



**MINUTES
FROM THE MEETING OF THE WEST SOMERSET COLLEGE
LOCAL GOVERNING BODY
HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 18 MAY 2022
at 6.00pm at the College**

Actions outstanding from Meeting on 18 May 2022

Item Reference	Action	Person Responsible	Date raised
2.1	FD to contact PLE to advise Governors would like to discuss ways to improve advertising vacancies.	FD	18/05/2022
2.1	FD to contact PLE to enquire if Safeguarding Administrator post could be made permanent	FD	18/05/2022
2.2	GM to arrange for staff to liaise with Governors over link strands.	GM	18/05/2022
5.0	GM to send Policies out to Governors showing tracked changes. Date to be specified for return.	GM	18/05/2022





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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)	
✓	James Morris	(JM)	
✓	Cat Hargreaves	(CH)	
✓	Natasha Goswell	(NG)	potential new Governor

1. Procedural Matters

The Chair welcomed Natasha Goswell to the meeting.

It was agreed staff reports would be presented after apologies and declarations were completed.

1.1 Apologies for absence and acceptance/non acceptance.

PW is working away from the area.



- 1.2 Declaration of Interest
- None
- 1.3 Minutes from the last meeting dated 16 February 2022
- Minutes were amended to reflect correct spelling of SENACA on page 9.
- Actions outstanding:
- GM to request staff to email ADP Strand Governors to meet with them after the half term – **Completed**.
- 1.4 Matters arising not contained elsewhere on this agenda
- None
- 1.5 Update from Governance Review and Trust Strategic meeting
- MF gave an update:
- Governance two day event was very informative. The first day covered projects being delivered Trust wide and summaries of their schools by Head Teachers. The second day was looking at the direction of travel for the Trust. It is hoped the event will be repeated next year. The Chair felt it would be beneficial if the event was open to all Governors.
- Review – an external review of Governance was shared with the Chairs of LGB's.
- It was noticed benchmarking for the review was only against external agencies not other MAT's
 - Recruitment onto the Governing Board is hard which makes fulfilling the comment on having a more diverse Board difficult to achieve.
 - A governor commented that diversity can be discreet eg a disability
- There was a discussion on how the LGB could interact more with parents to recruit new governors and it was agreed the advert would be in a more prominent place in the newsletter with the advert



being repeated more than once. GM suggested Governors could attend the year 9 welcome meeting on Wednesday 6 July @ 5.00pm. Overall, the review was felt to be a useful exercise with room to improve.

It was asked for the purpose behind the review?
To share good practice and to have an external group give honest feedback on the Trust and LGB's.

The Chair outlined the format of the review meeting held with Trustees and Chairs.

2 **CEO Reporting Requirements**

2.1 Head Teacher report

GM gave highlights from the report

- Very concerned about results this year as content for the exams is not known.
- The prior attainment groups have still to be determined formally by DFE which could affect the progress figures significantly.
- Poor attendance in Yr 11 has impacted on learning

It was agreed that on reading the figures there is little comfort in them.
The HT outlined some problems students are encountering whilst undertaking these exams. It was acknowledged these problems were out of the College's control.
It was asked if everything is being done possible to support these students.
GM agreed it was and outlined measures in place.

- Yr 13 are struggling as this is the first time they have sat exams since year 6.
- Destination for Yr 13 is mapped out.
- Staffing - recruitment is a problem but being experienced Trust wide and nationally.

It was asked if there was an opportunity for the college to train students to become teachers
GM advised there is a T level route.



It was asked if teaching was being hit because of the work/life balance
 GM advised the College endeavours to reduce staff workload where possible.
 How concerned should we be with the staffing situation and potential impact on students
 GM advised it is a serious problem and we are doing everything possible to entice teachers to the area but house prices and limited availability of rental properties does make it difficult.

There was a discussion on recruitment and Governors proposed various measures that could be looked into i.e video promoting lifestyle in the area and looking at the College's USP.
 International recruitment and Visa sponsorship were also suggested and the possibility of headhunting for key hard to recruit positions

FD

Action – FD to contact PLE to advise Governors would like to discuss ways to improve advertising vacancies.

- OA – The work to have a cohesive curriculum in English, maths, science and PSHCE has progressed.
- Somerset outcomes for white British students is poor as it is nationally
- Attendance 87.5%

There was a discussion on attendance and the measures the college has undertaken. It was noted the LA are taking a family to court which should send a message that absence is not acceptable and not beneficial to student's learning.

- Exclusions – physical assaults continue to be a high reason for exclusion.
- Safeguarding administrator has had temporary contract extended.

It was asked why the post was not being made permanent as the benefits have been noticeable and help alleviated the pressure on GM and the team.

FD

Action – FD to contact PLE to enquire if post could be made permanent.



- 104 students due to join in Year 12 with between 230 and 241 students to join in Year 9.

2. ADP

Governors have been advised of their ADP strand and have liaised with staff over targets and how progress is being achieved.

GM outlined how the ADP is compiled and rag rated.

- Difficulty getting visitors into college, but distance is cited as the reason. County lines is a real problem. However, we have managed to arrange for the Police to come in and deliver a talk on this.

It was suggested contacting fellowships or outside support groups to come in

It was agreed Strand Link Governors would meet with staff again after half term.

Action – GM to arrange for staff to liaise with Governors over link strands.

GM

2.3 Growing Great Schools

Governors duly noted the report.

SLT roles and responsibilities were outlined and discussed.

3 DfE White paper

AL was ill not able to attend the meeting.

Supporting papers had been provided and GM gave an overview of the summary.

The four targets and key actions were explained:

1. An excellent teacher for every child
2. Delivering high standards of curriculum, behaviour and attendance
3. Target support for every child who needs it
4. A stronger and fairer system

4 Curriculum 2022/23



Paper on the Curriculum had been distributed prior to the meeting. JW gave highlights from the report and summarised the changes:

- Triple Science will continue to be taught to all students joining Y9 in 2022-2023
- Finalisation of SMSC being moved from a standalone lesson into tutorials.
- Spanish continues to be offered in Y9 with a comparable in uptake populating 2 groups for 2022/23.
- Proposed Y9 intake of 230+ students which now required 9 groups in core subjects in addition to extra option classes
- Y 12 subjects - Further Maths, Chemistry, Travel and Tourism, Construction and Year 9 GCSE Religious Studies will not run for in 2022-23

It was asked if the college was confident everything will be covered in the areas

GM advised at the moment WS middle schools are not all delivering the same curriculum however the OA are working with us and middle schools to develop a cohesive curriculum.

It was asked if student numbers choosing French was more static now

Yes it is, certain cohorts are taking French whereas other cohorts are selecting Spanish.

It was asked if there was sufficient staffing for all areas

Mostly however we have a plan and staffing numbers to cover teaching. Timetabling needs detailed planning.

It was asked if teachers are responsible for just one subject.

No 70% of our teachers are teaching more than one subject.

It was asked how this situation compares with other secondary schools

It is not usual to teach more than one subject.

It was noted Computer Science has a large class with 38 students.



JW advised a significant number of students drop out as need a mathematician level of understanding for this subject.

5 Governors thanked JW for a comprehensive and informative report.
 SEND and Green Paper

A presentation paper prior to the meeting was circulated.
 CH gave an overview of the key highlighted areas:

The Government published the SEND Review: Right support, Right place, Right time. The consultation sets out proposed reforms to the SEND and Alternative Provision system that seek to address three key challenges:

- Poor outcomes for children and young people with SEN or in alternative provision
- Navigating the SEND system and alternative provision is not a positive experience for children, young people, and their families and:
- Despite unprecedented investment, the system is not delivering value for money for children, young people and families.

The presentation covered areas on:

- Focus - 4 key areas of interest
- A single national SEND and AP system
- Excellent provision from EY to adulthood - more work with feeder schools but relationships and communication are improving.

It was asked for the SEN team’s initial reaction to this paper.
 Very positive, it matches our thinking and the Trust SEN team. Will be outlining our plans to our SLT next week.

- A reformed role for AP - work with other providers as well as APEX.
- System roles and accountabilities
- Delivering change for children and families
- Somerset Graduated Response Tool – Assess, plan, Do Review cycle.



- SEMH is our highest need. Key documents provide staff with ideas on strategies that will give universal support in classrooms to all students.

Are Teachers open to these new ideas?
 Yes, it will be a whole school approach
 When will this become live?
 CH advised it is being planned now with a view to delivering it in September 2022. The Government proposal has to be place 2030.
 It was asked what the timeline for funding that has been mentioned.
 We do not have any confirmed information on funding being available.

SEND Report

CH gave highlights from the SEND Report:

- 87 SEND students: this represents 11.8% of whole school.
- 18 HN/EHCP - 2.4% of whole school

GM advised

- Yr 11 numbers at 29 is high
- Only 1 EHCP expected which is low, we would have expected more. 50% of EHCP's came from our applications since arriving at College.

There was concern the lateness of the diagnosis for the Yr 12 student. It was asked when the application started
 CH advised we tried at Yr 11 but it was refused however it was granted in Yr 12.

It was asked about middle schools involvement in identifying and putting support in place for students
 Ch advised the Code of Practice does not specify what support should be given and how long for which is where the discrepancy is. Ch outlined how the Middle schools system differ from the college.

Are the middle schools operating on this policy related to one Trust?
 Currently under one Trust but there is a new SEN structure being put in place.

- 2 more EHCP's have been approved



GM advised CH has been extremely successful with EHCP’s applications.

Educkey – A document was shared with Governors to show what provision students receive.

It was asked who inputs the information on this system
CH and CS however TA’s are starting to put on initial and post assessments.

Is this shared with parents
Not yet but hope to.

- 46% of send students have been on trips/visits
- Elsa interventions – new EP appointed by Trust can deliver Elsa training which will have huge impact as only have one trained person.

It was noted that the Individual Literacy Intervention improvement of 2 years and 8 months was very impressive.

Governors thanked CH for a very insightful report and the hard work undertaken.

Policies

GM advised there are a number of policies that need to be amended/changed. It was agreed policies would be forwarded to Governors showing track changes. There would be a two week review period for a number of policies and a given date for the return of them.

GM

Action – GM to send Policies out to Governors showing tracked changes.

6 **Date of next meeting** – September 2022 @ the College

