

Local Governing Body
Minutes of the Meeting
Held on 19.05.2021

Present: Simon Prior (SPR) – Chair, Rolf Purvis (RPS) – Head teacher,
Lucy Scott (LST) – CEO Jeanette Redding (JRG) – Vice Chair, Simon Sandler-Vallance (SSV),
Simon Grapes (SGS), Clare Gunns (CGS), Mary Sanders (MSS), Jo Hornsby (JHY)

Apologies:- Lynne Martin (LMN), Carolyn Johnson (CJN), Jim Warwick (JWK).

Also present: Mark Eastwood (MED), Karen Lonsdale (KLE), Julie Cowan (JCN), Nick Hewitt (NHT).

Apologies

Minutes of Last Meeting

- Minutes Agreed

PHSE – Karen Lonsdale

- Governors were sent a survey prior to the meeting.
- KLE – Presented to governors the current PHSE model and future intentions of the PHSE and SRE schemes which are tutor lead and also includes drop down days. KLE summarised the PHSE topics for students.
- KLE – Student voice was looked at to see which topics were important to students and where to prioritise different issues within the PHSE scheme.
- KLE – For SRE this is a legal requirement to deliver this to students but there is a mechanism where students can be withdrawn at parental request.
- A governor asked why the area of contraception was largely heterosexual based and stated that this should be more inclusive and focus on sexual health as a whole.
- KLE – Stated that she had picked this up and would address.
- A governor asked if other lessons/subjects had intentionally addressed PHSE themes in their lessons.
- KLE – Stated that she was linking with other departments to look at addressing PHSE themes in lessons.
- The Chair asked if some of the themes within PHSE could be woven into school policies such as behaviour policies.
- KLE – Stated that she was working with Sue Campbell to look at the school ethos and how students recognise what is anti-ethos and look at their understanding of the school ethos. There is also a CPD session planned about modelling to look at how behaviour is modelled.
- The Chair thanked KLE for her work to date.

Mentoring – Nick Hewitt

- NHT – A trust wide scheme had been created to mentor particular students. The students are then linked with governors or trustees based on criteria such as future career interests or the governor skill set. Students are set goals in these mentor sessions to get them to start thinking more about future aspirations.
- NHT – While this is only a small percentage of students there has been a big impact on the students who have been mentored to date.
- NHT – Future plans include looking at expanding the number of students being mentored and also looking at students who are EAL. NHT asked some of the LGB who were mentors to provide feedback.

- A governor provided feedback as a mentor who stated that the process was very rewarding and had boosted the student he had mentored confidence and expanded the student's ideas in terms of a career path and GCSE options.
- A governor stated that his mentoring had been successful to date as the student was able to talk to someone who was not a teacher and was more independent.
- A governor asked NHT why there were certain barriers with areas in the community that had proved difficult to target?
- NHT – Stated that there was sometimes a lack of confidence from some parents to engage and there were language barriers for students and the parents.
 - NHT to send NGE rationale and case study document to circulate.
 - NHT to link with JRG regarding ELA students.

Student Voice

- MED – Student voice has been considered during the PHSE programme with student surveys and also in consideration in other provision in school such as catering and social areas for social times.
- A governor praised the new catering offer.
- The Chair asked if there was student forum?
- MED – There is a student forum run by Matthew Rogers and this is an area that is looking to be expanded and develop student leadership.
- A governor asked if areas highlighted by students that are acted upon are fed back to students so that students recognise their ideas are being listened to.
- MED –Results from PHSE surveys are fed back to students in future PHSE sessions.
- A governor asked if Athena had a student forum.
- MED - There is a very active student forum for the 6th Form.
- A governor asked if signage could be improved in and around campus buildings.

Finance Update Budget Priorities – Next Academic Year - Mark Eastwood

- MED – The budget for the next academic year has been set and will be put to trustees to be agreed in June. The small deficit for this academic year has been eradicated. The merger has lead to an increased access to capital funding.
- A governor asked if there would be more visible projects from the capital funding?
- MED – There is a dedicated amount of money for specific projects within the school. Some of the planned projects are detailed in the head teachers report.
- The Chair asked if the landscaping work was being priced commercially or whether this was discounted due to community links?
- MED – Work was quoted for by a local landscape company.
- A governor asked who decides which projects go ahead when?
- LST – Projects were prioritised based on a risk register and condition survey carried out and careful consideration given to ensure fairness for all schools in the trust.
- RPS – Liz Truss MP had mentioned in a previous visit that there was perhaps a need for a new school building and there had been a recent visit from an architect to look at a proposal to put to Liz Truss.
- A governor asked whether there could be links made with the court service and unpaid work sentences to provide labour in school holidays.

Year 11/13 Grading Process – Mark Eastwood

- MED – Guidance had been provided in the Easter holidays for how to award grades to students without the usual summer exams. There was a trust model decided in which each student has a portfolio of work and evidence collected to determine each student's grade. This was then moderated by other schools in the trust. A policy was then submitted to the JCQ to ensure this complied with their guidance. All work and evidence was completed in school and none during lockdown at home. This portfolio included previous mocks and other mini assessments.
- The Chair asked if there was any specific training given to staff to ensure objectivity and no unconscious bias.
- MED – Pieces of work used as evidence had specific criteria and grade boundaries to ensure grades given were accurate and not open to interpretation.
- A governor asked whether SEN students were still given access arrangements.
- MED – All existing access arrangements were in place for SEN students.
- A governor asked if parents were aware of how student's grades were awarded.
- MED – It had been made clear to parents and students how grades would be determined and the expectation of the portfolio of work.
- A governor asked what the external process is after grades are submitted.
- LST – This has not been made clear but there could be external moderation.
- MED – There is also a requirement to submit a sample of work but there was no guarantee this would be looked at.
- The Chair asked if there was a plan for results day.
- MED – Results are provided electronically in the morning but there would be support at school for students on the day. All appeals would be externally managed.
- A governor asked if there was a planned celebration for student results
- MED – There is a planned celebration at the end of this half term to celebrate their work and potentially a presentation evening in future.
- A governor asked if year 11 and 13 would finish in May.
- MED – Students would leave 28th May but would be expected to be available should there be a requirement for additional evidence.
- MED – Wished to thank staff for all the additional work in marking all the extra assessments.

Faculty Update MFL – Julie Cowan

- JCN – The department would be expanding to 5 members of staff in September. The curriculum had been reviewed to ensure it was more engaging including the use of break out spaces and iPads. There has also been a focus on using targeted language. There had been an increase in uptake for MFL at GCSE and A Levels for the next academic year. For next year there will be a focus on encouraging more spontaneity from students and also COVID dependant some trips and also some twilight Spanish sessions.
- A governor asked how much curriculum time is dedicated to MFL
- JCN – 400 minutes per fortnight
- A governor asked whether there was an aim to reintroduce German.
- JCN – This was not a plan at present as the focus is to ensure the quality of current MFL lessons.
- A governor asked what trips were in planning and if exchanges were possible.
- JCN – Would like to offer trips to each student possibly Christmas markets and exchanges.
- A governor asked about reaching out to a school in Civray to look at pen-pals.
- JCN – Stated that Blanca Lopez has started to look at links with a school in Spain for E pen-pals.
- A governor asked if money from trips that had not taken place would be reinvested
- LST – Stated that all trips planned had been refunded and trips were largely parent funded and all had been refunded to parents.

Reports – Circulated prior to the meeting

Maths

- The Chair had asked Sarah Ward prior to the meeting what the focus for next year was and she had stated that this was middle prior attainers, particularly SEN and PP students, and ensuring tiering of students is correct.
- The chair asked MED could explain the tiering system.
- MED – Explained that students were separated into higher and foundation tiers and could only reach certain grades within those tiers and that the tiers ensure the exam the student sits is accessible.
- A governor asked when the decision is made as to which tier the student sits.
- LST – This can be changed at any point.
- RPS – This is also largely determined at the mocks.
- A governor stated that some of the points in the future plans could be misinterpreted and maybe needed some additional context when looking at staff.
- LST – Stated that this could be addressed to ensure context is given.

Safeguarding

- The Chair asked MED if there was any safeguarding issues currently.
- MED – None, Sue Campbell would become the school DSL and other additional staff are being trained to support safeguarding.
- The Chair stated that as Lynne Martin would be taking a less active role for 6 months, Jo Hornsby would become the main Governor safeguarding link.

Health and Safety

- MED – Ryan Kelsall and John Sayer are looking at the catering checks that need to be in place and there is also a new electronic system in place to monitor health and safety.
- A governor asked if the wall at Ryston that has been knocked down will be replaced.
- MED – Stated there is a plan in place.

Headteachers Report

- RPS – There had previously been a high turnover with staff during the last three years. However this year only one member of staff is leaving at the end of the academic year and all NQT's that joined in September are staying for the next academic year. There has also been successful recruitment of new teaching staff to accommodate increased student numbers.
- A governor asked what support would be in place for Sarah Ward who will be leading Maths and Science.
- RPS – A new head of science has been appointed and there are also a number of TLR's available to support Science and Maths.
- A governor asked if Rose Cornelius would take on Deborah Petts role.
- RPS – Rose Cornelius will be taking on a number of Deborah's responsibilities.
- A governor asked whether the census date change would affect funding for PP students.
- RPS – It is unknown how this would affect yet.
- A governor asked who was leading the bite back programme in catering.
- MED – Julia Wilson would be leading this and some students had already been identified.
- RPS – Work has begun to look at the alternative provision to reduce the number of fixed term exclusions in conjunction with Sue Campbell leading on behaviour.
- A governor asked whether the staff wellbeing package that has been subscribed to is trust wide.
- LST – The wellbeing package has been made available to all staff members and would be reviewed to look at uptake.

AOB

- The Chair had submitted the terms of reference to the LGB prior to the meeting and asked for feedback from the LGB.
- A governor asked if bullying could be added to an agenda going forward.

SIGNED BY CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

SIMON PRIOR

DATE
