadets had been having. Governors were informed that the Cadets meet after school on a Thursday.	
	The Chair thanked the staff for their presentation, who then left the meeting.	(4)
	A governor commented that the school needed to celebrate the achievements made by the pupils who are performing well in Cadets; noting that some of the pupils involved with Cadets may not be flourishing academically, but their success should be rewarded in some way i.e.: pupils evening, presentation evening and rewards day. Governors were asked to email the Principal if they want to visit the camp on the open day.	AII
	Welcome and opening prayer The meeting was opened in prayer.	
1.	Apologies for absence, consent and declarations of interest  Apologies for absence had been received, with consent, from Dr S Smith and Mr R Yarrow. David  Judson advised that he would abstain from the discussions about the budget, declaring an interest due to his dual role within Trust governance.	
	Some items were taken out of order to allow David Judson to leave at 7.30pm	¥
8.	Local Governing Committee (Strategic Direction) Appointment of David Judson and Edie Jones	
	CFA L L LC	

Edie Jones' and David Judson's terms of office were due to come to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018. Edie advised that she was happy to be re-appointment as a Foundation Governor, if the LGC wanted her to continue. Governors indicated that they were happy for her to be re-appointed. Edie advised that she would be equally happy to stand down if a person with financial skill was needed to fill her position. It was agreed that the Chair and Edie Jones would complete the Diocesan paperwork, which is required for the re-appointment process.

Chair & EJ

David advised that he was happy to be re-appointment as a Trust Appointed Governor. The Clerk was asked to update governors on the clarification she had received from the Trust Board about David holding a dual role. She advised that the Trust Board were of the opinion that until the DfE state that dual roles are NOT allowed, they would support David in both roles.

Proposed by: Steve King Seconded by: Edie Jones

**Governors voted**: Eight governors were in favour, one governor objected (due to the issues associated with David's dual role).

The Clerk advised that she would arrange for David Judson's re-appointment to be ratified by the Trust Board.

Clerk

Staff Governor election (G. Reagan's term of office ends Oct 2018)

The LGC noted that Graham Reagan's term of office was due to end on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018. The Principal advised that he would run a staff governor election in time for a new staff governor to be elected.

Principal

The LGC noted that Sue Duxbury's term of office was due to end on the 11th November 2018; she was not eligible to be re-appointed. Rob Yarrow's term of office was also due to end on the 11th November 2018 and he had indicated that he would not be standing again. The Principal advised that he would run a parent governor election in September. The Clerk advised that so long as the election paperwork stated that there are two vacancies, then both vacancies could be filled from the same process.

**Principal** 

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

#### 3. Action Plan and matters arising

	ACTION	ITEM	STATUS
1.	Circulate latest version of SIAMS SEF to all governors	3	Completed
2.	Feedback issues and suggested amendments for the Complaints Policy to the CEO/ Trust Board	3	Carried forward
3.	Liaise with school on ways to support parents with technology/social media concerns (face to face workshop as well as online support)	4	Completed
4.	Circulate Ethos/SIAMS minutes to all governors when finalised	10	On this agenda
5.	Contact Diocese regarding foundation governor vacancies	7	Completed
6.	Review latest skills audit to identify skills gaps for future recruitment	7	Skills Audit to be circulated
7.	Circulate proposals on link governor approach from September	7	Carried forward
8.	Check governor availability to attend the next LA Termly Workshop on 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	11	No governor was available to attend

Clerk

#### **Matters Arising**

**Action 1**: The Principal informed governors that the SIAMS Inspection was due to take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018. He reported that the SEF had been updated. The Ethos Committee members had been invited to attend a meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> June and the SIAMS Inspector wanted to meet some parents and some pupils. He advised that the Inspector would attend a Form Worship and a House Worship.

Action 2: Some governors reported that they had attended the Trust specific Complaint's Handling

training session led by CYC. The Clerk advised that Salli Radford (Head of Governor Services) was developing a MAT Complaint's Policy, once completed this would be shared with the Trust Board to see if the Trust would like to adopt the standard policy across HLTY.

Trust Board

Action 3: The Principal informed governors that the school had brought into a support package, the details of which had been sent home to parents via email. He advised that the package provides parents with an online training session. School can monitor who has logged in and who had has done the training. He noted that school was trying to response to concerns that parents have raised. A few governors reported that (as parents) they had not received the email. Governors challenged the usefulness of online training, noting that parents may ignore it. This was to be reviewed at the next LGC meeting.

Agenda

Action 6: The LGC noted that when Sue Duxbury's term of office ends the LGC will have an accountancy skills gap.

6. Standards (Holding the Headteacher to Account)

Minutes of the Standards Committee held on 11th April 2018 (summary of current issues, questions & discussion)

The minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018 were taken as read. The committee's next meeting was due to be held the week following this meeting.

The Chair of the Standards Committee (David Judson) advised that the Committee had mainly discussed last year's official statistics, which had confirmed just how well the school did last year. He reported that the statistics had confirmed that the Modern Foreign Language Department was a cause for concern. As a result of this Jane Willis (Secondary Advisor) had conducted a review of the department, which had confirmed the findings of the internal review and an action plan was in place. Governors were concerned about the overall performance of the SEND pupils, but the Committee members had discussed the importance that the school places on the pupil's experience, not just their exam results.

Mr Judson acknowledged the effort that staff and pupils had been putting into out of hours and holiday revision sessions. The Principal reported that a number of pupils were had not coping with the start of exams, he provided some examples of the difficulties that some pupils were experiencing. He added that the pupils and the staff were under an increasing amount of pressure. Mr Reagan reported that the school was having to support pupils with all sorts of issues and were having to send some invigilators out to the pupil's homes, so that they can sit the exams. Mr Judson advised that pupil welfare was a real concern and the governors and school leaders need to continue to put the needs of individuals first.

A governor commented that other schools, up and down the country must be experiencing the same issues and they asked the Principal if the Headteacher's Association had applied pressure to the Government. A governor commented that the exams were no longer appropriate to modern pupils. The Principal advised that the Headteacher's Association are very active on Twitter and have met with Ministers to raise their concerns. A governor commented that they were really distressed to hear about what the pressure pupils were under. The Principal stated that he would write a paper with Mr Reagan about this issue for governors to consider.

Principal & GR

Mr Judson reported that the Committee had discussed at length their concerns about the welfare of pupils across the board and were looking at whether they needed to support a reduction in the curriculum offer. The Principal advised that the number of subjects that a pupil is expected to sit as a GCSE had already reduced from 11 to eight. This issue was to be monitored. It was reported that pupils and parents had attended a 'Coping with Exam Stress' sessions; and the staff had coached a number of pupils to help them get through their exams. In response to a question Mr Reagan explained that exam stress reached the critical stage in February, which was slightly later than normal. Usually, by Christmas the Pastoral Team know who the 50 high pupils at risk are.

The Principal reassured governors that the new Vice Principal would be strengthening the provision and the situation can be reviewed once she is in post.

#### **GDPR** Compliance

The Principal reported that the Trust had been taking the lead on ensuring that the schools are GDPR compliant. The Director of Operations (Wendy Munro) had taken on the Data Protection Officer (DPO) role for the Trust and was leading on GDPR compliance. The Principal agreed to action the following:

Principal Add the name of the school's DPO (who reports directly to Wendy Munro) to the website Communicate the new school rules to staff which will ensure GDPR compliance Send a letter to all parents advising them of the new requirements 7.32pm - David Judson left the meeting Principal's Report 4. The Principal listed the highlights from the last reporting period: Numerous staff had been appointed including a Science teacher, an English teacher, a Religious Studies teacher and a Maths teacher (who was a former Advanced Skills Teachers), also the Assistant Principal (Data) had been appointed Louise Scaum (Assistant Vice Principal at VoYA) had been appointed Vice Principal The Principal had been involved with the interviews for the new Headteacher at Burton Green Primary School A governor asked the Principal how his time is accounted for, when he attends Trust-wide appointments, such as this. The Principal stated that he considered it to be part of his role within the Trust. The Year 9 and 10 Parents Evening had taken place CCF - The Principal noted that CCF was tightly controlled and took up a lot of time to administrate. The school strongly supported the initiative and acknowledge the need to **Principal** shout about it more on social media Governors had attended the CYC (HLTY specific) Handling Complaints training session A new Trust-wide catering contract was awarded to the caterers who work at VoYA. The quality of the food and service was to be monitor and hopefully there would be an improvement in quality A meeting had taken place with the caterers to start 'Manor against plastic'; David Attenborough had sent a good luck card! In response to a question the Principal advised that 75% of the pupils have a school meal, as they are not allowed off site, the rest bring a packed lunch. The SEF had been reviewed and amendments were to be made to make more of the extra curriculum activities that the school run A retired Assistant Director of the Council had visited the Applefield's satellite provision. Following his visit the Principal was to take action on his advice, as he had stated that the school needed to do more to celebrate the success of the provision and the fully inclusive nature of the work that was being delivered day after day. He reportedly had commented that the Applefield's satellite was 'Inclusion at its absolute best' Mr Reagan was to attend the SENCo Network Forum and would be doing a presentation to the group to show off the satellite provision, to try to encourage other schools to invest in similar provisions The PE Department had been reviewed and governors noted the need to celebrate the achievements of the department. Staff had been set the challenge to better prepare the pupils for the written exam element of this practical subject 12 appeals had been heard for Year 7 admissions, two were successful Year 11 had been raising money at their dress up day A staff vs. pupils football match had taken place - the pupils won Pupils had been invited to go to Bishopthorpe to the Young Leader Award (5<sup>th</sup> July 2018) Dates for the diary: ≥ 21st June 2018 - Year 7 → 10 Celebration Evening 27th June 2018 - Year 11 Prom 11th and 12th July 2018 - Performing Arts Evening

budget.

The Principal reported that the Trust Board had asked each school to build a 3% increase on pension costs, into their budget. This would equate to an increase of circa £75,000. Governors were relieved to hear that the Trust Board were awaiting further detail before applying this increase to any

The Principal reported that the Year 7 in take for 2018-19 was expected to be 234. Owing to the increase demand for places year-on-year the Principal needed to keep focused on the expansion plans for the school and the need to increase the schools capacity. The Principal reported that he had attended a meeting at CYC asking the Local Authority for some money to support MCEA's growth plan. He had presented the LA with the argument that MCEA was becoming as increasingly popular choice and that VoYA were happy to reduce their PAN. The LA had advised that the Trust needed to work in conjunction with them but it was extremely unlikely that MCEA would receive any more money to grow.

The Principal reported that the Old Manor school site was under development, with houses due to be built in 2019/20. He advised that he would therefore be keen to increase the capacity steadily to match the housing development requirements. Governors noted the need to keep the development under review through the Resources Committee.

# 5. Resources (Overseeing Financial Performance)

Minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 18th April 2018 (summary of current issues, questions & discussion)

The minutes from the Resources Committee meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018 were taken as read and accepted into the record.

#### Start Budget

The Committee had met again prior to the LGC to scrutinise the Start Budget in order to be able to make a recommendation to the LGC. The Chair of Resources Committee (Sue Duxbury) advised that the governors had received satisfactory responses to the questions they had raised and would therefore like to recommend the Start Budget to the LGC.

Mrs Duxbury advised that the Trust Board want each school in the Trust to work towards having a 4% reserve. She advised that the 2% teachers pay increase had been added into next year's figures and 2.5% had been added in for the years to follow. Support staff costs had also been increased in the budget and there was the assumption that the Teaching School income would be profitable. Mrs Duxbury reiterated what the Principal had reported stating that the Trust Board had asked each school to build in an increase of 3% onto teachers' pensions. Governors noted, with relief that this had been taken out of the budget for the next two years. Mrs Duxbury advised that the pension costs may become a risk further down the line, but the MAT was being over cautious.

Mrs Duxbury advised that the Resources Committee had discussed the top three risks to the budget income:

- 1) School to School support was lower than previous years (down to circa £50,000)
- 2) Pupil numbers
- 3) Caterings and lettings income

The Resources Committee had discussed potential opportunities:

- Year 7 catch up assumptions have been taken out
- Pupil's number could be an opportunity

Mrs Duxbury advised that the Staff Budget assumes that staff will increment, but governors noted that it was likely that there would be savings as staff movement occurs. She reiterated the risk that could come to fruition, if the additional pension costs have to be found. She noted that there was no contingency built in, where there would have normally been £7,000 - £10,000. It was reported that the Resources Committee were concerned about this, but the Finance Manager had reassured the Committee that money can be found if needed, as that budget could be amended at a later revision.

It was noted that the Trust Board were concerned that MCEA was presenting a deficit budget of circa -£235,000; as this would have to be covered by the reserve. Governors acknowledged that the school was dealing with multiple legacy issues, and that the monies should have been spent when it had originally come into the school. The Principal stated that the school's budget would be back in the black by 2019.

The Resources Committee formally thanked the Finance Manager for the clear and concise budget report, she had given at the Resources Committee prior to the LGC.

	The LGC agreed to recommend the Start Budget to the Trust Board.	
	Management Accounts Period 8 Covered above.	a.
	Finance Director's summary of the 5% top slice  The Principal advised that the 5% top slice was starting to be used to pay for the Directors of School Improvement, in the Central Team. The LGC noted the need for the Trust to grow and develop and the importance of Good and Outstanding schools joining the Trust to raise the Trust's profile. The Principal commented that the ethos of the school remained that MCEA wants to be able to support the struggling schools but governors had concerns about the cost of sharing good practice, as this takes valuable resources away from Manor. Governors asked why Good or Outstanding schools were not joining to HLTY, but equally acknowledged that the academisation agenda had slowed down significantly.	
	Governors noted that the school was worse off in a Trust structure, compared to the LA. The Principal reported that the Trust Board were looking at the possibility of bringing associate members into the Trust who would pay 3% of the top slice and receive fewer Trust-wide services. Governors reviewed the Finance Director's summary of the 5% top slice. The LGC agreed that the report needed to have more detail, as governors were keen to seen where MCEA's monies were being spent and how MCEA was benefitting from the money that is taken for the top slice.	Trust Board
7.	Ethos Committee and SIAMS Update	
	Update from the Ethos Committee & SIAMS Committee (summary of current issues, questions & discussion)  The minutes from the Ethos Committee meeting held on 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2018 were taken as read and accepted into the record. The SIAMS update was covered under matters arising. The Committee had mainly looked at Collective Worship and Chaplaincy. Governors noted that there was a lot to celebrate.	· • _
8.	Local Governing Committee (Strategic Direction)	
	Chair's report The Chair had nothing further to report.	
	New allocation of Link Governor roles Carried forward.	Agenda
	Skills Audit Review The Clerk was to share the Skills Audit and all governors were asked to complete the audit and return it as soon as possible.	
9.	HLTY Updates Board minutes The minutes of the MAT Board meeting held on 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2018 had been previously distributed and were taken as read. The LGC noted the minutes.	
	Central Team Update (for information) The LGC noted the Central Team update.	
	Risk Register The LGC noted the absence of any on going work with the Risk Register. The Principal was to raise this with the CEO and it was to be raised with the Trust Board. The Principal advised that the Trust Board were in the process of developing a 'School on a Page' report which would include each academies top three risks.	Principal & Trust Board
	Health & Safety Group Update The LGC noted the absence of any Health and Safety Group update. This was also to be raised with the Trust Board.	Trust Board
10.	Safeguarding The Principal reported that CPOMS had temporarily taken themselves off line, in order to align CPOMS and SIMS permissions, to be GDPR compliant. Mr Reagan provided an update stating that	

	the CPOMS issue had been resolved. He noted the importance of this facility. A safeguarding report was to be given at the forthcoming Standards Committee.	2	
11.	LGC training Feedback on the Governors' Termly Workshop held on 25th April 2018 No governor had been available to attend the workshop.		
	Dr King advised that he would be attending the CYC / Trust specific training session on safeguarding on 6th June 2018. The governors noted the CYC / Trust specific training session on Understanding Data, which was due to take place on Tuesday 10th July 2018, 6-8pm (at Manor). The Clerk advised governors to book their place by emailing <a href="mailto:governance.service@york.gov.uk">governance.service@york.gov.uk</a>		
12.	Policy Updates There were no policies for review.		
13.	<ol> <li>Items to Raise with the Trust Board</li> <li>The Trust Board to consider the MAT Complaint's Policy written by Salli Radford (Head of Governor Services)</li> <li>Can the LGC have an update on what is happening with the Health and Safety Group Updates</li> <li>Can the LGC have an update on what is happening with the Risk Register</li> <li>The LGC would like to request a more detailed break down on the 5% top slice, with detail give on how the Trust spends the £250,000 contribution that MCEA makes. MCEA governors would like further detail on how the school is gaining/benefiting from this</li> <li>The LGC made the suggestion that the Trust Board / Central Team could produce a brochure to show the benefit of being in the Trust to outline to potential new partners how</li> </ol>		
14.	the money is spent. The brochure needs to flag what benefit schools are getting from being in the Trust  The Resources Committee were asked to review the school's budget, against the 5% top slice list and ascertain whether the Trust Board should be paying for any items which the school is currently spending budget on.  Action list for the Trust Board Nothing further was discussed.	Resources Committee	
15.	Any other business The Clerk advised that the Governance Advisor for the Trust would be circulating the Diocesan Ethos undertaking: To protect the CofE designation of CofE academies - for governors to sign.  Governors discussed the wider ramification of other MATs rejecting struggling Church schools, posing the question - 'Where does that leave that school and is that approach ethical?'		
	MinutePad The Clerk advised the governors that whenever they finish a session in MinutePad they MUST remember to Log Out of MinutePad, via the 'My Account' tab. If governors do not Log Out, there is a risk that MinutePad accounts could be accessed again via the Back button on a web browser.	e e	
16.	Date of next meetings: The LGC reviewed the proposed meeting dates that had been provided by the Governance Advisor. The dates were agreed.		
	It was noted that the September meeting would be Sue Duxbury, Rob Yarrow and Graham Reagan's last meeting.		
	The date of the next meeting was confirmed as <b>Wednesday</b> , <b>26</b> <sup>th</sup> <b>September 2018</b> at <b>6.30pm</b> .		

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed: Anybow Milah	Date:	19/08/12	
Mr Andy Richardson (Chair)			

# Action Points from the LOCAL GOVERNING COMMITTEE MEETING held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018

1 50	ACTION	ITEM	WHO	WHEN
1.	Feedback issues and suggested amendments for the Complaints Policy to the CEO/ Trust Board (carried forward)	3	Trust Board	Autumn 1
2.	Skills Audit to be circulated and completed by all 'returning' governors	3	Clerk / All	June 2018
3.	Circulate proposals on link governor approach from September	3	Chair	Autumn 1
4.	Governors to email the Principal if they want to visit the CCF camp on the open day	~	All	June 2018
5.	The Chair and Edie Jones to complete the Diocesan paperwork, for the re-appointment process	8	Chair and Edie Jones	June 2018
6.	The Clerk was to arrange for David Judson's re-appointment to be ratified by the Trust Board	8	Clerk	June 2018
7.	The Principal to run a staff governor election	8	Principal	Autumn 1
8.	The Principal to run a parent governor election in September	8	Principal	Autumn 1
9.	The Principal was to write a paper with Mr Reagan about the pressure that pupils were under during the exams	6	Principal & Mr Reagan	June 2018
10.	The Principal was to:      Add the name of the school's DPO to the website      Communicate the new GDPR school rules to staff      Send a letter to parents advising of the new requirements	6	Principal	June 2018
11.	The Principal was to increase the social media presence of CCF	4	Principal	July 2018
12.	The Principal was to discuss the absence of any on going work on the Risk Register with the CEO	9	Principal	June 2018

# Future agendas:

- Review the impact of the online support package sent to parents to address their concerns about technology/social media concerns
- Review Skills Audit
- New allocation of Link Governor roles

### **Resources Committee:**

• Review the school's budget, against the 5% top slice list