

MEETING OF GOVERNORS HELD AT HAYWOOD ACADEMY 4TH MAY 2016

Present: Dawn Clewes (Chair of Governors), Tom Douch, Steve Hunt, Kath Smith, and Paul Mulraney.

Apologies were received from Mike Hamlyn

Paul Mulraney was to give a presentation to Governors on 'Outstanding Governance'

Paul introduced himself and gave a brief resumé of his background.

Paul began his presentation by saying that he believes for any school to achieve, it should have a highly effective and supportive Governing Body.

For a school to achieve 'outstanding' from Ofsted, it must have 'outstanding' governance.

Some of the more important elements of good governance include:

- holding the staff to account
- monitoring the attainments of pupils
- taking responsibility for asking for data etc.
- support for staff and pupils
- to behave in a professional but relaxed manner
- to become highly effective
- to try their level best
- to be part of the whole team

The School Management Team should trust their Governors and understand that they are working with them, and that sometimes they need to be 'unleashed' a little bit more.

Good governance starts with good relationships. Governors should feel valued. The meetings should be well chaired and the Chair of Governors must have a good professional relationship with the CEO and the Head of School. They should also meet once per term with the Executive Directors.

Paul commented that when a school reaches 'outstanding' the emphasis changes to the challenge of keeping it there.

Dawn replied that she, as Chair of Governors, has a very good working relationship with Carl Ward, Dilesh Parmar and the Senior Leadership Team.

The next aspect Paul talked about was new Governors. They are of course in transition when they first join the Governing Body and it is crucial for them to have a very purposeful induction process, which must include a tour of the school.

Link Governors should ask questions of their link subjects and not just attend meetings, but get to know how the department really works. It is also a good idea to change departments say every two years. This gives Governors experience of different aspects of the school.

Some of the ideas Paul put forward were:

- when appointing new staff, Governors on the appointment panel could observe the applicant teaching a lesson
- be introduced to new members of staff
- invite different members of staff to the first part of every Governors meeting
- possibly have a 'working lunch' with the members of the Student Council
- talk to 6th formers and ask them how they are getting on
- invite students to one of the Governor group meetings
- Invite Laura Billington to speak to the group about the progress of the 6th form
- find out how outside agencies are relating to the school and how do they impact on the school
- make sure that Senior Teachers are not spread too thinly

Paul concluded his presentation by suggesting that we, as Governors should target what will make a difference, decide what can be kept on the 'back burner' so to speak, work through changes and clarify uncertainties.

Governors all felt that this had been a very productive meeting, not only for the new Governors but for the more long serving ones too, as governance has changed so much over the years.

Dawn thanked Paul for his excellent presentation and advice and re-iterated that one of the aims of the school was to turn out a well rounded citizen of the world.