

CHESSINGTON SCHOOL

Minutes of Chessington School's Local Governing Body (LGB1) Meeting Held on Wednesday, 6th October 2021 in Room S2 at Chessington School at 6pm

MINUTES

PRESENT							
Co-Opted Governors	Karen Carman (KCN) - Chair Andreas Kirsch (AKH) - arrived at 18.55 *Han-Ley Tang (HTG) - via video-conferencing). Emma Turner (ETR) Sarah Ward Carolyn Withey	Also in Attendance	Senior Staff: Amy Smith (ASM) - Deputy HT Sarah Wilson (SWN) - Deputy HT Clerk: Lucinda Ayles (LAS) Observers:				
Headteacher	Ashraf Ali (AAI)		Natalie Page (NPE) Jane Porter (JPR				
Staff Governor	Tamara Graham (TGM)	Associate Member	Sonia Molnar				
Parent Governors	Gregor Falck (GFK) Vanessa Sinet (VST)						

The meeting was quorate at all times.

Wording in italics indicates Governor Challenge

1. <u>Welcome</u> - The Chair of Governors, KCN, welcomed everyone to the meeting:

Introductions: Introductions were made.

<u>Apologies for Absence</u> - Apologies were received from AES, JHD, PME and NMN. These were accepted.

<u>Agreement for all attendees to join via video-conference/confidentiality</u> - It was agreed that HTG, who confirmed he was in a confidential area, should join 'virtually'.

<u>Confidentiality</u> - the Chair emphasised that any confidential issues discussed were not to be disclosed.

Minutes were recorded for the purpose of minute taking only.

<u>School Emails</u> - Chair: Governors and Associate Members must only use their School email accounts to conduct Governor business and be aware that emails may be divulged.

<u>Use of WhatsApp</u> - Chair: Only to be used to arrange meetings - further information to be clarified in Any Other Business (below).

2.	 Declarations of Interest LAS confirmed: Everyone had completed their electronic Pecuniary Declarations of Interest and the Register of Interests would be updated on the website shortly. 	LGB1/21- 22/001- LAS
3.	Minutes of LGB6 Meeting - 7th July 2021 The minutes were approved and signed.	
	 Actions from the LGB6 Meeting on 6th July 2021 - remaining open: LGB6/20-21/001 - NMN to report at the next LGB on her PPG visit (currently being 	LGB1/21- 22/002 - NMN
	 arranged). LGB6/20-21/002 - SWN said MSR would be producing a video on Study Skills for parents, when she returned to School. 	LGB1/21 22/003 - SWN/MSR
	- LGB6/20-21/003 - ASM confirmed that form reps had been nominated within Tutor Groups covering equality/inclusion, safeguarding, achievement and learning, behaviour	LGB6/21- 22/004 - ASM/AKH GFK AND
	for learning etc. Action: AKH, GFK (for Student Voice) and Working Party Leads to seek written feedback from these reps via ASM, relating to their particular Working Parties.	Working Parties Leads
	- LGB6/20-21/004 - Urgent Action: AKH to complete the AfC Full Safeguarding Training as well as the New Governor and SEND training.	LGB6/21- 22/005 - AKH
	Action: ASM to check SWD's Careers and Enterprise and Young Enterprise Safeguarding Training to check if it enables her to become a Safeguarding Governor. (SWD is enrolled on AfC Safeguarding Training in January 2022.	LGB6/21- 22/006 - ASM
	PPG Actions: To be carried forward - LGB6/20-21/008 - carry forward - KCN/AAI - LGB6/20-21/009 - carry forward - KCN/NMN/AAI/SWN/ASM - LGB6/20-21/010 - carry forward - ASM - LGB6/20-21/011- carry forward - NMN - LGB6/20-21/012 - carry forward - AAI/SWN/ASM	/007 /008 /009 /010 /011
	AAI explained that the DfE had released the new PPG Strategy template a few days ago that was very different.	
	The individual Schools were working on this together Trust Wide. The deadline for PPG to be on School websites was in December.	
	Anna Griffith (AGH), the new Assistant Head with a responsibility for PPG would work with NMN and come along to the next LGB meeting in December.	LGB6/21-
	- LGB6/20-21/013 - Governor Curriculum Guidance/Moving forward with Deep Dives: Action: Although the Curriculum meeting had met briefly, this would be carried forward so AES could join the discussion on moving this forward.	22/012 Curric- ulum WP
	- LGB6/20-21/020 - Skills Analysis - Urgent Action: AAI to complete the electronic Skills Analysis Questionnaire.	LGB6/21- 22/013 - AAI
	Actions from the LGB Meeting on 6th July 2021 that were now closed: LGB6/20-21/005, 006, 007, 014, 015, 016, 017, 018, 019, 021, 022, 023 and 024.	
	Comments resulting from the closed actions: - AAI thanked Governors for their work on the staffroom that was greatly appreciated by staff. Also the furniture was multi-purpose and was useful for Open Evening. - The Chair of Governors and others had been really impressed by the School at Open Evening. TGM was thanked for her tremendous work in bringing the Sports 6th form to fruition.	
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4. Single Central Record Check (SCR) LGB6/21-CWY had noted the Single Central Record was now to be checked every half-term (6 22/014 checks per year). She had yet to complete this check as she was waiting for her updated **CWY** DBS certificate. Action: CWY to carry out two SCR checks this term. 5. **Governing Body Organisation** Election of new Co-Opted Governor - NPE. NPE left the room. The Governing Body noted she had previously been a Governor at Chessington School and has a daughter at the School. She had valuable HR and Safeguarding experience. All Governors (including HTG attending virtually) voted in NPE unanimously, as Co-Opted Governor (four year term) by raising hands. Election of new Associate Member - JPR. JPR left the room, JPR has two children at the School and had an interest in students' mental health and would be useful on the Wellbeing Committee. All Governors voted in JPR unanimously (as above), as an Associate Member (one year term). LGB6/21-22/015 -Another possible Associate Member - The Chair would be speaking to another possible **KCN** candidate for Associate Member. As agreed with the Chair of Governors, JPR left the meeting at 6.30pm. Chessington's Governing Body - following discussion, the Clerk checked the Trust documentation and clarified the Governing Body could have up to 15 Governors in total. It was unanimously agreed that SMR should be re-elected as Co-Opted Governor to enable her to continue her previous responsibilities that she was unable to undertake as an Associate Member. **Terms of Reference (ToR):** The following terms of reference were agreed in principle: a) Chessington School's Local Governing Body Committee; b) Finance and Business (F&B) Committee: c) Staff, Student, Community and Wellbeing (SSCW) Committee: d)Teaching and Learning (T&L) Working Party. Q: "Should the Teaching and Learning Party ToR be amended to the 'Curriculum Working Party'?' A: AAI: Confirmed that, yes, this should be the case. AAI confirmed there was no requirement for Working Parties to have ToRs. LGB6/21-Action: It was agreed more work was needed to streamline b), c) and d) above in 22/016 terms of their format and eventually with the format of those at Grey Court and **KCN** Hollyfield schools. Chair to work on these as they were useful. (The list of policies assigned to these Committees/Working Parties should also be referenced in the ToRs). Joint Safeguarding Governor Vacancy - SWD was elected unanimously as Joint Safeguarding Governor (with the proviso her current training was the required level). ASM's action already noted above. Chair of Governors - KCN was re-elected unanimously and said she would be working closely with her Vice-Chair(s) to enable them to step up to her role in time. Vice-Chair of Governors - GFK and VST were elected unanimously as co Vice-Chair of Governors. Clerk/Governance Professional - LAS was unanimously elected for the forthcoming Chairs of Committees: The following were unanimously elected for the forthcoming vear: - Chair of F&B Committee: ETR - Vice-Chair of F&B Committee: GFK - Chair of SSCW Committee: CWY - Chair of Teaching and Learning Committee - VST LGB6/21-Action: CWY and VST to work with their teams to manage succession planning. 22/017 -Members of Committees/Working Parties - these were discussed and agreed as **CWY/VST** indicated in the Appendix - Governors' Responsibility Matrix.

	 Redesignation of Subject Leads - AAI said that rather than having 'subject leads' in future, he would like Governors to move to be assigned to School Development Priorities, in line with the SEF. (This was to be developed and so subject leads currently remain in the Matrix). Action: AAI and KCN to assign Governors to School Development Priorities. Q: "So is the current system of assigning Governors to subjects not effective"? A: AAI: No but carrying out Deep Dives and making judgements, together with senior leaders, in line with School Development Priorities would be much more effective. New 6th Form/Sports Governor - This role was added and TGM appointed. Associate Governors - It was noted that Associate Members do not have voting rights. 	LGB6/21- 22/018 - AAI/KCN
6.	 Governors' Training/Skills Analysis/Clerk's Update Governors' Electronic Declarations: The Clerk read out the list of outstanding electronic declarations and non-staff Governors who had yet to complete the Safeguarding Quiz. Urgent Action: Everyone to check without delay that they have completed everything. 	LGB6/21- 22/019 - ALL
	 Skills Analysis of the Governing Body: The diagrams illustrating summaries of the responses were available on the Drive. 	
	 Self-Evaluation of Governing Body: Action: Following discussion, it was agreed the NGA template should be placed on the Governors' Drive and, as last year, the Chair should allocate one or two questions to each Governor. 	LGB6/21- 22/020 - LAS/KCN
	Outstanding Safeguarding/PREVENT Training: Action: VST to place her Safeguarding Certificates in her folder on the Drive.	LGB6/22- 22/021 - AKH/VST
	PREVENT Training - Action: HTG to take PREVENT training in November when his current training expires.	LGB6/21- 22/022 - HTG
	 Safer Recruitment Training - Action: One more Governor to sign up for this training (currently we have CWY, ETR and JHD - Associate Member). 	LGB6/21- 22/023 - ALL
	 Action: The Chair emphasised: All should take advantage of the free AfC training while it is still available on-line as well as the other training (see Governor Declarations/Training Folder on the Drive. Also important for Governors to sign up for AfC's Education Inspections Framework training. 	LGB6/21- 22/024 - ALL
	 Updated Governance Documents - the Clerk emphasised that she had placed the updated Academy Trust Handbook and the AfC Staff/Parent Election Guidance on the Governors' Drive. 	
7.	Finance & Business (F&B) The Chair of the F&B Committee confirmed that there were no updates as there had not been a meeting so far this term. This would be arranged when PME was back at work (currently off due to Covid).	
8.	Policies that Chessington's Local Governing Body is Responsible For Action: The Clerk to send the Policies list that JHD had provided to the Committee Chairs ETR, VST and CWY for them to allocate responsibility to the various Committees and Working Parties for reviewing these policies.	LGB6/21- 22/025 - LAS/ Comm- itee Chairs
9.	Performance/Learning/Safeguarding/Covid • Performance - SWN reported the following: - GCSE results were on the Drive) and the School. Generally students were happy and the results had been similar to the Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). Governors	

recognised so much work had gone into this, as well as moderation across the Trust.

- Three students had not been able to pursue their 'next steps' and GJN was supporting.
- An appeal for a Maths exam had been submitted to the Exam Board and rejected, i.e. the TAG submitted by the School had been upheld.
- SWN/AAI were having conversations with subject leaders where there were concerns about either Year 10 or Year 11 GCSE results Art, Citizenship, Drama, History, Music and Spanish. Year 10s had not been able to select drama this year as an option and AAI wanted Governors to hold the School to account on this. **Action: This action was for the Curriculum Working Party.**

LGB6/21-22/026 -AES/VST

Governor Questions

- Q1. "Why was it not possible for students to study drama this year? Was it because of timetabling issues"?
- A1. AAI: No, only two students opted to study Drama and then one of those left
- Q2. "Are Drama after school clubs in place so students can continue with Drama"? A2. AAI: Yes, a production of Mary Poppins would be taking place.
- Q3. "What were the reasons for the poor results in the subjects you have mentioned? Is it an issue with the curriculum or the quality of teaching"?
- A3. AAI: Some discussions were still to take place with subject leaders, however it was a variety of issues. Examples: Drama lack of performances due to Covid and maybe more emphasis needed on the written exam. MFL more time was needed for the outcome of the improvement plans to take effect. The actual teaching of these subjects were also being looked at. There were more systemic issues with Citizenship.
- Q4. "What is the School most proud about?"
- A4. AAI: Governors could see the good data. He was proud that nearly all last year's Year 11s had been able to access their chosen destinations. The number of vocational subjects were being extended.
- Q5. "I see a lot of GCSE students got grade 4 for Maths and English instead of grade 5. Is Grade 4 in English and Maths sufficient for pupils to access education, training and careers"?
- A5. AAI and SWN: Grade 4 was a 'standard' pass no need to re-take. A student obtaining a Grade 5 in Maths would indicate ability to tackle some challenging problems and probably be taking Foundation Maths. A pupil obtaining Grade 6 in Maths would likely be taking Higher Maths. Generally, a student could be considered for continuing to A level with a Grade 6. Obtaining a lower grade and whether they could progress to an A level would need to be carefully considered.
- Covid Catchup AAI reported they were moving forward positively as follows:
 - Working on the SEF priorities;
 - The new Assistant Head, Anna Griffith (AGH) was working on the PPG Strategy;
 - The School had approximately 20K Catch-Up Funding;
 - The basketball coach would be mentoring students confidence building;
 - AAI did not agree with the National Tutoring Scheme and would not be using;
 - Instead the focus would be on targeted interventions before and after School and on improving attendance:
 - Following the Ofqual announcement, the School would no longer be insisting Lower Prior Attainment Group (LPAG) pupils took 10 GCSEs. Full consideration (over a phased approach) would be given to pupils being able to attend additional EBAC subjects in place of a non EBAC subject(s):
 - AAI had signed a letter to the Telegraph from the Confederation of School Trusts campaigning for Schools to have the autonomy to reduce the number of subjects taken (outside English, Maths, Science etc.), for Covid Catch-Up purposes.
 - Q "Does this mean a pupil might be restricted from taking a subject such as

catering that they really want to take"?

A SWN: No, all considerations would be taken into account. This would generally apply if a student was expected to attain a grade 1 in a non-EBAC subject.

- There were a lot of wellbeing initiatives being used throughout the School to help tackle Covid Catch-Up, for example Personal Development and Wellbeing.
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)** changes from 1.9.21 this could be signed off as this was part of Governors' declarations.
- Ratifying the Chessington School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy w.e.f.
 1.9.21 this version was agreed and ratified.
- Governors' Safeguarding Audit ASM had drafted this in the summer holidays; the Clerk had updated Safeguarding Training and the document was with CWY for checking. It had to be submitted to AfC in November. This was now closed.
- The Clerk reported that HR Officer, EHS had confirmed:
 - Staff Code of Conduct EHS would chase until all School Staff had signed.

 Action: AAI said he would follow this up and confirm for the next meeting.
 - All enhanced DBS checks were up-to-date for Chessington's Governing Body.
 - All Section 128 checks were up-to-date for Chessington's Governing Body.

LGB6/21-22/027 -AAI

10. Trust's Visions and Values - AAI summarised:

- The Chair of ECED as well as the Heads, trustees of ECED and Governors of all Schools had got together in the summer to agree these.
- The Mission Statement of ECED: Harnessing the power of collaboration to transform the lives of every child, every day.
- The values and visions very much reflected Chessington School's values.
- Really effective collaboration was taking place across the Trust in all sorts of ways.
- There would be a Trust cross-wide inset day in February to develop the above principles.

11. HT Report/ School Improvement/School Evaluation Framework (SEF)

- HT Report: AAI reiterated the following key headlines:
 - Chessington School was now over-subscribed in Years 9, 8 and 7.
 - **The post 16 provision** had been launched. 14 boys studying for BTEC level 3. AAI wanted it minuted that TGM had worked through much of her summer holidays to bring this to fruition.
 - **Attendance** Anna Griffith (AGH) was working on this. National attendance = 82% and Chessington's attendance = 90% but this was still not good enough.
 - **Staff Sickness** this had increased (reflecting local trends) and the Supply Staff budget had been increased from 26K to 49K.
 - Starters there were two new Assistant Heads:
 - 1. Anna Griffith (AGH) had responsibility for PPG, Key Stage 3 and Raising Standards; and
 - 2. Cait Cooper (CCR) had responsibility for Behaviour, Pastoral, Removing Barriers to Learning

Other new starters - three SEN, one TA and two new teachers - English and Media and a former PGCE student. The Trust was taking on trainee teachers with the aim of 'growing our own' future teachers. Various staff were providing Maternity cover.

- **Open Evening** - had been a great success - three sold out talks. 120 were booked to attend **Open Morning**.

Governor Questions

Q1. "Is this the first time Chessington has been oversubscribed in Year 7 since AAI became Head? New Governors should be aware what a milestone this is".

A1. AAI: Yes, but we cannot become complacent and AAI/ASM were still going into other Schools.

Q2. "Does the School have enough capacity to cover staff illness"?

- **A2**. AAI: Consideration was being given to employing a Trust Cover Supervisor.
- Q3. "Will more staff be needed with the numbers of pupils increasing"?
- **A4.** AAI: Yes, there is a projected increase of 2.7 staff for next year and planning was taking place with SWN doing some work on this.
- **Q4.** "I noticed parents at Open Evening were coming from a further distance, e.g. New Malden. Also would you consider extending intake above 135"?
- **A5.** AAI: Yes, distance was increasing as the number of 2nd, 3rd etc. choices were increasing. AAI might possibly consider increasing above the 135 intake (150 absolute maximum) but more likely increase intake across the trust as a whole. He had written a paper for local Councillors about the proposed new school in Kingston planned for 2024 focused on local demographics.
- School Evaluation Framework AAI explained the SEF informs Governors about the immediate School improvement priorities covering Quality of Education, Personal Development and Wellbeing, Behaviour and Learning and Leadership and Management.
 - The last Ofsted Judgement good was in May 2018 so getting ready for next visit.
 - Areas for Improvement Quality of Education, High Expert Teachers, Access to Educations for Everyone, Use of Assessments; Careers Guidance and Stretch and Challenge.
 - The School judges itself good across all areas but recognises some really good practice in areas such as Personal Development and Wellbeing and Relationships and Behaviours.
 - Action: AAI and the Chair of Governors explained Chairs of Committees and Working Parties needed to work on the relevant Evidence of Impact areas from the SEF and work on building evidence for Ofsted.
 - AAI highlighted that the SEF was a working document that would have links for Ofsted to examine.

Q. "Should Governors be looking at tweaking in order to transform when they carry out Deep Dives?"

A. AAI: Yes, going through checklists to check the 'solidly good' and to query/make comments on what is found as well as identifying areas of excellence.

- AAI emphasised that Deep Dives are carried out on the curriculum only.
- Internal training and practice was taking place getting Senior and Middle Leaders ready for Deep Dives and utilising AJN's valuable Ofsted experience.
- Internal Deep Dives would take place within the School and Governors would take part not asking questions but to quality assure the process.
- Chair: Governors would then carry out their link visits, preparing beforehand using the SEF and collecting evidence against each part of the Key Performance Indicator (KPI).
- A similar document to the SEF was being developed for Staff.

Q. "How are you training Middle Leaders to be more autonomous"?

A. AAI: They were using a coaching approach and changing the culture to encourage Middle Leaders to become more empowered. Some departments were further advanced than others.

Governors agreed the SEF.

Governors to Approve the School Improvement Partner (SIP)

Q. "I'm concerned that our School Improvement Partner's Conflict of Interest being a Member of the Trust (as minuted on the Agenda) doesn't look good on paper".

A: AAI thanked the Governor for her challenge. SHM was highly experienced, had been a Headteacher and was SIP for Christs School. She was the SIP at all three Trust Schools and AAI, ASM and SWN confirmed her input was invaluable. She was also a Member of ECED due to her specific knowledge and skills.

Governors approved SHM as Chessington School's School Improvement Partner.

 Governors to Approve the School Improvement Plan Priorities - Governors approved this. LGB6/21-22/028 -ETR, VST CWY

	 Agree Working Party's Objectives, Targets and Priorities, Allocating Responsibilities - Action: see action 028 above. Link Governors/Timetable of Department Visits - Action: AAI/KCN to meet up to change Department Visits to allocating KPIs on the School Improvement Plan and establishing a programme of visits. Verbal Update on CWY/SMR's SEND Department Visit - Key points were: - The SEND department was making use of the library Morning TLC sessions, breakfast and homework clubs took place There were a high number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) children - 23 with a high number in Years 8 and 9. - There was a backlog of children waiting to be assessed for EHCPs but only 44 hours of the Educational Psychologist's time allocated to the School. The EP was open to Cait Cooper (CCR) carrying out assessments to be approved by the EP. - Chessington had not been successful in obtaining funds for a Specialist Resource Provision (SRP). - There were 10 staff and a volunteer in the SEND department but lots of paperwork. - Some children had suffered with emotional issues during Covid. - KMN so far had 11 consultations for SEND children applying for the School but some would require an SRP - some with ADHD diagnoses. - The Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) worked 20 hours a week. 	LGB6/21- 22/029 - AAI/KCN
12	Trust Update The correct Scheme of Delegation had been updated on the Governors' Drive. A Governor said he was unable to access. [The Clerk corrected this after the meeting].	
13.	 Any Other Business (AOB) Governors Intervention Panel - Already discussed. Sports Academy: Q. "Can new students join this 16+ provision before next year"? TGM: No but they were promoting these students at School events for marketing/awareness. Governors' Use of WhatsApp - Governors agreed to the terms using WhatsApp as specified in the Clerk's email dated 10.9.21, i.e. "WhatsApp should only be used for arranging meetings and must not be used for discussions, making decisions, ratifying them or conducting any School/ Governor business. All this must be communicated in a written email and ratified in the normal way (at meetings etc). Substantive discussions or decisions generated in the course of conducting business should be accessible - for example by copying it to an authorised email address. Therefore, it is also imperative that Governor business is alway conducted via School email accounts and NOT via personal email accounts'. Governors Receiving Whole School Communications. Governors did not seem to be receiving this as a Governor distribution - only as parents. Action: KCN to talk to TDE. Phone Masts on the School. HTG summarised: - There was a 4G phone mast on the School roof. The School received payment for this. - Legislation came in in 2017, lowering the amount the School can charge. - EE have now asked to extend the lease, place more masts on the roof and requested site access to the roof 'out of hours'. - Having spoken to PME and lawyers Stone King, the position is that legislation dictates: a) The School can't withhold consent; and b) The rates that can be paid to the School. - However, the SFA states the School cannot make a loss on our funding agreement; and whilst we can't charge for the lease, we can charge for other things. A School should not be put in a position that it is losing money to subsidise a multinational Telecoms company. - The School's position is that they will allow the mast subject to: a) All Telecoms staff entering t	LGB6/21- 22/030 - KCN

Governors agreed with this stance. HTG left the meeting at 8.39pm

Governors were reminded to update the Governors to update the Governors' Activity Log.

Governors were reminded the Clerk had updated a number of documents on the shared Drive as per the Agenda.

Q. "What is your position regarding the pressure from the DfE to encourage Trusts to merge and grow"?

A. A discussion followed and AAI confirmed that his priority was to work towards all three Schools in the Trust being 'outstanding'. Remaining independent was dependent upon being successful and performing well. AAI said the ECED Trust was supporting a couple of Schools and were spending this year focusing on centralising functions.

KCN thanked everyone for coming along and closed the Meeting at 8.50pm.

Signed Chair of Governors	
Date:	

Date of next LGB Meeting - Wednesday, 1st December 2021 at 6pm