



MINUTES
FROM THE MEETING OF THE WEST SOMERSET COLLEGE
LOCAL GOVERNING BODY
HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 6.00pm
VIA TEAMS

Actions from WSC LGB Meeting on 24 February 2021

Item Reference	Action	Person Responsible	Due Raised
1.5	FD to collate skills audit gaps and feedback to LGB if any training needs are identified.	FD	24/02/21
3.0	HB to be invited back to a LGB meeting in the Autumn term to give an update on her progress.	GM	24/02/2021



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Members

✓	Martina Forster	(MF)	Chair
✓	Michelle Butterworth	(MB)	
✓	Geoff Dibble	(GD)	
✓	Debbie Shelley	(DS)	
✓	Jane Armstrong	(JA)	
✓	Paul Widgery	(PW)	
✓	Gregg Mockridge	(GM)	Head teacher

In Attendance

✓	Fran Davis	(FD)	Clerk
✓	Nic Spicer	(NS)	Joined at 7.00pm
✓	James Morris	(JM)	Joined at 7.00pm
✓	Holly Burdick	(HB)	Joined at 6.30pm

1. **Procedural Matters**

Matthew Clewer was unable to attend but will come to the next meeting to observe.

1.1 Apologies for absence and acceptance/non-acceptance

None all Governors were present

1.2 Declarations of Interest

None

1.3 Minutes from the meeting on 4 November 2020

Minutes were agreed as accurate

1.4 Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the meeting.

Actions Outstanding:

FD to put EBACC delivery on next LGB meeting agenda -

Completed.

GM to arrange for a list of acronyms to be forwarded to Governors - **Completed**.

FD to add the SEF to next LGB meeting agenda - **Completed**.

There was a discussion on pupils returning to school on 8 March and GM gave details of the plans in place for a phased return and how lateral flow testing would be organised in the first two weeks. Once pupils had received 3 tests in school they will be testing from home.

It was noted that students could be in a lesson before being tested which was not ideal but Governors understood the logistics were difficult to balance.

It was asked if there were sufficient staff to administer the lateral flow testing
GM confirmed there were.

It was asked what plans are in place for staff to be tested. The DfE will provide home testing kits. Plans have been shared with staff and although some are feeling apprehensive most are comfortable with plans that have been put in place.

1.5 Safeguarding Governor

JA has stepped down from the role and PW has now volunteered to this on. Thanks was given to JA for her input and to PW for taking on the role.

1.6 Governor Skill Audit

Governors noted the audit and the gaps in skill base. It was thought some of the categories were not as relevant for MAT's as the Central team and Trust Board are able to give support in those areas.

It was agreed that FD would collate the information from all LGB skill audits and if any training was identified this would be raised with PLE.

Action – FD to collate skills audit gaps and feedback to LGB if any training needs are identified.

FD

2 CEO Reporting Requirements

2.1 Head Teacher's report

GM gave highlights from the report:

- Decisions on how GCSE grades will be determined in summer 2021 will be announced tomorrow (25/2)
- Staffing – AS is leaving at Easter and it will be a challenge to fill the Maths role.

It was asked if it is a good time to recruit staff

It is a challenge to recruit in this area and we will also need a Head of English as the current member of staff has stepped down from the post.

It was asked if there is any support available from the WS Opportunity Area

Unfortunately, not. This will mean GM will have to take on more teaching which is not ideal.

- We have a high number of students electing to be home educated. 14 at the moment with most in year 9.
- 92.7% attendance up to Dec 2020 which was above the national average.
- FSM and SEND attendance continues to be lower than other groups however due to small numbers one student being absent can impact significantly on figures.
- We are tracking individual lesson attendance across all year groups- both in school and online.
- the C3 phone calls and positive calls are making a significant difference
- 220 laptops have been given out to pupils who required them.

It was asked if parents/pupils are responding to follow up calls
Yes, contact is much better with parents.

It was felt that all schools in the local area have done much more than was set out by the LA. Governors wished it to be recorded that the College in particular had done a fantastic job and wanted the staff to be congratulated as well.

It was asked whether any routines/procedures introduced during Covid would be continued in September.

Yes, we will continue with the phone calls home as it benefits the staff, students and parents. We will also look to keep break times separate for year groups as this has been very well received especially by the students.

It was noted the signage around the school looked very professional.

- The OA work has been put on hold.
- Live lessons will continue until pupils return to school. If students have engaged with the online learning there should not be any catch up issues as the curriculum has been followed fully but there will be a focus on Yr 12.

It was asked what is happening with the farm units as there appeared to have some activity there.

The Chair advised the BTCT Board is having a meeting tomorrow (25/2). There is a paper with reference the farm with a proposal to look at using them for educational and community purposes and this will be shared more when plans have developed further.

It was asked for more information on Seneca, the new online learning platform.

GM explained it is resource based programme which gives access to K4 and K5 and will adapt and target knowledge support to the students' areas of subject need.

2.2 ADP Governor Feedback

All Governors have given feedback into their ADP link areas and it was agreed a follow up conversation with SLT would happen after the Easter break to share progress.

2.3 SEF

Governors agreed it was important for them to be familiar with this and the ADP document.

3 NQT Update

HB joined the meeting at 6.30pm.

After introductions HB gave an overview of what it is like being an NQT at a new school during the pandemic.

- Initially quite challenging moving during a pandemic
- Pleased to have the support of an experienced department
- Having had three years teaching experience this has helped settling into role.
- Really happy with the role and looking forward to being able to involve students in trips and fixtures.

The Chair asked if there was anything more could be done to support HB's development.

HB has requested CM, Trust Staff Development Lead, to observe her online teaching and would also welcome the opportunity to observe others teachers delivering lessons in order to improve own practice.

It was asked how HB is adapting to a rural area having been living in a large city previously.

HB likes being involved in local communities which this affords her. Living in the city was due to the teaching post.

Action HB to be invited back to a LGB meeting in the Autumn term to give an update on her progress.

GM

Governors were keen to understand how WSC could recruit more candidates of HB's calibre. It was thought one area that could be looked at would be supporting existing students to undertake a teaching qualification with the opportunity of a post offered at the end of it. There would have to be a tie in period.

4 WSC Statutory Reports

4.1 Safeguarding

- Mental health concerns have increased significantly and we have received notification of a huge number of domestic violence cases as well.
- Some families are struggling financially

It was asked with remote appointments now had this made it easier for students that meet the CAMHS threshold to access an appointment

No unfortunately not, however it does highlight the lack of Level 3 and 4 services available in this area.

It was asked whether staff are confident using MyConcern GM confirmed they are but there is a reluctance to take ownership of the concern and follow it through with parents. We therefore need to build staff confidence in dealing with these issues.

- Need to reschedule staff training for self injury
- A fully trained Mental Health champion has been appointed. We are currently looking at how to cascade this training down to staff.
- Carry out a detailed audit of our mental health provision and our online learning looking at students using devices at home.
- KCSiE advises we should be submitting a report not just on emotional wellbeing but on their academic progress.

Action NS to include submitting a report on emotional wellbeing and academic progress to the safeguarding report for the next meeting.

NS

- Important to be able to show what progress has been gained from the restorative justice process. Upon looking into this further we could see a reduction in repeat offenders.

Governors noted the physical assaults/bullying figures looked quite high

NS advised they are but now we have become a telling school we expect to get more incidents recorded.

It was asked if there was any specific reason why Yr 9 had a high number of concerns.

GM advised we do seem to have a spike in physical assaults when Yr 9's come to us but it tapers off as they move through the college.

It was asked if data by cohort could be supplied showing a comparison of each year group, year on year.

GM advised it would be possible

4.2 SEND

Governors noted the report

4.3 H&S

The H&S Governor advised BP had visited the college and the site team were aware of any problems and have already sorted some of them out. Fire drills will commence again when pupils return to school.

Governors asked for their thanks to be passed onto the site team for their hard work

5 **EBACC plan and rationale moving forwards**

JM supplied the Plan prior to the meeting and went through the highlights with Governors outlining the historical background and the current situation.

- Yr 8 students must pick a minimum of one Ebacc subject
- One area of the government targets we need to concentrate on is uptake of Languages. One option to combat this would be to make a language compulsory but this has not worked historically and it is not something we want to make mandatory now. We will therefore continue to encourage students and parents of the value of taking a language and work with the middle schools to promote good relations.

It was asked whether it would be worth including parents from the First schools in the conversations as perhaps they do not fully understand the benefit of their child taking a language. JM advised SC has been in contact with the schools but this has had mixed success.

It was noted that historically there has been a lack of subject specific language teachers teaching at middle schools but it was felt the approach being taken now to work with the middle schools was the right one.

It was asked if there is any data on dropout rates from languages
JM advised there have been more subject changes this year than previously. However, there is a more than an average drop out number for languages.

It was asked if there was any merit in having a modern language post that is split between the middle school and the college.
If we could get a smoother transition between the two it would help but it is difficult to offer this with a three tier system. GM felt it was worth emphasising that WSC is one of the only

schools in Somerset to offer four options. We are therefore offering a very broad curriculum.
Governors were happy to support the college with their decision on how to deliver Ebacc to students.

6 **Data Training**

JM gave an overview on Progress 8 and Attainment 8.

It was asked for an example of what non approved courses would be
This could be a form of motor vehicle, level 1 entry level to Maths or English. It is essentially vocational subjects.

It was asked how the pupils from the vocational subjects get the recognition of achievement if it is not recognised in the grading.
Pupils are not made aware of their P8 scores just their target grades.

JM outlined the process for setting target grades and advised WSC will use the most aspirational of the models. Currently we have the most rigorous banding of any school model we have seen.

Governors felt this was a good model to follow as it encourages pupils to aim for the highest aspirational grades possible.

JM explained the 6th Form Level 3 Value Added Guide document that had been submitted to Governors prior to the meeting.

It was felt it would have been useful to have live school data but as a format it is really useful to refer to.

It was asked if this analysis was helpful to staff
Yes, very much so.

Thanks was given to JM for his hard work and detailed documents.

7 **Relationships and Sex Education Policy 20/21**

GM advised this Policy has been developed by the Trust and has been consulted upon by parents, students and staff.

Governors approved this Policy.

8 **Date of next meeting – 26 May 2021**