

HASG Annual General Meeting – December 2020

Chairs Report by Michael Taylor

The past year has been a very difficult year for the HASG Executive Committee. Like most other organisations, we have had to adapt the way we work. Our meetings since March have been held virtually.

The Executive Committee, together with our colleagues in the Governance team at Herts for Learning, made the difficult decision to postpone the Annual Conference. As I am sure you are all aware the Annual Conference is a highlight for many governors. The Annual Conference will now be held digitally but over the course of a week. From week commencing Monday 15th March, expect to be able to access a series of webinars with two keynote speakers being available on Saturday 20th March 2021. Full details of this will be available in the near future, along with information on how to book. This will be the first Governors' Conference of its kind and would ask that you let fellow governors know about it. We have worked closely with the staff at HfL to plan seminars, themes and keynote speakers.

Sadly, as the conference was postponed, we took the decision to cancel the Governor Awards for 2020. It is a shame as the Governor Awards programme was entering its 7th year but we hope to be able to pick this up again in future years. Once the Executive Committee have made a decision full details will be shared.

The Executive Committee have met five times this year, alongside working parties for Governor Awards and Governor Recruitment. We have also, as previously mentioned, been involved in conference planning. We try to ensure governor representation on various working groups and with that in mind will be in contact shortly regarding representation on Schools Forum.

The Executive Committee have continued to meet regularly with Andrew Csillery, Managing Director for Herts for Learning and Simon Newland, Operations Director, Education at Herts County Council. Each of these meetings is to represent the interests of Hertfordshire Governors and to discuss key topics of interest. We will continue to lobby with HfL and HCC to include all Governors on all panels involving school matters.

For some years now we have been funding the additional, twilight, session of the Headteachers' briefing, open to all Hertfordshire Governors to attend. HCC have provided the same content that is shared with Headteachers' to Governors. They have, in the past, been held at The Beales Hotel in Hatfield and Robertson House in Stevenage. More recently they have been held virtually, which has seen a significant increase in attendance.

We owe a huge debt of thanks to the voluntary, unpaid members of the HASG Executive Committee and to our administrator, Claire Lanni for their continued hard work and dedication to the Association. Big thanks must also go to Cathy Irons, Head of Governance at HfL, and her team for all the expert advice they give us.

It is with much regret that our Vice Chair of 2019/2020, Robert Smith, will be standing down from the Executive Committee. Robert has contributed so much to our planning and thinking over the last couple of years and we will be sorry to see him go. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I would like to thank Robert and wish him all the very best for the future.

Michael Taylor

Chair – Hertfordshire Association of School Governors