



FULBRIDGE ACADEMY

Local Governing Committee Meeting Monday 2nd March 2026



Governors:

Karen Hingston – Chair of Governors (KHI)
David Chandler – Vice Chair of Governors (DCH)
Scott Biggs (SBI)
Kerry McMichael (KMC)
Asim Mahmood (AMA)
Farzana Perveen (FPE)
Erum Khan (EKH)
Dawn Wilson (DWI)
Jonathan Theobalds – Trustee (JHE)

School Staff:

Sam Smee – Head of School (SSM)
Lewis Angier – Vice Principal (LAN)
Alison Barnes – Vice Principal (ABA)
Fiona Pais- Clerk

Item	Minutes	Action
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Acceptance Chair Welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made for the Trustee to be aware of who everyone was. Apologies - AMA No apologies - EKH or FPE	INFO
2.	Declaration of Business and Pecuniary Interests None	Chair
3.	Minutes of Full Governors' meeting and Significant Matters Arising Minutes were agreed from last meeting.	Chair
4.	Update from Senior Leadership Team - New template/format for the Termly Leadership Report. This has changed to fit in line with MAT Governors - DI (Direct Instruction) work is continuing in Reception, NIFID grant for this work. - New Curriculum Champion roles advertised as part of consultation to move on from subject leaders	SSM

	- MAT schools are coming together to put together a writing curriculum for primary schools. There is a working group being set up for this. - Nursery - Lots of updates, such as new staff starting, building being finalised - White paper now out - Working through this in school to see what this involves. Will summarise and update in further meeting - EYFS SEND audit feedback is being received on Thursday - In year Budget at a healthy level - The swimming pool is now in use for Year 4, 5 and 6. - Pilot Ofsted took place for us last year. They have now started to officially assess using the new framework. Old Fletton (Primary) and Hampton Gardens (Secondary) are the first in Peterborough. These two schools have been invited to come to our Trust professional day to update on their experiences. Vice Chair - When do you hear back about the submission for allocated funds for the boiler? SSM - Around April / May. - The Assistant Principals for education, are now out of class full-time to keep up with the workload. - Curriculum Champions will help in coaching and developing staff. This will be very important in the school curriculum. Had expressions of interest and will start to interview in the coming weeks. - Mock Year 6 SATs papers complete - Maths 66% (Down on normal), Reading 63% (Up on normal), Grammar 70%, Writing 64% - The sensory circuit room has now been developed in the school - available all day when the children need it - Speech and Language example shared of a child who has been receiving speech & language and has now been discharged, as doing so well with the new support in place in school.	
5.	Review of Self Evaluation Form - Template changed slightly to ensure that everything was identified. New framework Ofsted criteria added.	SSM

- Intervention team working with “cusp” children to get them back into the classroom, working at a better level.
- Barnados Nursery closed in December. The room remains empty, waiting for an update from the Council as to what it is used for.

GOV asked whether the nursery is expected to reach full capacity by September.

SSM explained that numbers are currently ahead of initial projections. The original bid planned for a three-year phased growth, but the nursery is expected to reach 56 children by the end of this year. SSM also highlighted the transition into Reception, noting that approximately 50% of nursery pupils are expected to move into the school's Reception cohort this year. This represents a significant increase of around 25% compared with previous years. At Hampton, there are four fully occupied nursery rooms and a higher proportion of children moving into Reception, which is the model the school hopes to develop over time.

GOV commented that this growth will be beneficial in supporting pupils with SEN, as it allows earlier identification of needs and better preparation for starting school.

SSM agreed, adding that a small number of two-year-olds have been admitted from Little Bees, although only those eligible for the two-year-old funding. Few of these children qualify for the 30-hour funded places.

CHAIR noted that at Hampton the uptake of 30-hour funding is higher due to a larger proportion of working parents, highlighting that the demographic differs from this school.

SSM added that improving attendance is currently a priority, and strategies are being shared across the Trust.

GOV asked whether there is a specific focus on engaging parents, noting that research indicates targeting parents directly can have a significant impact. While the school engages with the community, parents need to clearly see the benefits of education for their children.

SSM confirmed that the school already works closely with parents and is exploring ways to make further use of the currently unused rooms at the front of the school to engage families earlier and more effectively. Support is also being provided by Bryan Erwin from the Trust to analyse attendance patterns.

SSM reported that the Government has issued a new target document, which is being shared through the Trust. ABIE has set a target of increasing attendance by 0.5%.

	TRUSTEE asked whether the additional 0.5% improvement target is in addition to the school's own target or the Trust's. SSM clarified that the target comes from the DfE and is based on each school's context. Schools are grouped with around 20 comparable schools for benchmarking purposes. TRUSTEE asked whether the move to Curriculum Champions will involve the same staff members currently holding roles or whether new staff will take these positions. SSM explained that all staff will be able to apply for the roles, and it may include both existing staff and others who have previously undertaken subject leader responsibilities.	
6.	Standards Update: Curriculum - Teaching and Learning SBI and KMC reported back on a visit. Wanted to understand the introduction of scripted lessons. Report shared with governors in the meeting. Both are coming in next week for classroom visits CHAIR highlighted the value of the team being practising teachers, meaning their classroom experience strengthens the way questions are designed and used. SSM noted that the team's strong subject knowledge helps ensure questions are credible and genuinely thought-provoking for leaders. LAN emphasised the importance of recruitment being open and transparent about the school's direction and the new approach to teaching, so incoming staff understand the vision. SBI observed clear development in the system over time. Comparing December to February, resources such as the booklets have already been refined and improved. TRUSTEE - From a Trust perspective, there were initial concerns about whether the approach might de-skill teachers. However, the evidence shared suggests the model is working in practice and continuing to evolve positively. ACTION - Report to be distributed to Governors after the meeting by Clerk Assessment - FAK absent during meeting	SBI KMI Clerk FAK

	<u>SEND and Inclusion</u> - EKH absent during meeting <u>Safeguarding</u> - CHAIR attended the DSL Meeting. This gives the DSL's the opportunity to get together and be updated. - Trust looking at one system for Safeguarding. - Attended VC meeting in the past - about individual children, whereas the DSL is more about oversight - Filtering and monitoring have been split out staff/students separately - this is a good step forwards and makes sense - It is evident that staff know the students very well, especially those who have a high level of vulnerability	EKH Chair
7.	Resources Update: • <u>Risk Assessment</u> - Risk assessment completed by Claire Spooner. Overviewed by LAN during the meeting - The Premises Report was reviewed by LAN during the meeting - Further update - Letter sent from PCC to Mears Ltd in relation to the schools Solar Panels. Admitted work wasn't done correctly, and Mears is liable to provide a response by 6th April 2026. - Fire Risk assessment reviewed as part of the nursery works GOV - Science lab changed to Sensory Circuits - is Science now in classrooms? LAN - Yes, all done in class now, resources held centrally and distributed by a member of staff. • <u>Capital Development</u> - Nothing to add • <u>Finance</u> - Nothing to add • <u>Premise and Health and Safety report</u> - Risk assessment done as part of the nursery works • <u>Staffing Report</u> - New Deputy Nursery Manager and 2 new Nursery assistants have been appointed. - New staff for the summer term to replace staff members leaving	SSM LAN ABA
8.	Pupil Premium and Sports Premium Update No additional comments	SSM
9.	Policy Update • Medical Conditions Policy	LAN

	Updated by Assistant principal (DME) - Advised what has been changed in the new policy and went into detail about changes in information readily available in class for any member of staff. Vice Chair- Who is overall responsible for checking medicines onsite? DME- Amy Robinson – Head First Aider Trustee - There was a lot of talk about epi pens in recent Trust training. Do you have spare epi pens on-site? DME - Yes, we do have them currently - challenging to update as short shelf life and expensive to replace, but important to have on site ACTION - DWI will ask Clerk to send out the medical condition policy to ensure Governors have signed the declaration.	DWI/ Clerk
10.	Consideration of new Co-opted Governor Expression of interest for a new cooperative Governor Potential new Governor is a Primary School Headteacher in Northamptonshire and is about to become an Executive Head over several schools. Vast skillset which would be beneficial to Local Governing Committee. Chair and Head of School have met with her, and she is very keen to join Fulbridge Academy. She would like to experience another MAT and would like to broaden her knowledge. Will have a bit more time as now becoming an Executive Head and wants to give back to the community. Governors agreed that she would be a good asset to the Local Governing Committee and agreed to appoint. Clerk to action administration in relation to appointment	SSM Clerk
11.	Governor Training • Prevent training SSM spoke about the training that needs to be completed by Governors along with the members of staff. ACTION - Clerk to send out to all Governors and the Governors will email Clerk when they have completed the training.	Clerk
12.	Any Other Business	

	• White paper School in the process of summarising to see how it meets our inclusion offer. Publicly available on Gov.uk SSM will summarise to Governors moving forward as part of the evolving process. Trust schools will make a response to the consultation.	
13.	Dates of Next meeting: Monday 22 nd June 2026	