

STROUD HIGH SCHOOL
MINUTES OF FULL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF
WEDNESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2018

Present:

Mr C Chatterton, by remote link
Mr P Cowley
Dr D Davies
Mr P Duncan
Mr F Ford
Mrs S Freck

Miss S Haigh
Mr R Harwanko
Mr G Marshall
Mr M McShane (Headteacher)
Mr C Ryland (Chair)
Mr K Withers

Mrs P Blacklock – Clerk

1 Welcome and Apologies

Mr Ryland welcomed everyone to the additional meeting of the Full Governing Board which had been called to decide upon the Admissions Policy for September 2019 entry following the consultation.

Apologies had been received and were accepted from Mrs Phillips and Mr Nicholas who were on holiday and from Mr Morley and Mr Wade who had business meetings. Mr Cutbill, due to an administrative problem, tendered his apologies but retrospectively.

3 Declarations of Interest

Mr Harwanko declared an interest in the main item of the meeting in view of his daughter being in a particular year group at SHS which would be affected by the proposed changes.

4 Admissions Policy for 2019 entry

Mr Ryland (chairing the meeting in Mrs Phillips' absence) advised that the meeting was scheduled until 6 pm but would last as long as was required. He advised that there were in fact two issues to discuss:

- The issue of collaboration with Marling School regarding the teaching of the Sixth Form
- The Admissions Policy for September 2019 entry.

He explained that the first point was for governors to feed back their views regarding the input

from some parents and others but this matter was not for governors to vote upon as it was an operational matter for Mr McShane and the Leadership Team.

The second point – the Admissions Policy concerns the proposal for admission of boys to the SHS Sixth Form and is a strategic decision for governors to vote upon.

Mr Ryland stated that he wished to throw open the discussion but later in the meeting wanted to feed back to the group his own discussions with a group of Year 10 students which had taken place earlier over two days.

Copies of responses received from parents and others pre and post the parents' meeting were also circulated and time was allowed for governors to read these.

A long and detailed discussion then took place.

During the discussion Mr McShane gave feedback to governors of the meeting with parents of the previous evening following the detailed document which had been sent to parents the week before explaining the rationale behind the proposed changes.

The meeting had been attended by some 60 - 70 largely parents but some students, from a combined parental/student body of over 2,500. The views expressed by those present were largely negative although many parents wanted to understand the rationale for the changes better. The importance of maintaining a co-educational experience at Sixth Form was the most frequently expressed view.

Mr Withers and Dr Davies had also attended the parents' meeting and provided fellow governors with their own feedback.

In moving his proposals forward Mr McShane now considers that there should be a further period of six weeks for explanation and reflection involving students, parents and other stakeholders. Governors supported this view and thought this process should be well structured and properly resourced.

Mr McShane agreed to give a report on the progress he had made with this at the next FGB meeting.

Mr Ryland then gave details of the questions Y10 students had raised. The students had also been given a presentation by the Head of Y12 about her vision for the Sixth Form. As a result he felt that these students now have a better understanding of the reasoning behind the proposed changes to teaching in the Sixth Form. Mr Ryland further felt that this approach should be extended to other year groups.

Governors then moved to consider the issue of the Admissions Policy. Governors had previously been circulated with the responses received during the consultation period and confirmed that

they had read them. Following a further discussion the general consensus was that there should not be a delay in determining the revised Admissions Policy which would enable co-education within the SHS Sixth Form whatever final conclusions Mr McShane reached.

Governors then moved to taking a vote on the proposed Admissions Policy for 2019 entry which states that the Sixth Form will be open to boys and girls. This was proposed by Mr Ford and seconded by Mr Withers. There was one abstention in view of a personal interest but all other governors voted in favour of the proposal, which was duly carried.

The Local Authority will be advised of this decision and the policy will be uploaded to the school website.

Mr Ryland and Mr McShane made arrangements to meet the following day.