

GOVERNOR SERVICES: EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT

ASHTON COMMUNITY SCIENCE COLLEGE, PRESTON (06104)

Minutes of the meeting of the Curriculum, Standards, Personnel and Student Welfare Committee held in school on Wednesday, 15 May 2024 at 4.30pm.

Present:

Mr M Catterall (Chair)
Mr J Swindells
Mr W Clarke
Mr S Fern
Mrs J Hoyle
Mrs F Lloyd
Mr D Maddox
Ms S Asquith (Headteacher)

Also Present:

Mr S Wetherill (Clerk/Governing Body Adviser)

ACTION

24.14 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr O Mollart and Mr B Rollo.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of Nicky Koerten.

24.15 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in accordance with the agenda.

24.16 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2024, having been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

24.17 Matters Arising from the Minutes

The following matters arising from the minutes were noted:

- a) Curriculum Updates (Minute 24.06 refers)

Mr Maddox agreed to become the new Music Governor.

24.18 Analysis of School Performance Data and Exam Predictions 2024

Mrs Hoyle presented a report noting the following key points:

- Governors had received a report with the Data Capture from the first round of reports alongside the Y11 headline report and DC 2.
- The report highlighted where Y11s were currently working at and predicted in comparison to the same point last year.
- Mrs Hoyle described changes to the Data Capture cycle and the 6 staged approach.
- Mrs Hoyle highlighted current concerns around the core subjects having the most negative impact on final results.
- Middle leaders were working together to contribute to potential changes to the Data Capture cycle.
- Revision sessions were taking place pre and post school.
- It was noted that the school was "outcome driven."
- Mrs Hoyle clarified that all students received a discussion point on A2L either through letter, discussion with the student or with their family to support in raising their achievement.
- A Term 2 intervention summary was provided. A wide range of interventions were noted. Mrs Hoyle explained that the students didn't always turn up for interventions. The SENCO had been given a greater role in supporting student attendance for these.
- The Diggery had been used to develop social skills as well as host revision sessions.
- A **governor asked** about revision time in school for those students who couldn't stay before or after school. Ms Asquith advised that some lessons, such as PE and PSHE could be used for revision time and maths revision time from 8.40am to 9.25am took place prior to exams.
- Mrs Hoyle acknowledged that revision sessions in school appeared more effective than granting study leave.
- Open classrooms at lunchtime provided revision spaces throughout the year.
- In responding to a **governor query** the headteacher acknowledged that PE was the only "brain break" for some students.

24.19 Curriculum Updates

It was noted that 47 different GCSE papers would be taken up to the 18 June. Data from students presently accessing alternative provision would be included.

RAP meetings had been moved to the start of each term and this would continue next year.

The headteacher thanked governors for their attendance at RAP meetings noting how their challenge was helpful to subject leaders.

24.20 Evaluate Progress Towards Key Areas of the School Development/Improvement Plan 2024/25

It was agreed that this item be taken to the next governing body meeting.

Copies of the minutes from the summer RAP meetings would be provided for governors. A **governor remarked** that these meetings helped to bring the data to life. Another **governor added** that the RAP meetings gave governors the opportunity to ask questions and provide challenge.

24.21 Student Updates

Mr Clark provided updates on attendance and behaviour.

Attendance

Attendance was only slightly below the national average and 0.8% above similar schools. Attendance had improved since Easter.

4% (35) of students in the persistent absence (PA) category had attendances below 60%. Mr Clark stated that this was a significant figure as it made it difficult to get out of the PA category. He made clear that school would strive to ensure these students achieved some qualifications.

A staged approach of support had ensured that more students now had 100% attendance.

A robust transition process meant that Y7 students were quickly pushed through the attendance system. Mr Clark explained that a Y7 student having a day's absence in their first month were likely to become a PA student.

Behaviour

Suspensions were now closer to the pre-pandemic levels and a staged approach to managing behaviour was in place to reduce permanent exclusions. Mr Clark noted that some students were close to reaching 45 days of suspensions. In responding to a **governor comment** Mr Clark made clear that these suspensions were warranted.

Ms Asquith advised that school was trying to support the county council's desire to reduce permanent exclusions. She added that

external support, such as Children's Champions, were used but made clear that school needed to do the right thing for all the students.

In responding to a **governor query** Mr Clark stated that 30 students were being electively home educated. He added that county was tightening up on this, pushing parents to send their children back to school if no suitable curriculum offer was been provided at home.

Mr Clark added that parents could access a website which provided templates and letters to support their case to home educate. Mr Clark acknowledged that being educated at home may be right for some children and for some parents it was about fighting for a need.

Mr Clark noted that some children did return to school from being educated at home and opined that elective home education was a post Covid "hang-up."

Mr Clark reported that 12 students had joined the school on managed moves and 13 students had gone to other schools. Ms Asquith added that managed moves could work, allowing students the opportunity to re-set, but noted that students did need to change their behaviour.

24.22 Staffing Updates

The headteacher reported that there were vacancies for a TA, KS4 teacher in the ASD Unit and an exams officer (from September).

Interviews would be taking place next week for a DT teacher.

A new SBM had been recruited.

In responding to a **governor query** Ms Asquith stated that the two apprentices were both doing well. One was going from strength to strength in the office and the other, a former head boy, was working as a TA. The headteacher added that another apprentice, the son of the late exams officer, would be starting in the school office in June.

24.23 Health and Safety Report

The report would be presented at the Premises Committee meeting.

Ms Asquith stated that there were no major issues to report.

The headteacher confirmed that a fire drill would take place once all the exams had been completed.

23.24 Education Visits Review

Two trips were taking place on Friday: Bletchley Park and Lancaster University (as part of the Maths Challenge).

The headteacher advised that extra trips and visits were being planned. It was hoped that more SEND students would be included. Detailed risk assessments would be put in place.

An end of term rewards trip was being organised.

A trip to Berlin would require governor approval at a later date.

A **governor noted** that the number of trips had increased from 38 to 51 and wondered if there issues around affordability.

Ms Asquith made clear that affordability was carefully considered. The headteacher reported that the school had a good relationship with European Tours, and they had provided a £40 per pupil discount for a recent trip to Boulogne.

Ms Asquith explained that the school always tried to keep the cost of trips down and there were opportunities for parents to spread payments. The headteacher added that some trips, especially those linked to the curriculum, were run without charge.

In responding to a **governor question** Ms Asquith stated that there were no discounts for PPG children, but subsidence support was available for children on free school meals.

The headteacher made clear that school trips were essential for enhancing the curriculum, making the missing of some lessons valid. Ms Asquith added that there was an agreed list of visits which took into consideration staff coverage and the avoidance of learning gaps.

23.25 Committee Related Policy Review

The Remote Learning Policy had been updated to remove any Covid-19 links.

24.26 Confidentiality

Governors confirmed that all matters discussed at committee meetings were confidential.

The committee considered whether any items discussed were required to be recorded in the minutes as confidential; that is, that should not be made available to the general public should a request be received to view committee papers.

It was agreed that that an item in 24.21 be regarded as confidential and be minuted accordingly.

24.27 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the committee was to be confirmed.

<p>Signed: _____ (Chair)</p> <p>Date: _____</p>

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24.21 Student Updates

ACTION

Tony Hesketh would be retiring from the attendance team at the end of term. Mr Hesketh had built up an invaluable network and governors acknowledged that his were big shoes to fill.

Ms Asquith confirmed that school were looking to appoint a full time Family Liaison Officer. This role would include collecting children, liaising and supporting parents, carrying out welfare checks, visiting children at home and developing strong relationships with families.

Signed: _____
(Chair)

Date: _____