

# Minutes Academy Full Governing Body



**Blue Coat**  
Church of England School  
& Music College

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**Held on:** Tuesday 1 October 2019 at 5.00 pm

**Place:** Blue Coat School

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**Present:** Lyn Johnson - Chair  
David Kershaw  
Vicki Shelley  
Paul Tuffin  
Peter Merrylees  
Mike Draper  
Jane Durkin  
Mark Gore  
Lou Peet  
Graeme Anderson

**In attendance:** Francis Peacock – Deputy Headteacher  
Lisa Henden – Deputy Headteacher  
Kay Grainger – Clerk to Governors

## 1 WELCOMES AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Lois Whitehouse, Eniiwaju Etomi and Anna Stacey.

## 2 OPENING PRAYERS

The meeting opened with a prayer from Graeme Anderson.

## 3 REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE 2018-19

- LJO explained that the meeting was an opportunity to reflect on the vision and values of the FGB moving forward into the Trust and reiterated the following points:
  - ❖ SLT is the best it has been for many years;
  - ❖ We have incredible outcomes in our results;
  - ❖ Superb & valued staff body;
  - ❖ As we journey towards the MAT we are faced with opportunities and challenges;
  - ❖ SIAMS inspection to take place this academic year, following our previous result of Outstanding;
  - ❖ New Ofsted framework to consider – new thoughts/directions
  - ❖ Staff wellbeing/student mental health and welfare.
- Need to consider governance roles and responsibilities and address changes around the governor timetable as we become a LGB (meaning some functions will be removed i.e. finance responsibility).
- Discussion took place re: responsibility of individual governors and workload. Concern re: loss of key personnel as we go into the MAT.

## 4 STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-20

- VSH gave an update to the MAT:
  - ❖ VSH was part of the CEO appointment regime.
  - ❖ Lois Whitehouse was successfully appointed wef 4 November 2019.

- ❖ Challenges we face:
  - DKE on IET Board and therefore cannot sit as a BC governor; but will remain as an observer;
  - MGO to sit as Director on IET Board; has been agreed that he can remain as BC governor with voting rights;
  - Staff – JDU seconded to support HR/Operations at IET and therefore reduce her hours at BC;
- ❖ Our relationships with the Diocese are very strong. Many thanks to the working party team and also Graeme Anderson.
- ❖ BC mission statement had changed to Living life in all its fullness.
- The Chair explained there were 3 core functions: Vision, Ethos and Strategic function of the school.
- Discussion took place re: the vision and values of both Blue Coat and the IET. Governors agreed that the Schools' vision, ethos and strategy was positive and optimistic and that the governing body, over the last few years, had brought strategy and direction.
- The Chair asked the meeting if they were happy to pause on the election of a Chair and Vice Chair until we had moved into the MAT i.e. 1 December 2019 (potentially). **All governors agreed.**
- Vacancies: currently recruiting for 1 staff governor. Require 2 Foundation governors to replace L Whitehouse and D Kershaw.
- **Roles & Responsibilities** – postpone til LGB in place.
- **Committee Memberships** – postpone til LGB in place.
- **ToR's** – postpone til LGB in place.
- **Code of Conduct** – issued to all governors for signing and acceptance.
- **Pay Review** – to be taken to Finance Governor meeting.
- **HT Review** – to be conducted by governor panel.
- The Chair discussed a 3 year vision for the strategic aim of governance:
  - ❖ Pupils – by 2023 what does progress and attainment look like;
  - ❖ Curriculum – by 2023 what does this look like;
  - ❖ Pupil Wellbeing – as governors we need to think how we want the student outcomes to look like/and how we measure this;
  - ❖ Student behaviour;
  - ❖ Preparing students for the next stage of their life;
  - ❖ Engagement with parents and local community.
- Governor asked the meeting if best practice would be to have a working party who could work on the fundamental issues and draw up a strategic plan to deliver to full governors.
- Governor suggested governors could use the Blue Coat values and vision statement as a strategy for looking at the future governance.
- Governors accepted this idea and meeting planned for Monday, 4 November to discuss strategic plan in line with the Schools' SDP.

## 5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED TO THE CHAIR

- VSH/LJO asked governors if they were happy to accept a new Community Governor, Matt Connor-Hemming onto the governing body. DKE proposed the appointment, which was seconded by VSH. All governors were in agreement.

Meeting closed at 7:00pm