

## **Thomas Alleyne's High School, Uttoxeter**

Minutes of a meeting of the governing body held in the school on Monday, 28 January 2019 at 5.00pm.

### **Present:**

Mr M Prescott (chair), Mr M Cruddas, Mrs P Curtis, Mrs B Davies, Mrs K Fisher, Ms R Horry, Mr P Hudson, Dr M Jary, Mr I Johnstone, Mr M Osborne-Town.

Mrs J Rudge (Headteacher)

### **Also in Attendance:**

Mr R Sheldon (Clerk to the Governing Body)

### **Apologies:**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mrs S Brown, Mr P Taylor, Mr D Thomas.

### **124. External Review of Governance:**

Mr Andy Chell, National Leader of Governors, attended the meeting to give his formal feedback following his recent external review of governance. A copy of his report had been previously circulated to governors.

Mr Chell outlined the review process, which had included him previously meeting with the governing body to get an initial view on their understanding of their role, and separate meetings with the headteacher and chair and vice chairs of the governing body. He thanked everyone for their co-operation and providing him with all requested information. On completion of the review he was pleased to confirm that his judgement was that this is an effective governing body.

Mr Chell reminded governors that the review had focussed in particular on the four core areas of governance:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and for Performance Management
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent
- Effective governance practice

Mr Chell was pleased to report that all four core areas had been identified as fully compliant, although a number of recommendations had been made as to where further improvements could be made. His only key recommendation had been to determine a Governor Action Plan.

It was resolved –

- i) That Mr Chell be thanked for undertaking the external review of governance and attending the meeting to formally present his completed report.
- ii) That the report be received and any recommendations taken into account when determining the Governor Development (Action) Plan.

**125. Governor Development Plan:**

The chair had given consideration to the need to review and determine a Governor Development Plan and his initial thoughts had been circulated to governors. He thanked them for their responses and confirmed that this would enable him to develop the Plan further before discussion at the next meeting of the governing body. The Plan would include an updated school vision; the filling of governor vacancies; succession planning; link governor role.

**126. Governor Vacancies:**

The chair reported that, as requested, he had contacted Mr Alcock to discuss his failure to attend recent meetings. He confirmed that Mr Alcock had taken the decision to resign from the governing body due to other commitments. A vacancy therefore existed for a parent governor.

The headteacher reminded governors that a vacancy still existed for a locally appointed governor and, as previously requested by governors, she was to meet with Mr Andrew Barton later in the week to discuss with him his willingness to be appointed as a local governor. If he agreed, he would bring further financial expertise to the governing body.

Discussion also took place regarding the election of a new parent governor and the need to identify particular skills that a parent could bring to the role if elected. Particular skills identified included an understanding of ICT; business links.

It was resolved –

- i) That the headteacher be authorised to offer Mr Barton the position of local governor should he be willing.
- ii) That once a decision had been reached regarding the possible appointment of Mr Barton, the clerk be requested to start the process for the election of a parent governor.

**127. Safeguarding:**

The headteacher referred to a recent safeguarding incident in school that had been referred to by a parent through the use of social media, which included a critical view on how the school had responded to the matter.

The headteacher referred to the particular incident and assured governors that the matter had been dealt with, and resolved, as quickly as possible in accordance with the school's Safeguarding policy. This had also included speaking with the parent who had expressed a critical view on social media.

It was resolved –

That the headteacher be thanked for bringing this matter to the attention of the governing body and that it fully supports all actions that had been taken.

M. Prescott  
**Signed**.....

4 March 2019  
**Date**.....