

Minutes of a Meeting of New College Leicester Governing Body held at the College on Wednesday 24th September 2014 at 5.00 pm.

Present

Tony Barradell - Governor
Sue Billington - Governor
Jane Brown – Principal
Ian Chakravorty – Governor
David Guilford – Governor
Trevor Low – Governor
Sue Thistlethwaite - Governor
Jenny Wilson – Governor
Paul Wilson – Governor

In Attendance

Rose Angus – Associate Principal
Steve Shipman – Assistant Principal - New College Leicester
Lynn Dawson – Clerk to the Governors

1. Apologies for Absence

Dipak Patel – Governor
Ellen Rudge-Tezcan – Governor

2. KS4 Results Overview

Steve Shipman presented the Key Stage 4 Results Overview for 2014. He stated that the Expected Progress in English had improved significantly on the previous year, rising from 60% to 70% for 3 Levels of Progress (3LP). He shared the national figure for 2013 for 3LP, 69% and stated that the English Faculty was now performing in line with national on 3LP. He also stated that the English Faculty had significantly increased their 4LP (Good Progress) percentage from 14% in 2013 to 34% in 2014 and that this was against a national picture of 30% in 2013. Governors were pleased to note the significant improvement in the English results in the 2014 academic year in English, following the dip of 2013, and asked that their congratulations be passed to Sheree Barnes and the team for their efforts.

Steve Shipman reviewed the Maths Faculty results and stated that although they had not reached the target set, the 3LP percentage had increased slightly, but were still well below the national figures for both 3LP and 4LP. He reminded governors that the Faculty had suffered from staff turbulence and staffing issues but assured governors that a new team of staff was now in place and better progress was being made in this area.

Steve Shipman shared the transition matrices with governors for English and for Maths and governors noted that those shown in the green had made Good progress and those shown in the Amber had made Expected progress. Sue Billington asked what was being done to close the gap from school performance towards national performance at each of the levels. Rose Angus stated that the analysis of results had taken place by the Heads of Faculty and they had directed their resources appropriately. She reminded governors that the English Faculty had identified level 4b's as an issue in the previous year and the Faculty had targeted intervention in place which resulted in a much better performance from those students in this academic year.

Steve Shipman reviewed the Attainment Summary for 2014. He stated that the college had achieved 44% A*-C including English and Maths, however he also informed governors that the published figures, taking into account the first-entry rule, was likely to be 40%. He also informed governors that the 5A*-G result had been maintained at 100%. Sue Thistlethwaite

reminded governors that the strategy of ensuring that all students achieved in the college was reflected in this figure. She also noted that it was pleasing that those from Jesson Band 'Low' had also achieved well.

Steve Shipman reviewed the subject residuals with governors, benchmarking each subject against the national figures as well as benchmarking them against the other subjects within the college. Governors noted their particular concern regarding Computer Science. Rose Angus explained that this was a new course and the coursework moderation was an issue. She assured governors that a review was taking place to ensure that the staff were fully aware of the course requirements. Governors also noted that the results for History and Geography were not good enough when compared to both national and internal results. Rose Angus stated that she had now assumed line management of the area and would report back to governors on the progress being made in this area. She also explained that Humanities Scheme of Work is currently being improved in KS3 which should show in improvements through to KS4. Rose Angus also stated that she was working with the LA to provide targeted support to the faculty.

Sue Billington explained that an in-depth review of English had been completed and the same would happen with Maths and findings would be reported back at the next governors meeting on 5th November. Sue Billington also noted there was a large gap between the results of male and female students.

Paul Wilson stated that by looking at the national feedback he had received, for the school to have stayed stable this year, was quite an achievement.

The governors asked Jane Brown to pass on their thanks to the staff for their hard work and noted that the results were moving in the right direction.

The governors thanked Steve Shipman for his presentation and it was noted that next meeting's agenda would include P16 results.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2nd July 2014, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, noted and signed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Item 1 – Next meeting of Student Disciplinary Panel – 5th November.

Item 2 – Governors to explore sponsorship opportunities – ongoing.

Item 3 – Governors' termly seminar – ongoing.

Item 4 – Sue Thistlethwaite to carry out a walkthrough of the college to review behaviour and attitudes to learning - Ongoing

Item 5 – Jane Brown to complete a high level spend plan for the college - Ongoing

Item 6 – Sue Thistlethwaite to look at, and report back on impact of student disciplinary panels with a success rate - Ongoing

Item 7 - Governors to devise a business plan for the new build catering facilities – ongoing.

5. Declaration of interest

All members to declare any direct or indirect pecuniary interests they may have in the

business to be transacted.

Sue Billington declared that she was a director for Propraxis. Trevor Low declared that he was Chairman of Hinckley Gymnastics Club which holds the operating license for the New College Gymnastics Centre. David Guilford declared that he had been voted onto the Westgate Governing Body.

6. Student Behaviour, Attendance and Safeguarding

Jane Brown explained that this half term had been difficult with attendance due to a sickness bug circulating. Year 7 was traditionally higher but a number of students enrolled had not arrived. These students should have been admitted to special schools but had been put on New College Leicester's roll and could not be taken off before other schools had been found for them. She explained that schools were not able to remove students from roll until the authorities had established where they were and that this was for Child Protection purposes. The Education Welfare Officer had called numerous Student Attendance Panels and is carrying on working his way through each student case.

Jane Brown explained there had been one fixed term exclusion which has resulted in the convening of a student panel. There had been a number of exclusions from arson through to behaviour and a false allegation on a member of staff by a Year 7 student who should be in a special school.

Jane Brown explained that in 4 weeks there were 37 students on 11+ sessions of non-attendance.

Sue Billington requested at the next meeting a breakdown potentially by year and students on roll that are persistent non-attendees.

David Guilford asked for Ellen Rudge-Tezcan to contact him so he could perform a uniform check.

7. Feedback from Governors

Sue Billington reported back to the governors that she had visited the college 3 weeks ago and had a full walk around the new build as classes were being taught. She noted there had been a good atmosphere and students had looked engaged. There were a few teachers that had stood out as being very enthusiastic.

Sue Billington also reported that she had tested the canteen where there had been a good atmosphere and staff seemed happy. She also noted that behaviour had been good and the cashless catering system seemed to be working very well. Sue Billington noted that the school had felt calm, safe and positive.

Sue Billington also reported that she had been at the college yesterday when there had been a fire alarm and all the students had been really well behaved. She noted her thanks to staff.

Paul Wilson noted that he had walked round the college for open evening and had been thoroughly impressed with the good atmosphere.

Sue Thistlethwaite noted that she would report on last year's disciplinary/behaviour reports at the next meeting.

8. Report from Trust Board

Sue Billington reported that the next meeting was October and noted there was a proposal to the Trust of the governing body constitution being submitted. The feedback would be reported at the next meeting.

9. BSF Update

Jane Brown reported to governors that the demolition of the old building had been anticipated over the Summer Holidays but there had been a delay. The contractors had now started demolishing and the new front would be open hopefully sometime in January. She explained that snagging work was continuing on the new build.

Jane Brown also explained that the North building was being knocked down but leaving the school open to intruders. The contractors had damaged the main water feed into the school. The supply access to the kitchen does not exist but should be open soon therefore kitchen staff were having to trolley large supplies round to the kitchen. The governors voiced their concerns about this.

Jane Brown explained that with the help of Councillor Vi Dempster, the new Sports Hall floor had been put down in the holidays. Also the LRC rooflights should be fixed over the October Half Term. The roofs were also being refelted and this had been down to Chris Gowans and Wayne Allsopp working with the Council. Chris Gowans was also looking at producing a risk log from the delayed demolition.

Trevor Low noted he had used the new build for an event at the weekend and it had been a good event.

10. College Finance

Tony Barradell explained that finances were running smoothly and explained some minor changes including catering staff increase, £15,000 less in Pupil Premium, increase in grounds budget and a small change in the insurance. He explained that an extended finance report would be presented at the next meeting.

Jane Brown explained that it is the governor's responsibility on how to spend the Pupil Premium and this would be brought to the next meeting.

11. Staffing Matters Update

Jane Brown informed governors that the college had employed 3 Premises Officers and that she was very pleased with the new staff.

12. Policy Approval

The following policies were handed out for approval at the next meeting:

- Physical Restraint Policy
- Policy for the Induction of New Qualified Teachers
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- SEN Policy

13. Any other business

Sue Billington reported that she had received two letters from the LA:

- Andy Smith had left the LA on 3rd October and had moved to another authority
- The termly seminar dates were still to be confirmed and the Annual Governor Conference would be held on January 15th 2015.

Jane Brown presented a PowerPoint on the impact of governors from the new Ofsted framework. If there were any concerns, the governors were to talk to Jane Brown.

Meeting closed 7.00 pm

ITEM	ACTION	OWNER	DEADLINE
1	Governors to offer dates to sit on Student Disciplinary Panels	All	On-going
2	Governors to explore sponsorship opportunities with their contacts	All	On-going
3	Sue Billington to circulate the invite to the termly seminar to all governors.	Sue Billington	On-going
4	Sue Thistlethwaite to carry out a walkthrough of the college to review behaviour and attitudes to learning.	Sue Thistlethwaite/Jane Brown	Termly
5	Jane Brown to complete a high level spend plan for the college	Jane Brown	On-going
6	Sue Thistlethwaite to look at, and report back on impact of student disciplinary panels with a success rate.	Sue Thistlethwaite	Termly
7	Governors to devise a business plan for the new build catering facilities	Sue Billington	On-going