



CHAIR OF GOVERNING BOARD'S ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to summarise the work of the governing board during the school year 2015-16. Its principal audience is parents and carers of our students.

2. Governor Recruitment

The governing board has 13 members, including the headteacher. Thanks to a successful recruitment campaign by the former chair of the board, 4 new governors were appointed during the year. A profile of each governor can be found in the governors' section of the school website. Attendance at governors' meetings has been particularly strong during the year. All scheduled meetings have been quorate (i.e. attended by at least the number of governors required to make valid decisions).

3. Governor Training and Assessment

3.1 Governors have attended 20 external training courses and presentations. The subjects covered are: Pupil safeguarding, Safer recruitment, Managing complaints, Autism, Ofsted inspections, Strategic role of governors and Performance management of the headteacher.

3.2 Governors held their first whole-day seminar in November 2015. With the help of external facilitators, the board's chosen topics were the strategic role of governors, and managing and monitoring student progress.

3.3 All members of the Resources committee completed the annual financial management skills audit in April 2016. The members are drawn from a variety of professional backgrounds and work experiences, so the results of the audit reflect what each governor brings to this role from their outside work. 4 out of 6 members of the committee are rated as competent or highly competent in all categories that are audited, these being "Provides strategic leadership", "Ensures accountability" and "Acts as a critical friend". Areas of skill that are rated as not yet competent relate exclusively to understanding the way in which schools are financed. This shortcoming will be remedied by more exposure of new committee members to the school's budget-making and monitoring requirements.

4. Governor Monitoring

4.1 A key role of governors is to monitor what goes on in the school. This is not an inspection role, rather it is to see how (and whether) the school's declared policies and procedures are being carried out. To this end, individual governors have visited the school during the school day and met with staff and students. Each monitoring visit has resulted in a report to the board. Thus far, reports have covered 3 of the 4 priorities in the School Improvement Plan, namely Teaching and Learning (priority 3), Curriculum and Assessment (2) and Self-evaluation (4).

4.2 In addition, the board has received the detailed results of both the recent parent and staff surveys.

4.3 Governors have made a number of visits to support school activities, such as the Christmas Fair, parents' evenings and school assemblies.

5. Future Priorities

5.1 The board has tracked the progress of the building of the new art and music block. The current delay in completion is, of course, hugely disappointing , but assurances have been given that the block will be ready for use by September 2016.

5.2 The board will continue to keep under review the implications of becoming an academy in order to ensure that our school and students can get the best outcomes. This work will be done in conjunction with the local authority.

5.3 Our local authority (Haringey) is keen to develop new provision for a small number of post-16 students who have the most challenging needs . Riverside might well have considerable expertise to offer to this project. Governors have formed a small working group that includes our headteacher to work with the local authority to examine possibilities.

5.4 The school is due for an Ofsted inspection at any time. The notice period is one day. The school is separately scheduled for a full financial audit in October 2016 , this being a predictable 3-year cycle. In both cases, the effectiveness of the governing board will be assessed and the judgements made public.

5.5 Finally, the governing board welcomes comments and suggestions from parents, carers, staff and other members of the school community, who can contact the Chair of Governors, Michael Connah, via the school office at email address :

admin@riverside.haringey.sch.uk
