



MINUTES OF THE FULL ACADEMY BOARD MEETING – Wednesday 19 June 2014 at 7.00pm

Attending Directors:

Mr P Baker	Mrs R Carne	Mr J Coutts
Mr A Davis (Principal)	Ms J Innis	Mr R Mills
Mr P Monaghan	Dr M Richards	Mrs T Rose
Mrs S Wright (Chair)		

Also present: Mrs A Eastwood (Business Manager/Company Secretary)

Mr R Vaughan (Vice Principal) Mrs S Harwood (Clerk)

Apologies: Mrs J Glide Mr G Rumary Mr M Watson

Mr L Wilson-Chalon

Absent: Mr O Bagnara

ACTION

1 a) APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Glide, Mr Rumary, Mr Watson and Mr Wilson-Chalon (all work commitments). **Directors unanimously accepted apologies.**

b) DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No business interests were declared.

2 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Full Board 19 March 2014 – were agreed as accurate and signed.

Matters arising –

Risk register – the Chair asked if written confirmation had been received from SSDC of financial assistance for the Leisure Centre if they encounter financial difficulties. The Business Manager said that we had not but now that the planning application had been approved this should proceed.

Action Sheet –

Point 2 had been completed. Point 3 (as above). Point 4 has been completed

COMMITTEES

Teaching and Learning – 13 February 2014 – Items discussed included a successful Option evening and booklet which included four pathways to learning and in-house vocational courses. The Committee carried out a challenge activity. They were appraised of the programme of lesson observations and support available to staff where needed. Processes put in place to help students get on target. Receiving news that Huish Sixth gained second place in the County tables for Value Added last year. Directors asked that a copy of the Option booklet was emailed to them.

Clerk to provide
Option book

Finance and Premises - 27 February 2014 – the committee were informed that the Academy had gained 100% rating for Health and Safety and 98% for the Fire Risk Assessment.

30 April 2014 – it was agreed to move some money into a high interest bank account. The handover of the new build had taken place although there were a few snagging issues to finalise; the Chair was pleased with the finished building.

A Director asked what the current position was regarding the artificial grass pitch and if a full discussion would take place before a final decision was made whether to proceed. The Business Manager said that this was going to be an item on the additional Board meeting which had been called for 15 July.

d) Academy Board prizes

The list of prospective prize winners had been circulated to the Board. Following a short discussion the **list was approved**.

5 ACADEMY IMPROVEMENT

a) Principal's Report

The Principal pointed out an error on page 7/8 that indicated there was only one Looked After Child at the Academy when in fact there are two; a new Year 10 student who arrived with no data for KS2 was not picked up by the computer programme.

The Principal felt there were many pleasing aspects to report but Directors should be aware that this is based on data reported to him by Curriculum Team Leaders. Data indicates we could achieve a headline figure of 70+%; probably around 68-72% which shows improvement. There are strong levels of improvement in English and Maths and he has seen the impact of improved Teaching and Learning i.e. lower numbers of exclusions and red cards. The Principal still has concerns around the performance of boys.

Pupil Premium progress in English and Maths should rise, however he is still concerned about Value Added. Following the new Code of Practice for SEN being issued, Huish may be below three levels of progress but this is being worked on.

In regard to Post 16 achievement the Principal is looking for improvements but with student numbers being as low as 3 or 4 in some groups it only takes poor performance from one student to be disastrous. More progress has been made in KS4 than Post 16 but this will be focussed on.

A Director who attended the MIG meetings felt that performance was consistently down to a student's attitude throughout all subjects. Another Director asked about figures for NEETS. The Principal said that Huish was working on zero NEETs; he believed that every member of Year 11 had a plan for after leaving the Academy. The Director asked if NEETS were mainly boys. The Principal said they were and this also correlated across to Pupil Premium students.

The Principal also highlighted the many other great things going on across the Academy and the number of fantastic trips taking place. Funding from Langport Grammar School has also opened up the opportunity to go on trips for less affluent students. The curriculum has changed and become more dynamic with new pathways available, especially for lower and middle ability students.

A Director queried a reference to ASTs as it was thought this role had now ceased, The Principal explained that they are now Leaders of Pedagogy and along with another member of staff they will become the Teaching and Learning Group working across the family B schools within the Somerset Challenge.

The Principal informed Directors that the next Feedback Forum which will involve students, is planned for 15 July at 2.30pm and all Directors are welcome to attend. He anticipates spending some time with students first and then to look at the results of the recent Kirkland Rowell survey. Directors asked for a digital copy of the survey results to be circulated ahead of the meeting. When asked how the students would be selected, Directors were told that Progress Leaders would select them from across a broad range of students. A Director asked that this group should also include a student who had been excluded.

Clerk to circulate digital results to the Board

The Principal outlined some of the rooming changes that will be taking place over the summer which includes moving the main Academy reception to the Sixth Form. A Director questioned this, as the original intention was that the Sixth Form held

some exclusivity to the rest of the Academy. The Principal explained that the decision was brought about by other issues e.g. more music practice rooms required and the existing reception being unwelcoming; he also strongly wanted a student 'one stop shop' to provide all student needs in one place, which would be set up in the current reception office. The focus for Pastoral Leaders was now on achievement and less on minor pastoral issues which would be dealt with by the Student Support Workers who would also be based there. The Principal was asked if there were security issues with the Sixth Form. The Principal felt that the Sixth Form was an 'open' block; another Director also thought that it was vulnerable as people were coming and going all the time. He felt that checks should be made that there was not a breach. The Principal said that he hoped the new reception would be open for a longer period than is currently the case.

The Chair thanked the Principal for his report which she felt was the most comprehensive one they had ever received.

b) Academy Improvement Plan

The AIP is looked at by SLT every month under a rolling programme. The Principal was not sure that Huish would reach the targets this year but there should be an improvement. A lot of progress has been made in many areas and the SLT had worked exceptionally hard this year.

c) Directors' Reports

The Link Director for Safeguarding:

"I have had several meetings during the course of the year with Mrs Mythen, the designated Child Protection Lead Officer and have heard in general terms of those children who are vulnerable in some way from exploitation or abuse. I have heard of her concerns for the safety of children, particularly in the matter of internet abuse and the problems that can come about through inappropriate social networking. I have heard of the diligence with which she has addressed the fundamentally crucial matter of staff training and the heightening of awareness of the potential for mischief in every aspect of life in the Academy and at home.

The Annual report to the Directors on Safeguarding Children is well under way and holds no surprises and it will be ready for signing off at the meeting of the Board in September.

It is my profoundly held opinion that the safety and wellbeing of the children in our care is at the very top of the list of what is important in the ethos of our Academy. I believe that the role of Designated Officer has been most sensitively, responsibly and professionally undertaken and it is overwhelmingly important that it should continue to be so. It is our responsibility as Directors to ensure that we support and resource the role and undertake the training required for us to understand all that is entailed."

Several other Directors had attended a visit on 9 June and their written feedback will be circulated to the Board by 15 July.

Reports to be circulated

A Director reported that he had attended the Business Breakfast this morning when the fire alarm had sounded unexpectedly. He was most impressed with the organisation and behaviour of students during this evacuation as they assembled in their designated areas calmly and in silence; he wished that his congratulations should be passed to them.

Principal will arrange this through assemblies

d) Risk Register

The latest version had been circulated for information. Page 2 and 3 show revisions made to the document. There were no comments.

e) Summary of Academy accounts

This was reviewed as part of the budget and the Finance and Premises meeting

held on Tuesday this week. In the circumstances Huish is doing reasonably well with a carry forward of £900k of which £300k is a reserve. These figures are reflected in the proposed budget document.

f) Summary of Leisure accounts

The Leisure Centre has a bigger surplus than last year. Generally it is doing well and making a profit.

6 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

a) Additional Board and Pay and Personnel committee meeting

Additional meetings will be called for Pay and Personnel on Monday 14 July and for the Board on Tuesday 15 July. One item will include the Artificial Pitch project. The Principal will be aiming to clarify, discuss and seek assurances on the direction of travel as Phase 2 approaches; he will not be looking for a final decision. Alongside this there will also be a General Meeting for members of the Academy Trust. An indication of items to be covered was outlined and Agendas will be issued within the required timeframe.

b) Policies – information only

Approved since the last full Board meeting (as delegated)

Directors' Visits (Teaching and Learning)

Safeguarding (Child Protection Director/Teaching and Learning)

Capability (Pay and Personnel)

Financial Regulations and Accounting policies (Finance and Premises)

Reserves (Finance and Premises)

7 HOW DID WE DO

We did very well!

The next section of the meeting was deemed confidential and minuted separately.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm



Full 19-6-14
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