

THE QUEEN'S SCHOOL BOARD OF GOVERNORS

THE QUEEN'S C OF E SCHOOL CUMBERLAND ROAD KEW, SURREY, TW9 4HJ

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Governors of The Queen's School Held via Googlemeet on Wednesday 28th September 2022 at 7pm

Present: *Foundation Governors (7)*

(IH) Inga Hall (Chair)

(GF) Fr Giles Fraser

(MI) Mark Ivory (Co-Vice Chair)

(MM) Marian Mollett

(JF) Janine Farrance (Co-Vice Chair)

(BR) Barnaby Rodgers

(VP) Vas Polydorou

Non-Foundation Governors (5)

(LS) Larissa Sutton

(MH) Rev Melanie Harrington

(JST) Jenny Stroud-Turp (Headteacher)

(SK) San Kodia

Opening Prayer (led by Fr Giles Fraser)

1. APOLOGIES AND WELCOME

IH chaired the meeting. The meeting was self-clerked and minutes were taken by JF.

Apologies were received from Laura Leicester. Apologies were not received from Harry Charrington and Mark Ollard.

2. DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL AND OTHER MATERIAL INTERESTS

All Governors were reminded of the need for confidentiality and to declare any direct or indirect pecuniary interest which might relate to any matter under discussion.

3. TO CONSIDER ISSUES ARISING REGARDING THE FUTURE NAME OF THE QUEEN'S SCHOOL

The matters for discussion were summarised and governors were invited to share viewpoints and identify issues that they felt required consideration in order to make a decision.

The Headteacher shared some of the reactions and experiences of children and staff since the Queen's passing, and the ways in which her loss has been mourned, and life celebrated.

A number of governors expressed concerns about changing the name of the school:

- Concerns identified covered a range of fiscal, social, and environmental considerations.
- Uniform issues, wastage/sustainability considerations and the uncertainty over the scale of cost involved (and the funding of those costs) were seen as reasons against a change.
- Concerns about additional workload to staff with a name change were also expressed.
- Reasons for actively choosing to retain the current name included the sense of 'monument' to our longest serving monarch, a role model for positive female leadership.
- The positive brand associated with The Queen's School in our local community was also identified as a reason to consider retaining the current name.

A number of governors advocated for a change in name:

- Governors cited the weight and direction of community expectation that a name change would occur, and expressed concern that a departure from that approach could result in disunity.
- A point was made that there could be branding opportunities afforded by a name change, and the opportunity to generate interest in the school, possibly also a royal visit.
- The importance of maintaining a 200-year-old tradition and the linkages with the Monarchy entailed by that history were seen as key reasons for a name change.

A number of other points were also considered:

- The status of the school's name in the Instrument of Government was considered as was the potential for stakeholder resistance if we were to propose an alteration of the Instrument of Government to the Diocese. Were the Board minded to retain the current name, the importance of having stakeholder buy-in to that approach - prior to informing our community of an intention to stay as Queen's - was acknowledged.
- There are strong Learning and teaching points within both possible approaches, sharing with our children the connections between the past and the future. On either approach it will be important to develop a narrative that connects with our Vision Priorities.
- It was noted that feedback from the parent and staff community spans both options.
- Ways to mitigate cost and wastage associated with a name change were considered, with the approach to uniforms and signage/logo items seen as key areas to manage in a sustainable and inclusive way. The importance of exploring funding sources and sponsors for key costs was noted. A governor noted that we should explore support available via the Crown for organisations having to change name/signage/branding as a result of the change of Monarch.
- Governors with concerns about a name change noted that they would feel a greater support for a change of name if we ensure that these factors are investigated thoroughly and well managed.
- It was generally agreed that an approach to The King would form an important part of the process: not to seek his views on whether a change should be made, but rather to inform him of the change and explore formal opening ceremonies and the concept of a wider-reaching visit to Kew/Kew Gardens.

The outcome of the discussion was a consensus that we should move towards a name change and that the key next steps are to receive a report on the overall likely cost, and to consult with key stakeholders (the Diocese and the Local Authority) on the intended direction of travel.

A number of governors volunteered to join the working group that will be formed to deliver on this plan, with membership to be confirmed. A communication will be developed for use in a range of channels – including the school newsletter and with stakeholders.

There was no other business and the meeting concluded at 8.30pm.