



**MINUTES**  
**FROM THE MEETING OF THE**  
**LOCAL GOVERNING BODY**  
**OF STANCHESTER ACADEMY**  
**HELD ON**  
**THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 5.10pm**

Actions from Stanchester LGB Meeting on 12 November 2020

Item Reference	Action	Person Responsible	Due Raised
<b>1.1</b>	PLE to forward out staffing snapshot to Governors week beginning 23 November.	<b>PLE</b>	12/1/2020
<b>2.0</b>	JW to contact MC to check MW has completed his online safeguarding training.	<b>JW</b>	12/11/2020
<b>3.2</b>	TG to arrange for information to be provided to Governors on all GCSE mock exams and a comparison with previous years' results.	<b>TG</b>	12/11/2020



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**Members**

✓	Mike Robbins	(MR)	Chair
✓	Jenna Burrow	(JB)	
✓	Nikki Holt	(NH)	
-	Amy Joynes	(AJ)	Head Teacher
✓	Dale Newson	(DN)	
✓	Judy Watson	(JW)	
✓	Mark Wilkins	(MW)	

**In  
Attendance**

✓	Fran Davis	(FD)	Clerk
✓	Jane Gillespie	(JG)	BTCT Trustee
✓	Peter Elliott	(PLE)	CEO
✓	Tamsin Grainger	(TG)	Director of Education

**1. Procedural Matters**

This agenda has been changed due to the Head teacher being away from school due to ill health. Peter Elliott is standing in temporarily as Head at Stanchester and would be giving an update later in the meeting.

**1.1 Introduction to new Chair**

MR apologised for the delay in getting into the meeting and gave a brief overview of his career. MR highlighted he had been in Further Education for 40 years and was instrumental in setting up the Trust with PLE. Having been retired for 3 years it has been great to see the progress of the Trust and knows that Stanchester will receive the support it needs from the Trust team.

A Governor raised some general questions on the protocols of the LGB.

- To clarify which email addresses will we be using – personal, Stanchester or educ ones.  
We will be using personal ones/or ones listed in Trust Governor.
- Is there an expectation that reports such as attendance, behaviour etc is produced by Governors.  
There will be a set agenda with certain items on it at various points in the year. At our other schools they have a link Governor (H&S, Safeguarding, SEN) who will share their reports at LGB meetings.
- Regarding Sexual Relationship Education this was due to be on the curriculum from April. Do you want an update on this at the next meeting.  
TG advised Bex Hendry would be happy to outline the statutory requirements with you. However we still need to go out to parents to consult on this but Mel Clarke is leading on this and TG is confident they have everything in hand. Mel will liaise with JW after Christmas.
- Governors were linked to curriculum areas and presented reports about departments last year, will this continue  
No this will not be necessary as TG and PLE lead on this with the Head Teachers and we will be reporting to the LGB.
- Could you give an update on Stanchester exam results  
Each school submitted centre assessed grades nationally and a report was given to the BTCT board but with a caveat that pupils did not sit these tests. Generally schools nationally had P8 scores at .25 more generous than last year. Stanchester results were about the same as last year. It is noted that some Stanchester pupils can make between half or one grade less progress than other schools nationally which is the conversation we have been having with the Head Teacher about how to address this.
- Could we have a staffing update  
This is not ready yet however PLE would send out a snapshot to Governors week commencing 23 November. PLE did comment that staff absence has been high with 9/45 absent the other day. This also does not help with student behaviour.

**Action** PLE to forward out staffing snapshot to Governors week beginning 23 November.

It was asked how have you managed with staff absence  
Having year 7 isolating has given us some flexibility but we have taken the decision to book in some long term supply teachers until Christmas.

PLE

The Governors introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their background to the Chair.

1.2 Apologies for absence and acceptance/non-acceptance

All Governors were present. The head teacher was absent due to ill health.

1.3 Declarations of Interest – all forms had been returned. The new Chair would be forwarding his form.

1.4 Minutes from previous meeting dated 24 September 2020.

Minutes were agreed as accurate.

1.5 Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the meeting.

Actions outstanding:

FD to forward Declaration forms, Code of Conduct and KCSiE to MW - **Completed**.

PLE to connect Officers with Trust Leads - **Completed**

GJ to forward out role description to Governors - **Completed**

JW to provide report on FTE, safeguarding etc for the next LGB meeting – **Completed** this would be covered later in the meeting.

2.0 **Update from Peter Elliott**

PLE advised AJ was unwell and had been signed off work for the next two weeks. Our HR team are checking in with her but at the moment she needs a complete rest from everyone. Whilst PLE has been running the school some areas of concern have been identified:

- Complicated timetable – with 8/9 lessons being incorporated each day. Feedback has been received by the Unions that the new timetable has not landed well with staff. There are also logistical challenges with too many children in groups and staff are feeling shattered.
- A new timetable will be introduced and whilst protecting the integrity of the bubbles we will be giving pupils a more traditional timetable. We have already received positive feedback from the Unions. The timetable will be introduced from 16 November.
- Challenging Behaviour from students. Adrian Reynolds drew up a new Behaviour policy in Jan 20 but did not get an opportunity to launch it properly. Consequently there has been no graduated response when students made poor choices. This has resulted in low level disruption but with no follow up or systems/processes in place.

- We are therefore putting a new behaviour policy in place and giving staff training in being more assertive. This needs to commence from Monday 23 Nov and we will be holding a webinar with parents to explain the new policy.

It was asked what support will there be for classroom teachers and what will be the consequences for poor behaviour. PLE advised staff are being issued with walkie/talkies which will enable them, with support from SLT, to deescalate situations that may become challenging. There will be dedicated social spaces at break and lunch times to keep the bubbles intact. SLT will wear matching jackets which will highlight their increased presence at break and lunch times. We will put in a graduated response ranging from B1-B5. PLE gave details on each level.

It was asked how the academy exclusion rate compared before lockdown

It has been going up steadily and the reason for this is there were no sanctions in place it just went straight to exclusions when behaviour escalated. Generally it has been felt that across Somerset exclusions have been increasing however this is not the case in our other Trust schools but at Stanchester it has.

It was asked if nationally compared to locally have exclusions increased due to Covid.

It is difficult to link cause and effect with Covid but most of our schools are seeing a greater draw on our mental health support.

PLE reassured Governors that Stanchester is a great school and with some support and new procedures it will get back on track.

It was asked if the SLT have supported these measures.

Yes, Adrien has been working hard but it needs to be a team effort and he is now getting this support from the whole SLT team.

It was asked if there was a particular year group leading the disruption

It is not a particular year group and we do not have any dangerous behaviours.

A Governor felt it important that the LGB support the measures that are being put in place as the reputation of the academy in the community is outstanding and it was important to keep this going.

PLE advised he has written to parents and given an open invitation for them to contact him via email. There have been 8/9 who have been in touch and all have a high regard for the school and the Head.

PLE advised there was a positive case of Covid in year 7 and whilst the priority was to get the pupils home, we were a little late getting work online which sparked some parent frustrations.

- There has been some concern around the English results for a couple of years and change in leadership has not helped.

It was asked who is the line manager for English Ellie Forward who has Mel, Head of English and Tamsin from the Trust now supporting. However Vicky Davis from Brymore school has also been asked to provide additional help Brymore have the best results in the County for English. This gives us ample expertise.

There was a discussion on how the Head teacher would feel about the introduction of the new processes and timetable. After a brief discussion it was felt that these measures are in the best interests of the children and that has to be the overriding factor.

PLE asked that the Governors approve the Behaviour Policy. JW proposed and DW seconded it.

Governors were very keen to support any actions that help prevent children being excluded.

PLE shared it is the Trust's ambition that no child will be permanently excluded in our schools. We have put in place online 1:1 teaching to ensure our students stay with us. We are also looking to open the Apex (Alternative to Permanent Exclusion) Centre based at one of schools next September.

TG also advised that the Trust have appointed their own Ed Psych who will be able to offer at least one day a week support at Stanchester compared to the approx 6hrs per year that is available from County.

### 3 **Statutory Reports**

#### 3.1 Behaviour and Exclusions

JW had submitted a report that Governors had access to prior to the meeting.

Highlights were:

- 4 racial incidents were recorded. Each incident was followed up with an isolation or exclusion.
- More funding for PSFA required - PLE advised that this funding comes from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and explained how funding was allocated from this. However this has been reduced over time and was due to cease by the end of next March however this has been extended until end of August 21. We have a Trust wide therapy family worker who is able to add some capacity to this. He has already had three families referred to him.

### 3.2 Safeguarding report

- It was asked if Governors could please undertake the online safeguarding training by 1<sup>st</sup> December and if they were any problems getting this done to contact PLE.
- MW advised he has completed the training and would like MC to check this has been done.

**Action** JW to contact MC to check MW has completed his online safeguarding training.

**JW**

It was asked how much has Covid impacted on years 10 and 11 learning  
The school is part way through assessments and speaking to maths colleagues they are reporting that students are not where they should be by at least a couple of months. The challenge is to unpick whether this is because of lock down or that plus the timetable that has been put in place. We need to know where they are now and what are the three things we need to do to recover it as quickly as we can. Funding is not a problem as there is £55,000 catch up grant available.

The Following item was deemed confidential and is contained in a separate minute with distribution restricted to the governors present.

End of Confidential Item.

A Governor asked how Science was progressing as there was some concern about the subject.  
PLE confirmed that a more detailed overview would be available to Governors when the data assessment comes in at the end of the November.  
**Action** TG to arrange for information to be provided to Governors on all GCSE mock exams and a comparison with previous years' results.

**TG**

Governors thanked PLE and TG for all their hard work.

### 4.0 Date of next meeting – 4 March 2021