



OXFORDSHIRE GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

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Chair's report November 2023:

It is two years since we held our last AGM: fortunately as we are not a registered charity this is less concerning. It has certainly been a challenging time for schools and OGA!

In the year 2021-2022 our speaker at the AGM, held virtually, through the support we have gratefully received from [OTSA](#), was Dr. Tony Breslin, talking about Covid classrooms and Covid keeps. This was a good session but like all on-line meetings providing no networking opportunities. Consequently we arranged an open meeting in person for March, which was postponed due to low numbers booking to attend.

We then held a brain storming meeting to discuss the future of OGA and how we could better reach the Oxfordshire Governing community, but even this was delayed as we arranged it for the morning that a major storm hit the UK! Our subsequent Open Meeting planned for July was also cancelled, once again because few people had signed up to attend.

We were concerned that, despite the best efforts of ourselves and OTSA, many governors simply do not know we exist and are not receiving information about our meetings. This continues despite a major piece of work by one of my colleagues, Lucy Katz, and our website company to revise, update and promote OGA. We attended the Oxfordshire Governors' Conference in June this year and reached out to the many governors in attendance, hopefully more governors now know a little about us!

The majority of the 11 committee meetings we have held over the last two years have been held on line, with two being held in person. Moving forward we have agreed that meetings will remain on line through late Autumn and Winter when driving significant distances around Oxfordshire is unappealing, but will be held in person the remainder of the year.

As usual I would like to thank Governor Services for providing clerking support for our meetings and together with OTSA and OCC (through Schools News) for advertising our events.

We also have representatives, who have attended the School Organisation Stakeholder's Group, the Workforce Steering Group, as well as the Oxfordshire Strategic Schools Partnership. Representatives also meet with the lead officer for governance. Theoretically we have regular Consultation Meetings attended by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for schools and education and on occasion other County Councillors, plus key officers including the Director for Children's Services. At these meetings we raise issues of concern for schools and their Governing Boards. Sadly, due to changes to staffing at the County Council recent planned meetings, have been cancelled. We are hoping they can be reinstated early in 2024. The notes from meetings held since our last AGM can all be found on the [OGA website](#).

I would like to thank all my OGA colleagues who represent Governors at these meetings and also for their continuing support and advice, without which the Association could not continue. Following retirement from Governance after years of service to their schools and OGA I would like to formally record thanks to David Eaton, June Nisbet, Doreen Rose and Geoff Sutton.

I can only hope that the next generation of Governors will include some who would be happy to join with us to enable your local association to represent Oxfordshire governors for many more years. If you are interested please don't be shy!



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For those schools that do not subscribe to OGA through OCC and wish to pay us directly through BACS, the methodology may be found on our [website](#), along with a list of schools that have already subscribed through the OCC buyback process. We would be grateful if Governors could check if their school has subscribed and, if not, ask why not! Though you are, of course, still entitled (and welcome) to attend our meetings under the terms of our constitution.

We always welcome feedback from you about current issues, ideas for improvements in how we work with you or suggestions of themes or speakers for our Open meetings.

Email us on info@oga4schoolgovernors.org.uk or via [the contact form on our website at http://oga4schoolgovernors.org.uk/](#) We also have a [Facebook](#) page.

Carole Thomson
7th November 2023

