

Minutes of a Meeting of New College Leicester Governing Body held at the College on Wednesday 3rd November 2010 at 5.00 pm.

Present

Andy Breckon –Governor
Sue Billington - Governor
Jane Brown - Principal
David Kershaw - Governor
Ellen Rudge Tezcan – Governor
Sue Thistlethwaite – Governor
Janet Hall – Governor
Jenny Wilson – Governor
Paul Wilson - Governor

Rose Angus – Vice-Principal
Chris Dennington – Vice-Principal
Dan Jewson – Business Manager

1. Apologies for Absence

Ian Chakravorty – Governor
Ian Wilson – Governor
Andy Smith – Governor
Dipak Patel – Governor
Alan Maddox – Vice-Principal

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2010, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, noted and signed as a true record.

3. Declaration of interest

All members to declare any direct or indirect pecuniary interests they may have in the business to be transacted.

Andy Breckon declared that he was a Director for CfBT; Sue Billington declared that she was a director for Proaxis.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Jane Brown reported that a new National Challenge Advisor had been appointed by the LA for New College. Jane Brown will be meeting Sue Thomas (NCA) on the 19th November for the first time.

New item to be added to the Agenda for future meetings – Governor Feedback on work with the College.

Committee Structure and Scheme of Delegation – changes made and agreed.
Chair of Governors to hear any appeal from Principal's Performance Review Group.

Decision Planner reviewed and changes agreed. D Kershaw to review the section on Admissions and recommend position to Governors as New College is now a Trust School. Decision Planner agreed in principal subject to the decisions regarding Admission. Modifications will be agreed and accepted at the next Governing Board meeting.

5. Student Progress against targets

Rose Angus reported that the teaching staff are in the process of reporting Y11 progress. Rose provided an overview of the current position:

- Based on the information from the Raising Achievement Plan (RAP) meeting the college is expecting another 17 students to secure both maths and English during the November sitting.
- English currently have secured 24% A-C with another 21 students expecting to secure the C or above in November thus moving English to 45% A-C.
- Maths currently have secured 10% with a further 16 likely to secure C or above in November thus moving maths to 26% by January.
- Maths have a further exam in January in which there is a strategy in place to ensure further students secure the C or above.
- It is anticipated that the college will meet the 34% target set.

Chris Dennington reported on the strategy for securing the A-C in maths which includes moving the teachers and students into re-focused groups after the November exams.

Andy Breckon stressed that the attainment of the students is critical and stated that any resources needed to ensure that the students are successful, must be made available.

J Brown reported on the latest CVA news regarding the College.

Andy Breckon requested that for the next meeting a detailed outline of the students in Y11 and the date of their likely conversion to C or above grades be mapped for governors so that this can be tracked and the governors can confident of the tracking.

Data to reflect the improving intake(Y7-Y10) was requested for a future Governing Board meeting.

Data to show the progress of students (3 or 4 level) was requested for a future meeting.

6. Student Behaviour, Attendance and Safeguarding

(a) Pupil Attendance

Jane Brown in Alan Maddox's absence circulated a report on the annual comparison of persistent absentees

Jane Brown reported that so far this year, 94.2% was the current attendance rate. She confirmed that attendance strategies were in place, with particular emphasis on Key Stage 4, Year 11 in particular. Andy Breckon shared that some schools are providing students with home tuition in Y11 if necessary.

(b) Pupil Exclusions

Jane Brown provided data on pupil exclusions for the academic year 2010-11. It was noted that some students had high levels of exclusions. Sue Billington reported that the exclusions which had been heard by the Governors had followed all the appropriate procedures.

7. Governor Feedback on work with the College

David Kershaw reported that he had been invited by the Chair of Governors in agreement with the Principal, to review the Mathematics Faculty in light of the results achieved last year. His brief is to report back to the Chair of Governors and the Principal.

David began his work by reviewing data; results; interviewing staff and students; scrutinising work. He then formulated a number of hypotheses:

- Is there high quality teaching to deliver student progress?
- Is there evidence of team spirit and sharing good practice?
- Is the college getting Value for Money as a large amount of resources are in place?
- Is the Faculty CPD training being effective and having an effect on standards?
- Are tracking systems effectively used to monitor learning?
- Is expertise shared and do the faculty learn from each other?
- RAP group – is it holding to account and driving intervention?
- Is Assessment for Learning being used effectively?
- Student voice – what are the students reporting?
- Is marking consistent and focused on student progress?
- Quality of lesson planning – is it consistent and focused on student learning?
- Leadership and Management:
 - a) Does it drive student progress?
 - b) Does leadership and management of the faculty provide professional, emotional support and challenge to staff?
 - c) Does leadership and management monitor closely enough student progress and teacher planning?
- Are Schemes of work providing adequate challenge and differentiation?

David outlined that he is using the Ofsted criteria and national standards to measure the faculty against as well as his extensive professional experience.

Andy Breckon outlined that the report will be sent to him as Chair and the Principal and that this would be discussed and a report back to Governors would be made.

Jane Brown reported that David Kershaw is also carrying out a review in PE.

Governors expressed their appreciation to David for his work with the College.

Andy Breckon asked that a review also be carried out on a faculty that the Leadership of the College judged to be successful. Paul Wilson agreed to assist in this process.

8. Report from Trust Board

Sue Billington reported on the recent Trustees workshop which was held on 5th October from 2-6 pm. She outlined that the Trustees looked at the vision for the College and Stakeholder Management.

It was agreed that the minutes and notes of the workshop should be circulated to the Governors for their information.

Andy Breckon asked that any feedback be sent to either himself or Sue Billington.

9. College Finance

Jane Brown reported on the College budget.

Andy Breckon, as the lead Finance Governor had received and signed the Outturn statement which will be returned to the LA.

David Kershaw and Andy Breckon both stated that the level of Free School Meals would be critical for future income. Jane Brown agreed to further develop the strategies that the College has in place for signing up parents for FSM.

Jenny Wilson pointed out that there is an issue surrounding Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit and being able to claim FSM. Jane Brown agreed to look into this further and report back to governors.

Jane Brown thanked Governors for returning their Financial Competencies and their Declaration of Business Interests.

All Governors acknowledged the receipt of the Whistleblowing Procedures and the School Budgets, a Handbook for governors.

10. Staffing Matters Update

Jane Brown circulated the Local Authority outline of training for Governors. She asked that Governors contact her or Dan Jewson if they were interested in attending any of these training sessions. Jane also pointed out that there was e-learning available for Governors.

Sue Billington reported that the dismissal of a member of staff was completed.

Jane Brown confirmed that there had been no further issues since last term involving safeguarding.

11. Any Other Business

Governors agreed the Safeguarding Compliance Checklist and this was signed by the Chair of Governors.

Trevor Low (Hinckley Gymnastics Club) was nominated to join the Governing Board as a Community Governor. This was unanimously accepted by the Board.

Jane Brown asked the Governors to consider allowing light contact boxing to take place in the school as part of the activity programme for students. Protective head gear would be used. Governors agreed.

Jane Brown asked new Governors if they had received the LA pack for new governors. Paul Wilson had not received the pack, but other governors acknowledged receiving the pack.

Dates of: Wednesday 8th December 2010
 Wednesday 26th January 2011
 Wednesday 9th March 2011
 Wednesday 6th April 2011
 Wednesday 25th May 2011
 Wednesday 6th July 2011 were agreed for Full Governor meetings.

The Chair thanked all Governors and the Leadership Team for their attendance.