

Minutes of the virtual Academy Committee Meeting of
AGA, PKA, and TDA Academies
14 March 2022 at 1700

Name	Position	Attendance
Rachael Atkinson	Head, PKA	Present
Gerard Brown	Head, AGA	Present
Isobel Gorman	Staff Governor, TDA	Present
Liz Greenfield	Staff Governor, PKA	Present
Charles Lamont	Co-opted Governor, PKA	Absent
Joanne Lyons	Parent Governor, TDA	Present
Claire Majumdar	Head, TDA	Present
Fay Milward	Staff Governor, AGA	Present
Mark Riddaway	Co-opted Governor, TDA	Present
Eileen Riley	Co-opted Governor, AGA	Present
Ron Shockness	Co-opted Governor, AGA	Present
Kirsty Taylor	Parent Governor, PKA	Present
Lynn Bruce	Senior Governance Clerk	Present
John Halliwell	Executive Director of Primary	Present
Donna Rochford	Deputy Head Teacher, TDA	Present

Item	Minute	Action
STEP First – We are all one team		
1.	<p>Welcome and Update (people) The Chair of Governors (CofG) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.</p> <p>Governors consented to the virtual meeting being electronically recorded. This recording will be used by the Governance Team and deleted once the draft minutes are completed.</p> <p>CofG confirmed virtual meeting protocol e.g., mute microphones, wear headphones and ensure a confidential, quiet area.</p> <p>No notification was received by the CofG of any other business to be discussed later in the agenda.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies and Quorum (people) Governors confirmed they had added their attendance to this meeting via The Trust Governor (TTG).</p> <p>No apologies were received for the meeting however Governors noted Charles Lamont was absent from the meeting with no apologies.</p> <p>The CofG confirmed the meeting to be quorate.</p>	

3.	<p>Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and/or Conflict of Interests <i>(people/accountability/compliance)</i></p> <p>Governors were asked to declare any pecuniary or personal interests in any agenda item for this meeting. None were declared.</p>	
4.	<p>Board of Trustees' Update</p> <p>Governors noted the Board of Trustees update from Autumn Term 2021. The CofG mentioned the changes in pairings for September where Benedict and Park will become one new AC.</p> <p>RA explained that the two schools are within 10 minutes from each other. They will be able to work jointly and share good practice. They both came from Chapel Street Trust.</p> <p>Governors noted the creation of the two new schools from East Sussex that joined the Trust; Peacehaven Heights and Telscombe Cliffs Academies (PHA TCA).</p>	
5.	<p>Member Meeting Minutes</p> <p>Governors noted the Members meeting minutes.</p>	
<i>STEP Way – We all agree to do things like this</i>		
6.	<p>Governors Membership</p> <p>There is a parent governor AGA currently going through the recruitment process and hopes to join the next meeting.</p>	
7.	<p>Minutes</p> <p>Governors agreed and approved the minutes of the 22 November 2021 as an accurate account of the meeting.</p> <p>Governors noted the PDF version of the minutes uploaded to TTG will now replace the signed version and will be available to auditors for inspection should the need arise.</p> <p>Governors noted the action points had been completed apart from the request for a defibrillator. FM updated governors that she has made enquires around funding which is ongoing.</p>	
8.	<p>Report from Head</p> <p>Governors noted the written reports from Heads and confirmed they had read them.</p> <p>Applegarth</p> <p>The Head was invited to give updates since the report was circulated and did so highlighting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ofsted appeal process, outcome which had now been published • Staff received report positively • Community received the report well 	

- Priority is to look at wider curriculum

Governors were invited to ask strategic questions.

Q: How was final publication received by others?

A: Staff knew they were working towards outstanding however they were initially disappointed but took pride about what was written

Q: On reflection, the self-assessment was outstanding in all areas, can the school justify this judgement?

A: Yes, when looking at impact over the last two years, staff have developed and have supported other schools when needed.

Park

The Head was invited to give updates since the report was circulated and did highlighting

- Curriculum provision especially wider curriculum
- Priorities – working with middle leaders and subject leads to articulate the wider curriculum and how it is planned and how it progresses
- Bella Street went on maternity leave and will return on 1 April to work four days each week. She has resigned with effect from 31 August 2022

Governors were invited to ask strategic questions of which there were not any.

Tudor

The Head was invited to give updates since the report was circulated and did highlighting

- Changes in attendance and middle leaders
- Middle leaders are attached to the wider curriculum but not there yet
- Since return after closures, the wider curriculum is the biggest challenge, therefore middle leaders will take ownership reflecting in any future Ofsted grade
- Priorities are attendance and persistent absences. Some families have travelled abroad due to bereavement which is understandable.
- Safeguarding challenges – with families needing additional help and support
- Staff appear happy and give it their all – staff morale is generally good

Governors were invited to ask strategic questions.

Q: Self-assessment appears 'good' in all areas and 'outstanding' in none, do you feel that is reflective of where the school is?

A: TDA was judged 'good' in the previous inspection so until proven otherwise that is what the school is. The school are rigorous in all areas so judgements should change.

The CofG thanked Heads for their reports.

<p>9.</p>	<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Governor noted safeguarding visit reports submitted by ER for AGA and TDA and discussed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persistence Absence (PA) for both schools – attendance officers are working hard to address each absence • AGA and PKA had chicken pox and AGA scarlet fever • Covid is peaking in the area • Mental Health increasing • Locality funding – incredible amount of paperwork • SEND register increasing in numbers <p>Governors noted decisions/suggestions that were made based on safeguarding concerns raised to sustain a strong culture of safeguarding across the Trust which were</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA has risen (up to 10%) which is a national trend <p>RS agreed to undertake safeguarding visit at PKA Action: RS Action: SC2G to resend word version of the report to be completed.</p> <p>Governors noted SEND visit report submitted by KT for AGA and discussed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background and how to approach SEND • Different approach taken due to different children • Increasing number of children with complex needs - national trend • LA no longer have same provision available • Need further therapeutic support and which has been requested <p>Q: How is the war being covered? A: This has not been addressed in assemblies however any child that asks questions will be given an age-related answer. There is one Ukrainian family on roll across this Academy Committee and have many Russian families on roll. The Education Psychologist had sent schools some good links to view.</p> <p>Newsround took a sensible approach giving facts about the current situation.</p> <p>For Red Nose Day, TDA have asked families to make donations. The donations will be divided between Red Nose Day and Red Cross.</p> <p>Q: Economic stress, huge impact and worry of bills, will the Trust address this? A: The Trust has not yet sent out any formal guidance, but they plan to cover a range of areas and discussion topics drawing from different charities.</p>	<p>1 2</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Standards</p> <p>Governors noted there were no reports available for this meeting.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>Stakeholder Engagement</p>	

	Governors noted stakeholder engagement areas had been discussed earlier in the meeting.	
12.	RACE Charter Mark Governors discussed next steps which were <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More dates were available for training • Could look to explore local context in future meeting 	
13.	Ofsted Report Governors noted the report was discussed earlier in the meeting.	
14.	Governors in School Governors were reminded to book the focus visit / governor day with the school during the half term before the next Academy Committee meeting and that they would submit a written report up to ten days before the next meeting for information or discussion. It was suggested, going forward, for governors to meet in person for governor day / visits / socials in school where possible and virtually for an Academy Committee to feedback and discuss areas observed. Governor agreed to attend TDA with a wider curriculum focus after Easter. Action: CM / DR to send dates out for consideration.	
STEP Up – We all succeed together		
15.	Chair’s Actions / Correspondences / Updates The CofG reported no action had been taken on behalf of Governors and there were no documents to circulate since the last meeting.	
STEP Ahead – We invest in our future		
16.	Governor Training Governors noted the virtual STEP in-house training took place on 26 January 2022 and felt it was a good informative session on Inclusion and the Race Charter. The next virtual STEP Governor Training is scheduled for 15 June 2022 6pm. Governors were invited to suggest future training focus areas.	
17.	Future Meeting Dates The next virtual Academy Committee meeting will be on 4 July 2022 at 5pm.	
18.	Any Other Business (people) There were no items raised at the start of the meeting.	
19.	Closure There being no further business to discuss, the CofG closed the meeting at 1800.	

Item	Action Points including questions for Governance / Executive Teams and Trustees	Owner
1.	To undertake safeguarding visit at PKA	RS
2.	To send word version of Governor visit report to be completed.	SC2G
3.	To send Governor Day (TDA) dates out to Governors for consideration with a wider curriculum focus.	CM / DR

These minutes are a true and accurate account of the meeting.	
Chair	Mark Riddaway
Senior Governance Clerk	Lynn Bruce
Date	5 April 2022