

**WANSTEAD HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY
MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING
THURSDAY 3RD MARCH 2022 A 6PM**

Present			
Local Authority	Parent	Acting Headteacher	Co-opted
Yvonne MacCallum (YM) (Co-Chair)	Sara O'Donnell (SO) Maggie Leggett (ML)	Jason Gharu (JG)	Ray Kiely (RK) (Co-Chair) Jackie Bowers-Broadbent (JBB)
Staff			
Donna Cini (DC) Ian Sweet (IS) Veronica Knock (VK)			

Also in attendance: Emma Hillman (EH)– Newly Appointed Headteacher starting in September
Helen Davies (HD) – Clerk to the Governors

1. MEMBERSHIP

The Governing Body confirmed the recommendation of the Search and Governance Committee to extend the term of office for Donna Cini and Liz Smith as co-opted support staff governor and co-opted governor respectively for a further term.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Noreen Sarwar and Liz Smith. It was noted that nothing had been received from Nishat Riaz.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS:

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests in any of the agenda items.

4. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR 'ANY OTHER BUSINESS':

Maggie Leggett asked that the SIP raised at the last meeting be discussed further under Agenda Item 12.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The Minutes from the previous meeting on 7th December 2021 were approved.

6. MATTERS ARISING:

15.3 Tiktok was spelt incorrectly – HD to update

7. HEADTEACHER'S REPORT:

7.1 JG started by updating the Governing Body about an incident that had occurred the previous week when a Year 10 student had been stabbed in Barkingside.

7.2 He stressed that parents had been communicated with and time had been taken to stress to students that they are safe.

7.3 The student involved is now convalescing at home.

7.4 There had been a similar incident two days later (not involving any WHS students), which the police believe may be related.

7.5 JG reported there had been a spate of incidents in the local area.

7.6 In the days following the incident there was a high police presence in the area.

7.7 Educational Psychologist Services will be coming in to do some 1 to 1 work with students. We do have a new school counsellor starting who will work with some of those affected.

7.8 JG pointed out that the atmosphere in the school was very sombre in the days following the incident but the main focus was to make students feel safe.

Q When will the school counsellor start?

A In the next week or two.

7.9 YM pointed out how impressed she was at the swift action taken by the school.

Q Is the incident related to on-going issues?

A That is not known yet but JG stressed to new parent governors that incidents of this nature are very rare.

7.10 Student Admissions

7.10.1 We currently have over 800 applications for admission into Year 7 in September 2022.

7.10.2 75% of successful applicants had WHS as their first choice

7.10.3 Only 1% had WHS as their fourth choice.

7.10.4 We currently have 91 on the waiting list.

7.10.5 The Sixth Form application deadline has now gone (28th February 2022). At the time of writing the report applications stood at 254 but had reached over 300 by the deadline. 180 of applicant are internal. JG believes the reason for those applying to external colleges is due to pathways and the fact that we only offer A levels. The next objective will be to work on taking more students.

Q In previous years the low internal uptake has been queried. What were last year's internal figures?

A Last year's figures were not to hand but there has been a definite upward trend of students wanting to stay. Pre-pandemic we only had 115 internal applicants.

7.10.6 Results over recent years have put us on a par with colleges previously deemed to be better.

Q Are there any subjects proving to be more popular?

A Humanities especially politics. We are in a much better position than we were 3 years ago.

7.10.7 Eleni Bray should be thanked for her work on this.

7.10.8 Moving on to the Year 7 admissions it was highlighted that there is still a disparity between the genders.

7.10.9 JG gave some explanation for this as being that a lot of the Sixth Form external candidates come from the Ilford Ursuline showing a lot of girls attend all girls schools from Years 7 to 11. This disparity has however, been the case for a number of years.

Q Moving on to Year 9 Options – are there any subjects that may not be able to run?

A Options only opened on Monday so it is too early to say. JG pointed out that support options have been moved to open options to enable those students who need extra support, such as EHCP students, be able to choose a subject they will be able to achieve in, such as PE.

7.10.10 There are limits because of staffing and space but JG hopes to be able to update the Governing Body at the summer term meeting.

7.10.11 With regards to the building works, the demolition is almost complete, although they had, earlier that day, tried to remove hazardous materials without giving the school prior notice. This has now been delayed until the Easter break.

Q Are assurances being given to parents?

A A letter from Colin Stewart had been sent out to parents in February.

- 7.10.12 Any assurances need to be the Borough's and not the schools.
- 7.10.13 JG agreed to draft a letter to Colin Stewart on behalf of the Governing Body the following day.
- 7.10.14 JG informed Governors that the recently appointed Project Manager had resigned after two visits so that now needs to be re-advertised.
- Q Why have we not got the final designs?**
- A That question was asked earlier today as the final design went out to tender 2 days earlier.**
- 7.10.15 It was stressed that the school need to keep on at the Borough as they will reduce what the school get.
- 7.10.16 IS raised the issue of EBACC which would mean that students would have to choose a language and a humanities subject, leaving room for only one choice. The language option may be an issue. The school however, cannot hide the fact that EBACC will have an impact on students' future choices.
- 7.10.17 ML did point out that as a parent this is all information she would like to be aware of.
- 7.10.18 JG agreed that future Options booklets should include this information.
- 7.10.19 Historical data shows that higher grades are achieved in artistic subjects.
- 7.10.20 The recently circulated staff list shows that there are a large number of agency staff which is a cause for concern.
- Q Are these strategic issues?**
- A Getting the right people in has been hard although the sociology post has now been filled.**
- 7.10.21 JG will be meeting with EH and Sarah Williams (School Business Manager) on Friday to discuss this and will update Governors at the next meeting.
- 7.10.22 ML highlighted that as a parent the large number of agency staff is indeed a cause for concern.
- 7.10.23 EH will make a decision on the staff structure but JG did stress this is a very unusual situation for the school.
- Q How are Covid things?**
- A At the beginning of January numbers were very high but these figures have dramatically reduced but we now have an influx of non-Covid related illnesses. Facemasks are now optional although ventilation in classrooms is still happening. It has been acknowledged that with the relaxing of restrictions some of the school's basic expectations need to be reset.**
- 7.10.24 DC took Governors through the recently circulated Behaviour for Learning Report for the Autumn Term. She explained that some of the terminology has now changed. Fixed Term Exclusions will now be referred to as suspensions.
- 7.10.25 During the Autumn term we had 23 suspensions most of which were for physical incidents.
- 7.10.26 These were addressed in assemblies for each Year Group and zero tolerance reinforced.
- 7.10.27 There has been a degree of success with those suspended taking part in a reparation session with a member of the Pastoral Team to ensure they had a clear understanding as to why they were suspended and help with strategies to make more positive choices in future. Having said all this, many of the incident did not start out as malicious but resulted from 'play fighting'.
- 7.10.28 Achievements figures are increasing. If a student get 5 or more points in the week parents will get a message.

- 7.10.29 DC stressed that fundamentals were having to be reset. She used PE kits as an example. During the pandemic students would come to school in their PE kits on days they had PE. This had a detrimental effect on behaviour. Although DC did say that cracking down on uniform is not necessarily a new thing.
- 7.10.30 There has been a decrease in suspensions for SEN and Pupil Premium students.
- 7.10.31 Now that we can again have visitors in the school various interventions have been taking place.
- 7.10.32 DC referred to a copy of 'The Real Me' which had been circulated prior to the meeting. This related to contextual safeguarding and Redbridge Family Liaison Services had put WHS forward to run with the pilot of this programme which has meant the school have not had to pay for it.
- 7.10.33 The founder, Stephen Addison, was a former gang member with an inspirational story. Fate had meant he was not with friends when they murdered someone. They are now serving life sentences for murder. This led him to start 'Box Up Crime'.
- 7.10.34 Boxing sessions had started in November 2021 with Year 10 students. Work is now being done in the classroom (the circulated booklet is the actually workbook).
- Q How does it work? Is it all students?**
- A It's open to 15 Year 10 students which is where we feel the need for contextual safeguarding is at it's highest.**
- 7.10.35 This has also helped improve attendance as these students what to be in school to attend the sessions.
- Q How long does the programme last?**
- A 16 weeks, then the school will need to produce an impact report.**
- 7.10.36 DC explained that these sessions also operate outside of school
- 7.10.37 Focus then moved on to the ethnicity of suspended students, as show in the circulated report.
- Q There appears to be an increase in the Asian suspensions.**
- A Without numbers the pie chart doesn't necessary give a clear picture.**
- 7.10.38 It was agreed that table format would be produced for future meetings.
- 7.10.39 Covid seems to have had an impact on Year 10 and Year 8 across the Borough.
- 7.10.40 DC went on to circulate a flyer for 'Reach Every Generation', which had only come through the previous day. This will involve assemblies for each Year group adapted appropriately to each group.
- 7.10.41 DC invited all Governors to attend one of the sessions.
- 7.10.42 It is hoped to arranged another safeguarding session for parents as the previous March 2020 one was a huge success.
- 7.10.43 Evolve & Adapt is a mentoring service the school as bought into using the Covid funding received.
- 7.10.44 20 students will be part of this and will receive 8, 1 hour sessions which started this week.
- Q How are Year 11's doing?**
- A We now have a full programme of after school intervention for Year 11. In terms of their confidence they seem better prepared and in terms of data, we are in a good place.**
- 7.10.45 The Head of Year 11 is now on a reduced timetable so that he can give Year 11 the support they need. JG explained that the DfE have asked for a number of assessments in case students are unable to sit exams due to Covid illness. In light of this JG has

asked for flexibility with the school calendar to enable teachers time to mark these assessments.

7.10.46 JG moved on to the previously circulated Paper 3 which he explained gave a view of what we are currently doing on the ground.

7.10.47 We currently have a reduced SLT and have asked for additional support with possible secondments from local schools for perhaps Line Managing.

Q Will the meeting with EH cover this?

A Yes – we need more practical support. If this is not forthcoming JG will ask for Governors support. Lesson monitoring is running 3 weeks behind. We need to ensure the curriculum is being reflected in books which means book scrutinies are vital.

7.10.48 Paper 3 highlighted SLT prioritisations.

Q Do we have any Ukrainian students?

A Yes – the data team have pulled this information off and shared it with staff. The need for school to be a politically neutral place is more vital than ever. This has now been extended to Moldova, Belarus and Lithuania.

7.10.49 The new parents governors raised a point about their difficulty with the acronyms included in the paper. JG agreed to provide a key of acronyms going forward.

8 LINK GOVERNOR VISITS:

8.1 LS (who had sent apologies), had done a building site visit and a paper had been circulated prior to the meeting. In view of her absence it was decided to cover this at the next meeting.

8.2 An 'anti-bullying' link governor needed to appointment along with governor to fill any gaps. HD was asked to circulate a list of the current link governor to enable new governors to see what gaps needed filling.

9 GOVERNOR TRAINING

9.1 There had not been any Borough Governor training advertised since the last new Governor Training Course.

9.2 HD agreed to add the new Governors to the NGA membership so that they can take advantage of their online Governor training courses.

10. CHAIR'S ACTION

There has been no Chair's Action to report.

11. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING;

The next full Governing body meeting will be Tuesday 14th June 2022

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 ML explained that in light of the fact that as a new Governor she did not receive the papers for the last meeting until she had actually been accepted on to the governing body so did not have time to go through them. She has now done that and had some queries about the SEF which had been circulated for that meeting.

12.2 Referring to the Progress 8 score ML queries resources being used for more able students. JG went on to explain that in the summer term the focus will cascaded down from Year 11 (who have been the primary focus) to Year 10.

12.3 At the moment higher attainers looks fairly healthy although Pupil Premium student high attainers do give cause for concern.

- 12.4 JG explained that predicated targets are based on KS2 figures.
- 12.5 It was agreed that the flight path for Year 11 needs to be explained clearly going forward.
- 12.6 It was agreed to put Progress 8 on the Agenda for the next meeting.
- 12.7 JG agreed to have the Higher Attainer Pupils report circulated once completed after Tuesday. He explained that it is based on the Pupil Premium report model.

13 **CONFIDENTIALITY:**

Governors are reminded that the signed minutes of every meeting of the Full Governing Body shall, as soon as possible, be made available at the school. The full governing Body to consider which terms, if any, should be treated as confidential and excluded from publication.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm

Chair: Yvonne MacCallum

Signature: 

Date 14th June 2022

Action	Responsible	Due
15.3	Tiktok was spelt incorrectly – HD to update	ASAP
7.10.38	DC agreed to produce suspension data in table format rather than pie charts	Next meeting
7.10.13	JG agreed to draft a letter to Colin Stewart on behalf of the Governing Body	4/3/2022
7.10.18	JG agreed that future Year 9 Option Booklets will include EBACC information.	Next academic year
7.10.49	JG agreed to provide a key of acronyms for future papers.	Future meetings
8.1	LS' building site visit to appear on the agenda for the next meeting.	Next meeting
8.2	HD to circulate a list of Link Governors complete with any blanks	ASAP
9.2	HD to add ML and SO to the school's NGA membership and send them login details so they can make use of the Learning Links	ASAP
12.6	It was agreed to put Progress 8 on the Agenda for the next meeting	ASAP

12.7	JG agreed to circulate the Higher Attainer Pupil report the following week.	ASAP
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