

Stratton Local Governing Body
Minutes of the Full Board
16th October 2017, 6.30pm at Stratton Upper School

Attendance		Apologies
Hazel Ramsay (Chairman) Rob Watson (Executive Headteacher) Alaine Anderson Ian Bond	Beth Cooper Sandy Field Clare Neish Ross Woodward	
Also in attendance		Absent
Jane Harper Roz Hodges	Miranda Dixon (Clerk)	

Ref.		ACTION
1.	<u>Welcome and Apologies</u> The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially the newly appointed Parent Governors, Clare Neish and Beth Cooper. There were no apologies for absence.	
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest (in any item on this agenda).</u> None	
3.	<u>Governors due for re-election</u> There remains a vacancy for a staff governor. ACTION: RW to recruit a replacement staff governor for the next meeting.	
4.	<u>Chairman's update re Stratton Education Trust (SET)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With effect from 1st September control of GVC has passed over to Cambourne. • There remains some DT equipment to be returned to SUS. • GVC currently remains open with only 12 pupils. • RW and MR have written an article for the Gazette publication. • The financial year closed on 31st August and the auditors are now in. • The new Finance Officer for SET will take office on 13th November; Jane Hunt joins the school from BEST. • The science block was officially opened, with Monica Grady as the guest of honour. Monica will also attend the prize giving ceremony. • The school was able to stream the opening to many of the classrooms, ensuring that all pupils felt part of this auspicious occasion. 	
5.	<u>Approval of Minutes</u> – 19 th June 2017 The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.	
6.	<u>Matters arising</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Section 4 – The Clerk to request that RW-T inform SF and HR of meeting dates – action complete. ii. Section 14 – AA to pass on thanks to the maths department for additional support for Yr11 students in the lead up to GCSEs – action complete. 	

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7.	<p><u>Headteacher's Report</u> The HT Report was tabled, along with a summary of GCSE outcomes and targets. Governors were given time to read and digest the information presented prior to discussion and questioning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a current decline in KS4 results across the county. <p>Is this different to the national picture? The Progress 8 scoring does not vary hugely. SUS scored -0.3 which is slightly lower than the national average. Some Cambridge schools scored higher (+0.4), despite being some of the worst funded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each of the issues outlined in the report has been assigned to a member of the SLT.• Governors were reminded that the cohort reported here scored lower than national average in KS2 SATs; therefore, achieving national average at GCSE is good progress.• Approximately 10 students have had their English papers re-marked and have been moved up a grade. This is not enough to make a significant difference to the schools' results. <p>Is the school worried that progress is not as quick as it needs to be? Yes. There will hopefully be a boost in progress in science with the opening of the new block but this has not yet been embedded. The school also recognised that English and maths are currently being led by relatively inexperienced teams.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The school is aware of issues around business studies (affecting 85 students). The current curriculum is being phased out, to be replaced by a new specification. <p>What are the next steps for the Task Group? The team will be speaking to sample groups from underperforming students and the results will be fed back to the subject leaders.</p> <p>Will this impact on years 9&10? Yes, this will come under the Whole School Plan.</p> <p>Is there sufficient time for the school to "do what it needs to do"? The school will have to work within the available time frame. Training students for more formal exams begins in years 9&10. Preparation for mocks is continuous.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The school has plans to liaise with parents to encourage their support in this process.• There is a need to make mock exams a more pleasant experience.• There are very few practice papers available. <p>In English and maths, how accurate were the projections? Around 83% accurate.</p> <p>Which subjects will be included in the new grading system this time around? All except for Business and Technology; these will be included in 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff are very nervous about the changes.	
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Behaviour

- The current yr10 remain difficult. This is the same across the county.
- Rolling the timetable over in June has had a positive effect.
- There is an improvement in behaviour across the school, when compared to this time last year.
- Internal exclusions have increased due to a crackdown on conformity regarding uniform and piercings.

Are the internal exclusions working? Yes.

- Rules regarding mobile phones are also being more firmly enforced.

Is the “Retreat” being used? Yes, this is used to manage attendance and illness issues.

The continuing increase in “anxiety” in students was discussed. It was thought that this is due to several factors:

- Bullying (across social media)
- Growing awareness due to internet access
- Immaturity of students
- Worries around transition to upper school.

The governors asked whether any work on behavior is being carried out across BCUS. Not specifically although this is addressed in general terms and at KS3 liaison meetings. The Head of Year 9 carried out several visits to two feeder schools during the summer term and these were felt to be useful.

- The number of pupils being homeschooled is increasing. The school are concerned that this is a safeguarding loophole. CBC are every good at checking on this provision and can issue an attendance order if they feel the students’ needs are not being met.
- Pupil attendance continues to increase.

Staff attendance

- Three members of staff are currently on long term absence. One further member is due to start maternity leave in January; this will be covered by a fixed term contract.

How is this covered? One CSA (Curriculum Support Assistant) is in place, recruitment of another will begin soon.

- The school reported a significant issue with ICT. One of the staff members employed at the start of the year has been unable to continue.
- One English teacher has been received back from GVC.
- The school is being very circumspect with any outside school activities (i.e. trips, training), due to the impact on budget and curriculum.

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8.	<p><u>Governor Visits</u></p> <p>SF/HR – plan to carry out a joint safeguarding visit.</p> <p>ACTION: The Clerk to circulate a visit form.</p> <p>ACTION: All new governors to liaise with the school for ID badges.</p> <p>CN – will be arranging a visit with A Evans to look at AfA (Achievement for All) and PP (Pupil Premium).</p>	<p>MD</p> <p>ALL</p>
9.	<p><u>Feedback from the Task Group</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two meetings have taken place; the first to discuss agenda setting. <p>Homework has been examined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of SMH (Show my Homework) has greatly improved parental engagement. • The setting, completion and marking of homework were examined. • The next steps are to look at underperforming students in years 10,11 and 12 and to feedback on strategies. 	
10.	<p><u>Policies for review</u></p> <p>The following policies were presented for review.</p> <p>Literacy Policy (removal of reference to GVC)</p> <p>Numeracy Policy (removal of reference to GVC)</p> <p>Teaching and Learning Policy (removal of reference to GVC)</p> <p>SMSC Policy (amended to include British Values)</p> <p>Pupil Premium Policy(new policy)</p> <p>Assessment, Marking and Recording Policy (this is an amalgamation of several smaller policies)</p> <p>Behaviour Policy(fully reviewed by RH)</p> <p>SEND Policy(annual review required)</p> <p>SEND Information Report (annual review required)</p> <p>NOTE: Future amendments to policies to be highlighted in red to enable faster</p>	

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	<p>review by governors.</p> <p>NOTE: Governors were encouraged to match policy to practice (where appropriate) during visits to school.</p> <p>NOTE: The governors were invited to address any questions regarding the above policies to JH, either directly or via the Clerk.</p> <p>ACTION: Formal ratification of these policies to be added to the next agenda.</p>	<p>JH</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>MD</p>
11.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school was proud to be awarded the AfA “School of the Year” award for 2017. • “Beacon Status” has been awarded for the school’s work on holocaust education. • The school has plans to purchase an “app”, which will allow parents live access to some areas of SIMs, with links to SMH and attendance figures. It is hope that this will be in place for the spring term. 	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Dates of next meetings

- Audit & Risk Committee 13th November 2017, 6.30pm
- SLGB – 20th November 2017, 6.30pm

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