

# Rye College Full Governing Body Meeting

13 May 2014

## MINUTES

A meeting of the Rye College Full Governing Body was held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 6.00pm in the Learning Resource Centre, Rye College.

**PRESENT:** Jane Burnett (JB) [Chair]; Ian Bryan (IB), David Cooper (DC), Thomas Earl (TE), Sarah Glen (SG), Sally King (SK), Nicola Midgley (NM), Peter Savory (PS), Francine Thomson (FT).

**APOLOGIES:** Jo Kirkham (JK), Allen Mills (AM), Hazel Russell (HR).

**In Attendance:** Sally Welch (SW), [Clerk].

### 1. **Declarations of Interest**

1.1 Noted: that no member(s) of the Governing Body had declared an interest in relation to any items on the agenda.

### 2. **Minutes of the Meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014**

2.1 Received: the Minutes of the meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.

2.2 Resolved: to approve and sign the Minutes as a correct record.

### 3. **Matters Arising**

#### ***Minute 3 – Safeguarding***

3.1 Noted:

a) that the Safeguarding Audit had been submitted. Work was ongoing to review the Rye College Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy which would be brought to the next meeting.

b) SK would attend a conference on e-safety organised by KCC Governor Services. TE also agreed to attend. SK reported actions being taken by the College to raise awareness of e-safety amongst students.

c) DC reported that the Health and Safety Committee is reviewing First Aid provision across the College with the possibility that a full-time First Aider post would be created.

**ACTION 1:  
Lead  
Governor (FT)  
/Policy  
Committee**

3.2 Resolved:

a) to add 'Safeguarding' as a standing item on future agendas.

b) Lead Governor to review the e-safety policy.

**ACTION 2:  
Lead  
Governor  
(SK)**

#### ***Minute 5.1 – Marketing Committee***

3.3 Noted: that a Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and Plan would be developed arising from actions identified at the focus group meetings with key stakeholders on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014.

#### ***Minute 8.3 (c) – Review of Drugs Education***

3.4 Noted: the Group would be meeting on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

#### ***Minute 13.1 (d) – FGB Membership***

3.5 Noted: DC had agreed to continue as a Governor for one more year.

### **Minute 13.2 (b) – School to School Support**

- 3.6 Noted: that JB and HR would be attending Peasmarsh Governing Body for an interim period, to help to build capacity and share good practice.

### **Governor Training on Performance Related Pay**

- 3.7 Noted: the Chair reminded Governors of the PRP workshop on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 4.00pm.

## **4. Principal's Report**

- 4.1 Received: the Principal's Report for May 2014. The Chair invited Governors' questions on the Report.
- 4.2 Noted:
- a) **in response to a Governor question on the planned Middle Leader development programme:** the Principal explained that, prior to the staffing restructure, five Middle Leaders had been singleton posts – i.e. they did not lead teams. The development programme would be designed to build capacity at this level and develop outstanding Middle Leaders.
  - b) **in response to a Governor question on the exclusions data for Year 7 for the period March to May 2014:** the Principal confirmed that the data related to one single student with a complex background.
  - c) **the Chair asked the Principal to expand upon the background to the new curriculum offer at KS3 referred to in the Report.** The Principal explained that for the last few years the College has offered a two-year KS3 and three-year KS4. The three-year KS4 had led to student apathy in some subjects with students reporting boredom and not being challenged. There had been insufficient focus on student progress through the entirety of Years 7 – 11 and on ensuring students develop knowledge, skills and understanding to be able to make informed decisions on GCSE options. Poor quality teaching had been identified as a factor in key subject areas –e.g. Maths, with some teachers lacking subject knowledge and behaviour management skills. The new curriculum offer would enable scaffolded learning through KS3 into KS4, with a broader range of subjects and supporting students to develop transferable skills across subjects. The proposed changes at KS3 also take account of changes to GCSE's at national level and should be seen to represent a continuum through Years 7-11. A Rye College system for monitoring and tracking progress in KS3 is being developed, to include external measures of progress – e.g. CATS, NEFR, in Years 7 and 9, to provide data to support teacher judgements.
  - d) **the Chair sought assurances on the reliability of the predicted Year 11 outcomes for summer 2014.** The Principal responded that the predicted outcome was 62% A\* - C. This was considered to be a realistic prediction based on improved systems for tracking leading to more accurate assessment. E.g. external moderation in Dance and Drama had confirmed teacher judgements.
  - e) **Governors expressed their view that the new curriculum should result in an uplift in predicted outcomes with a targeted aim of achieving over 70% A\*-C.**
  - f) Governors discussed the predicted grades by subject, challenging on the reasons for low predictions.

## **5. Chair's Update**

- 5.1 Noted:
- a) the Chair confirmed FT's appointment as a Governor following successful completion of the probationary period and thanked FT for her contribution to date.
  - b) the Governing Body would be reviewing its work over 2013-14 which would feed into the College review and identification of priorities for next year's College Improvement Plan which the SLT would present to Governors at the July meeting.

c) nomination forms for RCFGB elected positions for 2014-15 would be circulated for the July meeting.

**ACTION 3:  
Clerk to  
circulate  
nomination  
forms.**

## **6. Reports from Committees**

### ***Policy Committee***

6.1 Resolved: that the following policies be approved:

- Teaching and Learning
- Preventing Bullying

Proposed: JB

Seconded: PS

### ***Finance and Personnel Committee***

6.2 Received: a report of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

6.3 Noted: the Chair reported that the bid preparation process of Rye Studio 2 would require local consultation and an amount of £3k had been identified to meet associated costs which would be divided between both Rye College and Rye Studio School in recognition of the benefits that RS2 would bring to the Trust overall. The £3k will be reimbursed from the £300k start up grant if the bid is successful, or, subject to affordability, from central funds from the Local Leader of Education monies generated by the Executive Principal's support to Peasmarsh and Beckley Primaries.

## **7. Governor Monitoring**

7.1 Noted:

a) the Chair distributed a framework document of suggested questions to use with Curriculum Leaders in the Term 6 Monitoring visits. Governors should aim to meet with the Curriculum Leaders for all subjects in their Communities and use some /all of the questions as the basis for exploring with Curriculum Leaders: successes this year, and how they plan to improve on their work this year to push up targets, develop KS3 and impact upon KS4. Another person should have short (10/15 minute) focus meetings with groups of KS3 and 4 students asking similar questions about specific subjects such as what has been good this year in the subject, areas for development etc. It was suggested that Governors should write up their findings at the end of the visits in preparation for the SLT review in early July and the July Governing Body meeting.

b) the Chair agreed to partner IB in the TATE monitoring visit.

## **8. RAT Update**

8.1 Received: a confidential summary report from the RAT Chairman on business considered at the RAT Board's 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2014 meeting.

8.2 Noted:

a) the Chair reported that the establishment of the RAT Education Committee will provide a forum to discuss the educational vision for the RAT and how this should be delivered, including plans for capital development.

b) DC reported that the capital bid for the final phase of replacing the windows at Rye College had been unsuccessful. The capital bid for the first phase of work to reinforce the electrical system had been awarded (£107k) and the work would be undertaken during the summer break.

An electrical consultant had been engaged to manage the work on behalf of the College. The full upgrade programme required had been estimated over a five-year period and further bids for external funding would be submitted.

**9. Health and Safety**

9.1 Noted: there were no items for report.

**10. Any Other Business**

***Complaints Procedure Recommendations***

10.1 Noted: the Principal confirmed that the recommendations arising from the Complaints Procedure had been acted upon and completed.

***Staffing Update***

10.2 Noted: the Principal reported receiving several expressions of interest in voluntary redundancy/ early retirement from members of staff unaffected by the staffing restructure. These would be reported to the Finance and Personnel Committee.

**11.1 Date of Next Meeting**

11.1 Noted: it was agreed that the July meeting should be moved to Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 12.30pm to accommodate the SLT review. Governors were invited to suggest student presentations.