

Local Governing Body

Monday 6th June 2022

Minutes

Present:

Aisha Adesanya
 Rakeb Alemu
 Pemi Arowojolu.
 Sugra Alibhai (Principal)
 Sam Bailey
 Farina Begum
 Louise Burke
 Pamela Chowdhury
 Del Cooke
 Funmi Esuola
 Angela Hille
 Jo Large
 Marco Macchitella (Chair)
 Emma McCoy
 Aiyounng Seo

1.	Governance
2.	Minutes
3.	Matters Arising
4.	College Improvement Plan
5.	Principal's Report
6.	Student Experience – Employability & Progression
7.	Careers Policy
8.	Risk Management Plan
9.	AOB
10.	Confidential Item

In Attendance:

Peter Green
 Ian Hooper
 Lubna Hussain
 Meryem Recber
 Peter Thompson
 Beth Yap

Minute	Decision /Action	D/A
3.7.	Lubna Hussain to circulate the report that was presented to Trustees outlining the work taking place in response to Everyone's Invited.	A
4.	Principal's Report to include an update on the CIP, particularly the main successes and concerns.	A
5.	Pamela Chowdhury to support the College to increase fundraising activity.	A
5.	Governing Body to be invited to attend the morning of the staff conference on 23 rd June 2022.	A
7.	To approve the Career Education Information Advice & Guidance Policy.	D
7.	Pemi Arowojolu to continue to work with the Careers Team and feed back to governors on how this work is progressing.	A
9.	Student Experience item around wellbeing to include the students use of social media.	A

Governors noted that Matthew Konneh had resigned from the Local Governing Body and thanked him for his service over the past four years. The Chair also

welcomed Meryem Recber who was observing the meeting with a view to joining the Local Governing Body.

1. Governance

1.1 Apologies for Absence

Lynn Blades.

1.2 Declaration of Interest

None.

2. Minutes

The Governing Body approved the minutes of 21st February 2022 as a true and accurate record of the events that took place, with one amendment. It was agreed that the minutes would be uploaded to the College website in their entirety.

3. Matters Arising

7. Lubna Hussain to circulate the report that was presented to Trustees outlining the work taking place in response to Everyone's Invited.

Action

4. College Improvement Plan

The Governing Body considered the latest version of the College Improvement Plan (CIP), noting that this document was presented to the Ofsted inspectors during the recent visit.

Sugra Alibhai informed the Governing Body that the College is starting to look ahead to next year's plan, with a SLT strategy day taking place this week, as well as considering how this fits into the wider work of Frontier Learning Trust.

Sugra explained that a group of Trustees have met to discuss the long-term vision of the Trust over the next 5 years and have drafted the following vision statement:

Frontier Learning Trust staff inspire and empower ambitious young people from every background to advance and thrive in each step of their academic, professional and personal journeys.

Sugra explained that after focusing on this vision, a number of priorities were drafted in relation to students, staff and the wider work of Frontier Learning Trust.

Students

- Attract diverse cohorts of high achieving, aspirational students who seek a transformative educational experience.
- Provide excellent teaching and relevant guidance in a supportive environment, so that students have a fulfilling and enjoyable experience.
- Enable students to achieve the best possible grades and progress to the next step in their academic or professional journey.

Staff

- Attract, recruit and retain a high performing, diverse staff body who will collaborate to deliver the vision.
- Develop and support all staff to thrive in their careers.
- Build an organisational culture which considers staff ‘wellbeing’ and ‘reasonableness’ when decisions are made.

Wider Work of FLT

- Lead national educational innovation through sharing our teaching expertise and influencing stakeholders.
- Provide opportunities by working collaboratively with our diverse local communities.
- Achieve organisational excellence and financial sustainability through resource planning and efficient estate management.

In response to a question from governors, Sugra explained that a Trust-wide strategy will feed into future CIPs and help to anchor the thinking of the College over the next 5 years. **In response to a follow-up question from governors**, Sugra confirmed that the CIP will continue to be produced annually but there are plans to devise 5-year priorities for the College.

The Governing Body commended the College in including staff in its vision, as well as students and the community.

Governors questioned how the College plans to work collaboratively with diverse local communities and was informed that students from years 7 and 8 are currently invited into College to work on maths problems. In addition to this, the College is also encouraging work with feeder schools as well as linking up with other schools in the area in order to share it’s A Level expertise.

In response to a question from governors, Sugra confirmed that the College has links with a number of schools in North London, not just those in Barnet. However, the Governing Body was reminded that some schools are reluctant to work with Woodhouse due to having their own sixth forms.

Governors questioned how the effectiveness against the 5-year strategy will be measured and Sugra explained there would be an annual report to trustees. Each institution would set its own goals and metrics and the College would aim to see positive trends over time

The Governing Body agreed that the CIP is a thorough and detailed document, which highlights the key messages for governors. It was agreed that this was an ambitious plan, and the College has been flexible in its approach. It was requested that the Principal’s Report includes an update on the CIP, including the main successes and concerns.

Action

5. Principal’s Report

Sugra Alibhai presented her report, thanking the Trustees and Governors for their support during the recent Ofsted visit, particularly those who met with the inspectors.

The Governing Body noted that Alex Christodoulou will be joining the College from September as Vice Principal (Outcomes and Destinations), as Ian Hooper moves to 3 days a week.

Lubna Hussain presented an update on student mental health during the exam season, reminding the Governing Body that these students have no experience of formal exams due to their GCSEs not taking place during lockdown.

Lubna explained that there has been a high level of anxiety around exams and the College has provided a large amount of support, such as tips in the student bulletin and drop-in sessions. The College has made provision for students to speak to a member of staff if they are struggling whilst on study leave and students are also given a safe space to voice their concerns both before and after their exams. Parents have been sent advice in the Parent Newsletter on how they can offer support, such as making sure students have the right equipment before an exam.

Louise Burke, Parent Governor, fed back that the College's exam provision was very strong, with the mock exams helping to get students ready early and letting them know what to expect.

The Governing Body was informed of how the College supports its students with housing issues, often writing to the local authority and MPs in order to get eviction notices stopped. **In response to a question from governors**, Lubna explained that these issues are becoming more common due to the cost-of-living increase. Lubna also confirmed that students can be offered the bursary fund in-year and the College has additional funding to assist the students who need it.

In response to a question from governors, Sugra confirmed that more could be done to fundraise with the parent body, community and alumni, as there is currently a very small number who donate monthly. It was agreed that Pamela Chowdhury would support the College to increase fundraising.

Action

Peter Thompson presented an update on teaching & learning, explaining that it has been an active year in terms of learning walks and lesson observations. The Curriculum Committee has decided to launch 'the Woodhouse Way', which focuses on the seven guiding principles of teaching & learning and will be implemented from September. The Governing Body thanked Peter for his impressive and inspiring report.

In response to a question from governors, Peter confirmed that staff receive training on neurodiverse students. Lubna Hussain explained that, in addition to this training, the ALS team works with teachers to explain which strategies should be implemented for individual students, meaning that each student receives a bespoke provision. It was noted that identification of these needs, particularly in girls, is the biggest challenge for the College.

The Governing Body was invited to attend the morning of the staff conference on 23rd June 2022.

Action

Finally, the Governing Body was informed that Woodhouse would be taking

over the music provision from BEAT from September 2022.

6. Student Experience – Employability & Progression

Ian Hooper presented an update on employability & progression, explaining that the College aims to equip its students with the skills they need to thrive, which has been more challenging during the lockdowns.

The Governing Body was informed about the recent UCAS week, which offered around 40 talks each day from 30 universities and covered topics such as *'its ok not to know'*, *'can you sue?'* and *'a master class in creative writing'*.

In response to a question from governors, Aisha Adesanya explained that these sessions took place in person, as previous feedback from students showed that they preferred this over virtual events.

Ian explained that trips have started to commence again this year and there have been a number of fundraising events such as Islamic Relief Funding and Comic Relief.

Ian highlighted that the participation of disadvantaged students in Woodhouse Plus was something that Ofsted inspectors were interested in, and they were pleased that the Governing Body had asked questions around this.

Governors agreed that these activities have had a positive impact on students, with alumni also attending events to talk about their progression after Woodhouse. Ian acknowledged that there is more the College could do to strategize these events, but A Levels should always remain the main area of focus.

It was noted that 92% of students from Woodhouse finish with first class or upper second-class honours, compared to 84% in the state sector and 91% in the independent sector.

Governors questioned whether there was more that could be done by the College to publicise its success. It was noted that the College has recently been featured in the national press due to the numbers of students progressing to Oxbridge.

The Student Governors were invited to give their view on employability & progression and explained that the work experience days were useful as it allowed them to explore career and university options. However, they explained that it would be useful if more links could be built with local companies in order to assist students in finding work experience.

7. Careers Policy

The Local Governing Body reviewed and approved the Career Education Information Advice & Guidance Policy, noting that this document also includes details of the careers programme and how this meets the Gatsby benchmarks. It was noted that this policy had been updated to reflect current practice at the College and had been seen by Ofsted during the inspection.

Decision

In response to a question from governors, Lubna explained that teachers are able to embed careers in the curriculum mainly in their role as tutors, as at present tutors tend to teach their tutees.. However, Ofsted also provided the College with a number of ways this can be further developed. It was noted that the College will receive another Ofsted inspection before 2025 which will be ‘skills focused’

In response to another question from governors, Sugra explained that the College will self-assess its work on careers, under the new framework, but would also be open to some form of external review. However, Sugra reminded governors that this framework is still at the consultation stage, and it is too early to make any formal plans.

Governors questioned how flexible the College is able to be should a student want to change their course either before or after joining. The Senior Leadership Team explained that a large amount of work takes place on GCSE results day to ensure that the students get their desired course and homework is set during the holidays so they can get a flavour of their chosen subject. After students have been on their course for 3 weeks, diagnostic tests take place, which indicates if any course changes are needed.

The Governing Body agreed that Pemi Arowojolu, Careers Governor, should continue to work with the Careers Team and feed back to governors on how this work is progressing.

Action

8. Risk Management Plan

The Governing Body considered Woodhouse’s risk management plan, noting that this would be reviewed as a result of the recent Ofsted inspection. Sugra explained that risks around covid, lockdown and a reduction in Ofsted grade would all be reduced in the next review.

9. Any Other Business

Governors discussed the issue of social media and mental health, particularly whether the College’s view is aligned with that of students. It was agreed that the Student Experience item around wellbeing should address this.

Action

10. Confidential Items

See confidential minutes.

The meeting concluded at 8:30pm