



**MINUTES
FROM THE MEETING OF THE WEST SOMERSET COLLEGE
LOCAL GOVERNING BODY
HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2022
at 6.00pm via teams**

Actions from WSC LGB Meeting 16 February 2022

Item Reference	Action	Person Responsible	Date raised
2.2	GM to request staff to email ADP Strand Governors to meet with them after the half term.	GM	16/02/2022



Signed.....



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FROM THE MEETING OF THE WEST SOMERSET COLLEGE
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Chair: Martina Forster; Headteacher: Gregg Mockridge:

Members

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

In Attendance

✓	Fran Davis	(FD)	Clerk
✓	Anna Lacey	(AL)	
✓	Jana Zacheva	(JZ)	External Auditor

1. Procedural Matters

The Governance Forum are observing this meeting as part of the external review of governance. JZ introduced herself and explained her role.

- 1.1 Apologies for absence and acceptance/non acceptance.

MB sent apologies as unable to attend due to work commitments.
- 1.2 Declaration of Interest

None



1.3 Minutes from the last meeting dated 1 December 2021

Minutes were agreed as accurate

Actions outstanding

- GM to invite MF and DS to a meeting in January to discuss Yrs 11 and 13 results – **Completed** MF and DS met with GM to discuss Yr 13. Meeting to discuss Yr 11 to be arranged for after the half term break.
- MF and DS to raise the need for additional counselling support for students at WSC with the Trust - **Completed**. GM advised they were now going to receive three extra days support and one day with HM from the Trust.

It was asked if this was making a difference.
Yes, it will be absolutely fantastic.

1.4 Matters arising not contained elsewhere on this agenda

It was agreed AL would present first on the Pupil Premium report. (Due to a change in childcare arrangements)

2 **CEO Reporting Requirements**

2.1 Head Teacher report

GM gave highlights from the report covering:

- KPI's – Yr 11 very similar to Data point 1 projections. P8 -0.27. A8 44.1.
- Data - grade projections have been capped and we have used the last grade boundaries from 2019 when students last sat exams formally.

It was asked if we should be concerned about PP students or is there still time for good progress to be made
GM advised content information that has been released by the government varies greatly from subject to subject. For instance, there has been no change to content in Maths. However, in English guidance has been issued about how this will be



assessed. We are trying to keep parents/students updated but there is too much information.

It was asked with the Dap Data and additional information available will we see an improvement on the negative figures

Yes I hope so.

Is there anything more that could be done?

Our biggest challenge has been staff and student absence which has impacted on consistency of teaching. However, this has now settled down and we have currently about 5/6 staff off and 12% of students absent.

As a college are we offering everything we can to improve those students' outcomes

Yr 11 and Yr 13 have not had any home learning days and we have been determined to keep them in college above everything else. Our biggest concerns are staff recruitment and lack of support from the LA for attendance.

With regard to Yr 13 there appears to be a consistency with the predicted results

Yes however we have identified some students will only get a U grade no matter what support is put in place because of their contextual situation.

Is the picture the same across the Trust and nationally with students struggling with anxiety and mental health issues?

Generally a lot of Yr 11 students are struggling and some of the Trust schools are facing very challenging behaviour.

Will our students be helped by the new counsellor or do they need to be in school to access this help?

We can counsel remotely but it is better in person.

- Staffing is still challenging and it is not satisfactory that the HT has to undertake the DSL role.

It was noted Governors are concerned that GM is the DSL, and will be for some significant time, as well as undertaking many other roles.

GM agreed and is concerned something could be missed.

The Chair was keen for GM to advise them if they are asking for unrealistic targets.



- SLT is a smaller team
- Yr 13 Computer Science are not getting the support they should be getting due to recruitment issues.
- ATE is to be replaced with pastoral behaviour support and we have now recruited an ex NHS employee who is trained in dealing with young people's mental health issues.

It was asked what is happening with the Duke of Edinburgh scheme as one member of staff leaving runs this.
The advert specifies a willingness to contribute to DfE.
Would the announcement about additional funding being available from the new OA help us with recruitment
GM met with the DofE and OA and they advised there is no substance to the rumours that there will be more funding.

- Exclusion data – one pupil is providing us with significant challenge.
- Attendance – although figures do not look encouraging we are at national but it is not good enough. The problem is with a significant number of students who do not attend and we are not receiving support from the LA re: next steps.

It was asked what response do you get from the LA when you raise attendance?
GM advised it is up to us and the social worker to sort out the problem. We have tried many initiatives to support pupils but they still do not engage.

It was asked if these parents have struggled in the past and could we have picked this up before they come to the college.
The vast majority of parents have struggled before and their financial position has got worse. It is a mixed picture

- Have not got the capacity to move on with harmful sexualised behaviour but SP, from the Trust has been asked to help.
- Careers update was given



It was felt the College is in a very strong position with the careers advisor and the work that has been carried out.
GM advised we have been held up as an example of good practice. The OA has also helped tremendously with various initiatives.
Governors were keen for GM to feedback how pleased they are with the work that has been carried out to the staff team.

2.2 ADP

The ADP is a live document and is currently being updated by SLT but this does mean that at the next governor Strand meetings it will be different.

It was asked if there were any areas of concern It is rag rated and GM highlighted some of the areas they are focusing on or that still need some work.

Action GM to request staff to email Strand Governors to meet after the half term.

GM

It was noted that strand 4 – parental engagement is a very difficult one to complete.
Parents are being engaged more especially with the positive/negative phone calls being made.

If everything is going well perhaps parents feel there is no need to interject.
GM advised only 35% of Yr 11 parents have signed up for parents evening.
A Governor felt that it is unlikely the college is alone in engaging parents and as long as it was always looking at ways to be creative there was little more than could be currently done.

A Governor asked if parents evening were a waste of time as there is so much ongoing information given to students and parents perhaps it is felt there is nothing else that can be said.
GM was pleased that we are at that point where there are no surprises in what staff will feedback to parents and students.



There was a discussion on how the College and Governors can be more visible in the community.

- The OA work to have a cohesive curriculum in English, maths, science and PSHCE is now beginning to take form.
- A pastoral colleague is currently attending an 11 day TIS lead practitioner course supported by the OA
- Physical assaults continue to be our highest reason for exclusion.

It was commented that there was no mention of drug abuse
We are not aware of drug dealing in college but there is outside of the college. However, we have been advised of an increase in vaping being used.

A Governor noted locally there has been a massive increase in drugs and sexualised behaviour, which is worrying.

It was asked if we are well supported from external agencies with these issues.
No unfortunately not. We are having to challenge the LA on a lot of areas. GM outlined some issues that have occurred.
Is there anything more as a Trust we can be doing.
GM advised we are receiving a lot of support from the Trust.

2.3 SEF

GM advised although a useful document it is primarily to give Ofsted a thorough overview of the college. It is also shared with the Trust and gives an honest evaluation of where we sit in the grading. Currently we are Good but there are areas we need to work on and these are linked into the ADP.

It was thought the SEF was a useful document to read and equips the LGB with all the necessary information.

2.4 Yr 13 Data

Covered in HT report

2.5 Yr 11 Data - verbal update



Covered in HT report

2.6 Pupil Premium verbal update and Plan

AL had shared the report with Governors prior to the meeting.

Highlights from the report covered:

- School overview – there are 22.12% of pupil premium eligible pupils
- Statement of intent
- Challenges – the key points were:
 - The widening gap in Year 10 between PP and non PP students and their attainment in English and Maths.
 - PP students have lower levels of reading comprehension.
 - PP students struggle to complete challenging tasks.
 - Attendance has been between 5-6.1% lower than non PP students.

It was asked when do the interventions take place AL advised at a range of times and outlined what is offered via intervention tutor groups sessions. However, AL shared there had been problems delivering English due to recruitment issues but from Feb AL and the Head of English will be delivering an additional class.

- Intended Outcomes and how success will be measured.
- How the funding will be used to support PP students
- Impact of Pupil premium strategy outcomes for 2020 – 2021

It was noted the report was extremely comprehensive and gave a lot of information for Governors to digest.

It was asked if there was anything more we could be doing in particular with regard to attendance? We raise awareness of these students with staff at frequent intervals and after data drops and there has been small shifts in progress.



It was asked if it was possible to track PP students to see if they are using SENACA as much as non PP students
 Yes we can and they are using it less than non PP students.
 Is that because of lack of access to IT?
 Not really as during Covid we were very effective with ensuring all students had access to technology. Unfortunately due to various reasons PP students are less likely to revise.

It was asked if the online programmes such as SENACA and Lexia were funded by PP money.
 No SENACA was funded by PP last year but did not offer value for money and gave limited feedback. Lexia is from another budget.

Maths Watch is not used anymore, why is that?
 We use a different programme called My Maths
 It was noted there are a lot of online programmes available to students.

How concerned should we be about the lack of intervention due to recruitment and what is the impact?
 It is a concern we have not been able to have support in place sooner but we do have a plan and we have been offering some support since September.

From the original plan, are we confident we are able to deliver it and that the plan is fit for purpose.
 Yes, it is. I do not think there is anything else we could put on there.

It was asked about the engagement of year 11 students and if there are any plans to get them more involved and committed prior to their exams
 AL agreed there was more work to do with some of those students but we received less feedback from invigilators about students giving up on exams.

Thanks was given to AL for the detailed report.

3 **Statutory Reports**

3.1 SEND

- Since September 2021 we have added an additional 11 students onto the SEN Register



- Of the 18 students with an EHCP currently on roll, 7 have been applied for since the students came to WSC. These should have already been in place before year 9.
- We have 240 year 9 students coming in Sept with only one having an EHCP.
- SEMH remains the highest need
- New access arrangements are in place for year 10. We have 84 students needing these arrangements which is extremely high.
- CH and trust team have been successful in getting additional funding.
- Intervention and support was outlined.

Governors felt CH was doing a great job and asked for this to be passed onto the team.
It was asked if there anything else that could be done.
We are in a better place than last year and feel we do a lot to support our families. The team and Trust are doing a great job.

4 **Feedback from Trust Chair of Governors meeting**

- Clerk's briefing is a termly update and would draw your attention to the KCSiE consultation.
- Annual work planner
- Training sessions being run by the Trust which are recorded and can be accessed through the Trust website.
- Consider whether there should be a well being Governor when we recruit new governors.
- PiXL 6 – have a look at the documents and if there are any questions please feedback to MF or LP.

5 **Approval of Relationships and Sex Education Policy:**

All Governors approved the policy.

6 **Date of next meeting - Wednesday 18 May 2022**

