

GOVERNING BODY MEETING, Monday, 7th December 2015



Potential Attendees	Initials	Position	Comments
Peter Villiers	PJV	Co-opted Governor (Chairman of Governors)	Present
Sarah Almey	SA	Member Appointed Governor	Present
Tracey Amos	TRA	Head Teacher	Apologies
Laraine Bridger	LB	Parent Governor	Present
Pat Grimwood-Taylor	PGT	Member Appointed Governor	Present
Robert Hemsworth	RH	Parent Governor	Present
Paul Jarrett	PJ	Co-opted Governor	Present
Ian Newberry	IN	Parent Governor	Present
Hannah Pettifer	HP	Staff Governor (Non Teaching)	Apologies
Karen Reeves	KR	Parent Governor	Present
Simon Robilliard	SR	Staff Governor (Teaching)	Present
Jacqui Whiteman	JSW	Deputy Headteacher (Non Governor)	Present
Lesley Wall	LW	Co-opted Governor	Present
Vacancy		Member Appointed Governor	-
Andrew Bloodworth	ABL	SLT Member	
Rose Elliott	RE	Clerk to Governing Board	Present

GREAT TORRINGTON SCHOOL

Academy Trust

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MINUTES

<p>*4.30pm – 5.00pm</p>	<p>Presentation</p>	<p>JSW Presented the Dashboard Information which was very positive. The data is as yet unvalidated but confirms the position of GTS as in the top 10% nationally and consistently above average across the board. Well done everyone.</p> <p>SEN with statements are an area for future focus. JSW says that a coasting school would probably be scoring 990 to 1000 and we are at 1030. We have done well with E Bacc which is equal to or above the national average. Absence/attendance is good and weaknesses are all below the point relevant for narrowing the gap.</p> <p>Governors asked questions throughout the presentation. Is there any evidence our disadvantaged groups cannot cope with the 100 minute lessons? JSW says our boys are learning to concentrate for longer. Furthermore we remain of the view that good or better teaching improves all disadvantaged learners so we seek to continue to recruit good teachers and all work towards the delivery of outstanding lessons which drives learning up. GC and JS are at the forefront here. We will continue</p>	<p>I</p> <p>C</p> <p>I</p>
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2015-16/ GOV/11	Apologies	PJV is still away and sends his apologies. SR apologies he has to leave at 6pm.	I
2015-16/ GOV/12	Conflicts of Interest	There were none stated and no changes to the completed Business interest declarations.	I
2015-16/ GOV/13	Minutes of the Last Meeting	These had been sent in advance of the meeting. IN proposed they be accepted as a true record, Seconded PJ; the proposal was agreed.	D
2015-16/ GOV/14	Matters Arising not on the Agenda	None raised.	I
2015-16/ GOV/15	Decisions and Recommendations	<p>a. No decision or recommendations from Teaching & Learning</p> <p>b. Personnel, no recommendations to this meeting.</p>	<p>I</p> <p>I</p>

	from Committees	<p>c. Premises, no recommendations to this meeting. PGT asked what happens if our Library bid is not approved. The Site Manager and Business Manager have been asked to produce a Plan B. PGT says she will liaise with PJ on this. KR says there should be a hard copy of risk assessment data in the school office.</p> <p>d. Finance. – recommendation to accept as final the accounts for 2014-15. RH queried an apparent inconsistency in the overspend. PJ responded that he understood why the question was asked but it is normal accounting practice to show the figures in this way and confirms the predicted deficit for this year as £150,000. PJ then summarised the accounts. PJ proposed from Finance Committee that the final accounts presented by the accountants be accepted; RH seconded. The proposal was agreed.</p>	<p>I PJ</p> <p>D</p>
2015-16/ GOV/16	Prevent	See item 17 below.	TRA
2015-16/ GOV/17	Policies for Review	<p>1. Admissions Policy 2017-18. Questions were taken on this document. We are allowed to go above the PAN of 160; previously we had 141. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Admissions Policy be accepted but should be published in font 12 not the current format. The Attendance Policy was also agreed.</p> <p>3. Behaviour Policy including Appendices [A to E] from ABL, review date now proposed as Autumn 1 for policy and appendices: Anti-Bullying, Code of Conduct (pupils), Consequences use of, Home School Agreement, Uniform and Dress Code. Proposed PGT, 2nd SA that Policy numbers 3, 5 and 28 are all agreed. This proposal was agreed.</p> <p>5. Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy from PCR Committee next review date now December 2016</p> <p>28. DBS Policy 2015</p> <p>15. Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions Policy was agreed for adoption if no further comment by the date of the next meeting on 15th December by when this can be examined in fuller detail.</p> <p>Prevent. This Policy was agreed for adoption but it was requested that this topic be discussed further on 25th January next when TRA is present. JSW says that the government have defined British Values. School actions so far include awareness raising sessions with pupils which have</p>	<p>I</p> <p>D D</p> <p>D</p> <p>D</p> <p>D</p> <p>I</p>

		been followed up in tutor time.	
2015-16/ GOV/18	Rotary Corporate Membership	PGT suggested the School consider Corporate Membership of the Great Torrington Rotary Club. This would serve to strengthen and publicise the good work of the School but also open up funding opportunities. PGT will arrange for a full subsidy of the membership fee. ABL and other school staff have attended meetings in the past and been well received. The meetings are weekly. It was proposed that this offer be accepted by RH, seconded LW. The proposal was agreed and the situation evaluated after twelve months. PGT will put this to the Rotary Club. JSW and PGT will liaise regarding Enterprise being a future topic of interest to both groups.	I D I
2015-16/ GOV/19	Term Dates	These were deferred to the next meeting.	I
2015-16/ GOV/20	Governor Matters	Governor Matters HMCI's monthly commentary: November 2015 was found to be of interest by those who had read it so far. It was agreed to commission a governance audit by Babcock. RE to arrange. There was an offer of help for the Big Bang event, details of those involved were given. The Christmas Concert is the same date 17 th Dec, 7pm St Michaels Church. RH attended a fund raising course on 1 st December. It was noted that funds are being sought to hold another Big Bang event next year. There were no outstanding questions regarding 15 th December meeting.	I D I I I
2015-16/ GOV/21	Items Brought Forward Through the Chairman	The chairman of governors took advantage of the opportunity to reflect on the calendar year just ending, and made the following points: This has been a good year overall. GTS is a happy, productive and well-coordinated community, and staff, pupils and governors have worked hard to make it so. Well done! The following are strategic issues for concern. 1 Numbers are declining, and this has a major knock-on effect. We face several difficult years	I

		<p>and some potentially highly unpopular decisions.</p> <p>2 We need to decide our future as a multi-academy trust, and set and meet critical dates.</p> <p>2016 will be a challenging year. I have every confidence that we shall continue to exceed expectations. We end the term with two special events: the Big Bang, and a Christmas concert in the local church. Both will demonstrate what this remarkable school can achieve. Our greatest success, however, is in our day by day achievement - and I believe we can do more to publicise this.</p> <p>Link to GTS Newsletter online http://www.gts.devon.sch.uk/downloads/information/newsletters/Winter%20Newsletter%202015/index.html</p> <p>There was a discussion on whether we have a robust process for vexatious complaints. There is provision for this within the adopted Complaints procedure.</p> <p>What does WRAP stand for? Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent.</p>	<p>I</p> <p>I</p> <p>I</p>
2015-16/ GOV/22	Dates & Times of Meetings	<p style="text-align: center;">2016</p> <p>Teaching & Learning, Monday 11th January at 5.00 pm, Meeting Room 1, Personnel, Tuesday 12th January at 5.00 pm, HT's Office, Premises/Finance, Monday 18th January 5.00pm, HT's Office, Full Governors' Meeting, L5, Monday 25th January at 5.00pm, preceded by a presentation at 4.30pm.</p>	All To note

The meeting closed at 6.40 pm