

Stratton Local Governing Body
Minutes of the Full Board
20th February 2017, 6.30pm at Stratton Upper School

Attendance		Apologies
Hazel Ramsay (Chairman) Rob Watson (Executive Head teacher) Alaine Anderson	Clare Neish Chris Westhead	Ian Bond
Also in attendance		Absent
Jane Harper Roz Hodges Sarah Phillips	Miranda Dixon (Clerk)	Philip Howard

Ref.		ACTION
1.	<p><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>There were apologies for absence from Ian Bond, these apologies were accepted.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Hazel Ramsay is an Exam Invigilator at SUS.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Chairman's update re SET</u></p> <p>A verbal report was provided by HR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical completion of the new science block is expected after Easter. It is hoped that this will be open for student use by September 2017. <p>The governors asked if the school has sufficient funds to furnish the new labs.</p> <p>Yes, this was part of the grant award.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical completion of the car park is expected later this week. At a future date an electronic barrier will be installed to the new parking area and fobs issued to users. 	
4.	<p><u>Approval of Minutes – 21st November 2016</u></p> <p>Re-wording of an item on page two was agreed.</p> <p>ACTION: The Clerk to amend and re-print this page and present for signing at the next SLGB meeting.</p> <p>The minutes were otherwise agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.</p>	MD
5.	<p><u>Matters arising</u></p> <p>i) Section 1–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on recruitment for a parent governor – only two parent governors are required at present. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next step is to set up school log-ins for each governor and to arrange easy access to the Google Drive, preferably via the school website. <p>NOTE: The Clerk to update on progress as necessary.</p>	
6..	<p><u>CEIAG – A presentation from Sarah Phillips</u> SP told governors that whereas the process for applying for university places was regulated by a time frame, the process for applying for an apprenticeship was not subject to these constraints. The school is in regular contact with employers that offer apprenticeships.</p> <p>Several documents were tabled and explained and governors were invited to ask questions.</p> <p>ACTION: E-Copies of all tabled documents to be passed to the Clerk and circulated to governors.</p> <p>How long has the “Guidance Information Booklet” been used? It has been in use for many years but is updated regularly by the 6th form leaders.</p> <p>Does the “Year 12 careers day” in March include a range of employers? This day is more about training opportunities than employment.</p> <p>How many sessions could a student attend during the careers day? Up to 8 sessions, some are compulsory.</p> <p>Does the school have provision to identify students with no “future plan”? Yes, and further guidance is offered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school is required to report each September on the destination of each school leaver. This information is, understandably, difficult to obtain. <p>The governors thanked SP for her time and for an informative presentation.</p>	MD
	Sarah Phillips left the meeting at 7.40pm	
7.	<p><u>Network Strategy – report from Steve Rook – (previously circulated to governors)</u> There were apologies from Steve Rook, who was unwell. JH was charged with presenting the report in his absence.</p> <p>The governors asked if SR is new to the role? No, he has been in position for some time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on the Strategy first began in 2013 but halted when SR suffered a long period of ill health. JH began working with SR in September 2016 and significant progress has now been made. The Strategy offers clarity about the current situation and the next steps needed; the long-term future is less secure. <p>The “long term plan” (financial investment) was tabled.</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the required funds not being available the school has been forced to “make do”. • The school’s IT team are excellent at refurbishing second hand equipment. • The school is mindful of the ever changing curriculum and the devices and software that this requires. • There are also costs incurred for training staff on new software. • Some of the current equipment and servers are classed as “antique” • The school hopes to have guest Wi-Fi access available by the end of the year, although some replacement of fibers is needed prior to this. • The school has only been able to install smartboards in some classrooms; because of this they are not widely used. • It was decided not to install smartboards in the new science labs. • The school is moving forward in a strategic and ordered manner. <p>Are there any commercial grants which could be applied for, to help with IT costs? None that the school is aware of.</p> <p>How will future budgets meet some of these needs? This is not known. The schools’ demographic will increase, generating additional funding, however, the Capital Allocation grant was recently slashed from £125k to £25k.</p> <p>The governors asked that these reports next be brought to the attention of the Trustees.</p> <p>NOTE: Moving forward, the Network Strategy will be brought to the SLGB annually in September.</p> <p>The governors thanked JH for a full and informative report and asked that thanks also be passed to Steve Rook.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Head teacher’s Report</u> Copies of the report were tabled for governors and presented by RW.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current subscription to Yr9 is 276; it is expected that this figure will rise to circa. 300 by September 2017. • The government changes to funding will mean a slight increase for the school, however, this will not be implemented until September 2018. <p>The governors asked if the issues with A Levels are across all subjects. Yes, Sarah Phillips is investigating.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The third progress check is currently underway and will be reported to governors at the next meeting. <p>The governors enquired how confident the school is with predictions. English and Maths leaders have scrutinized the projections. No guidance on benchmarking is available but schools are sharing information.</p>	

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	<p>What information is the school sharing with parents? The school has set grade boundaries and is erring on the cautious side.</p> <p>The projections, anomalies and comparisons were thoroughly examined and explained.</p> <p>The governors asked what the green columns refer to. Light green – equal to last year (taking into account more able cohort) Mid green – on the path from good to outstanding Dark green – what outstanding could look like</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff absence (casual) is less than 3%. This figure is increased by those absent due to serious issues. <p>The governors asked whether some subjects are requiring regular cover. Yes; Business, Media, History, Health & Social Care, PE and languages.</p> <p>How long is this expected to carry on for? RW informed governors that there is currently a nationwide recruitment issue and that this situation is not expected to improve in the near future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school noted the hard work of the Attendance Officer who has encouraged improvement throughout the school, including 6th form. • Transfer to the ACB is no longer an alternative to permanent exclusion as the ACB is now full. • Students who are permanently excluded must now apply for a space at the ACB through the local authority. <p>The governors asked whether the school makes time to visit middle schools to get a feel for the pupils. There is a lot of handover information passed through BCUS schools.</p> <p>The governors cautioned the school not to change Yr9 strategies based on this year’s cohort, on the assumption that future years will be the same.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school is aware that ensuring that Yr9 pupils secure independent skills forms part of the journey to outstanding. 	
9.	<u>Questions from governors around FFT and RAISE data</u> – included under section 8	
10.	<u>Report on mock results/comparison with predictions</u> – included under section 8	
11.	<u>Learning and Achievement</u> – included under section 8	
12.	<p><u>Governor Visits</u></p> <p>Report from CN on AfA, DSEN, PP - A verbal report was given by CN.</p> <p>ACTION: CN to provide the Clerk with a report to append to these minutes.</p>	CN/MD

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	Future/planned governor visits – none at present	
13.	<u>Behaviour and Attendance</u> – included under section 8	
14.	<u>Update on CBC changes to the exclusion/transfer to the academy (ACB) process</u> – included under section 8	
15.	<u>Staff attendance</u> – included under section 8	
16.	<u>Safeguarding</u> Nothing to report.	
17.	<u>AOB</u> The governors noted that the RAISE online data is difficult to read. ACTION: CN to liaise with RW to review presentation of RAISE online data.	CN/RW

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Dates of next meetings

- Audit & Risk Committee – 13th March 2017, 6.30pm
- SLGB – 20th March 2017, 6.30pm – Focus: Pupil progress and comparison to targets / WSIP
ACTION: RW to circulate the WSIP as soon as possible, to enable governors to prepare for questioning at the meeting.

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