

Minutes of a meeting of the Search and Governance held on 13 January 2022 at 1215h by Microsoft Teams

Present: Tanya Weston (Chair); Elaine Clinton; Michael Priestley (Chair); Chris Nattress (Principal)

Apologies: Beth Wordsworth

Also present: Jane Murray, Clerk

01/22 **Minutes**

Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

02/22 **Declarations of Interest**

None received.

03/22 **Governance Reflection**

The Committee felt that the split of the agenda in December had worked well, as had the opportunity to combine the strategy session and to have some time for Governors to socialise after a prolonged period of online activity. It was felt that time could be made with enough advance notice for a daytime meeting, noting that a survey had been issued and that there had been no appetite for weekend working.

04/22 **Governance External Review**

Noting that an external review would be required by 2022-23, the Committee concurred that to tie the review into the strategic plan review, and while covering off requirements for the governance review, take a wider look at external stakeholder engagement, seemed sensible. The Clerk would draw up a terms of reference for the review and circulate for discussion, but in terms of timing it was likely that this would be the start of 2023.

05/22 **Code of Good Governance – Part 1**

As the Committee were aware, the Board had signed up to the new code. The Clerk had undertaken a compliance check and discussed the following points arising from the check (the Committee felt that the compliance and check and been very detailed).

Arising from requirements in the code:

That the community annual report, which had showcased performance and student activity at a high, user-friendly level, could be revised to become a feature of the website
(Agreed/Action JM/KW/JB);

The Standing Orders already include a scheme delegation including reservations to the Board and delegations to the Principal, in addition to terms of reference of Committees, the Committee felt that this was sufficient and that there were no concerns that would lead them to take every delegation to the Principal and plot who would carry out that function in practice.

In discussion of how best that parents and students are given access to accurate and timely information, it was felt that the Ofsted report was on the website and significant amounts of information about courses and open events. In discussing whether a summary of the Self-assessment, the Committee questioned research on what other providers in the area did.
(Action JM)

In discussing how student feedback is received, it was acknowledged that although formal surveys were received, the 'softer' feedback and activity had been less of late and it was agreed that there would be a review to see how this might be accommodated.
(Action DB/JM)

Noted that the Board had requested closer monitoring of Higher Needs learners this year in response to high needs indicator.
(Action DB/JM/IF).

It was felt that the Board had lost some contact with parents online and would like to see parents' evening return in person. This had also been raised as part of the parents' survey participation. It was also recognised though that some parents would prefer online.
(Action: DB/JM/IF/HG)

In response to a specific indicator on external review of TLA, the Committee felt that they were made aware of the fact that external review was happening but not sighted on the outcome.
(Action: DB)

The Board had not been asked to approve a quality strategy in a long time, although it was acknowledged that the Board had a good understanding of the 'Beyond Good' agenda. Following some discussion it was agreed that the Strategy covered a good part of Beyond Good, and that the Principal could embellish this was one page on the Beyond Good agenda. *(Action: CN/JM/MB)*

06/22

Vacancy Update

The Clerk had had a good discussion with a potential candidate from the NDA, but had not heard anything further. She would choose an appropriate moment to follow up.

It was noted that there was a second vacancy with a recent retirement and that there may be a need to re-advertise.

07/22

Maturity Matrix

A decision was reached to adopt a different approach to the maturity matrix when the mapping with the Governance Code was concluded.

The meeting closed at 1300h.