



MINUTES
FROM THE MEETING OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNING BODY
OF STANCHESTER ACADEMY
HELD ON
THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER 2022
AT 5.30pm at THE ACADEMY

Actions from Stanchester LGB Meeting on 13 October 2022

Item Reference	Action	Person Responsible	Due Raised
1.2	Declaration of Interest forms to be completed by DE and VGS	DE/VGS	13/10/22
5.0	LGB to give GM contact details of local businesses who could support with careers.	LGB	13/10/2022



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Members

✓	Adam Surt	(AS)	Chair
✓	Gregg Mockridge	(GM)	Head teacher
-	Jenna Burrow	(JB)	
-	Jane Gillespie	(JG)	
-	David Elford	(DE)	
✓	Doug Bamsey	(DB)	
✓	Vanessa Gilder-Stevens	(VGS)	
✓	Elizabeth Oliver	(EO)	

In

Attendance

✓	Fran Davis	(FD)	Clerk
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1. Procedural Matters

1.1 Apologies for absence and acceptance/non-acceptance

The Chair welcomed Beth Oliver to the LGB as a new Governor

Apologies were received from JB – unwell due to Covid. DE – working away and JG. Apologies were accepted.

1.2 Declarations of Interest

Outstanding – DE and VGS

Action – Declaration of Interest forms to be completed by DE and VGS

DE/VGS

1.3 Minutes from previous meeting 22 September 2022

Minutes were agreed as accurate.

Actions outstanding:

Signed.....

- GM to shared staff Ofsted presentation with Governors – **Completed**
- FD to add a discussion on positive engagement with the community to improve perceptions of the academy on the next LGB agenda - **Completed**
- FD to send out list of acronyms to Governors – **Completed**

1.4 Matters arising not contained elsewhere on this agenda.

Parent survey conducted by school – couple of concerns raised which will be covered in Head teacher report

2 CEO Reporting Requirements

2.1 Head teacher report to include vision and values work

GM gave highlights from the report:

KPI

- P8 has gone down but A8 has gone up.
- HPA students and PP students not doing well enough.
- EBacc and open subjects also not done well. Maths was satisfactory. Expectations need to be set higher with at least 60% doing higher maths.

The Chair was keen to seek reassurance that everything is being done to unpick the problems and plans put in place to improve progress.

GM outlined the timeline and aspirations that have been instigated.

The Chair was pleased to hear the strategy that has been drawn up.

It was asked if access arrangements have been set up.

GM advised it has not arranged but all will be in place by November mocks.

A Governor noted that bullying and behaviour were a worry and asked to what extent school wide issues were impacting on this.

GM confirmed that behaviour in class was good but break times are challenging as there is a core group of students who are being suspended and then refusing to engage. We need to get to the root of the problem.

There was a discussion on the students and the SENDCo teacher supporting them. It was noted that AB, Trust Director of Inclusion and her team have been in offering additional help.

Governors wished their thanks to be passed onto the staff and acknowledged that understanding the problems gives reassurance to the LGB that the school is at the right starting point. It was also remarked on that it is better to focus on

capturing progress and consolidating this rather than previous mistakes becoming overwhelming.

- Staffing update was given.

Attendance

- 23 students accessing APEX south provision each week
- We currently have 3 students, that have been permanently excluded from other schools, attending.
- A new attendance officer has been in place from September 2022

It was asked if the LA had released policy attendance details GM confirmed it was finally released a week ago.
It was asked if the content was expected
Yes, and letters to parents are going out tomorrow (14/10) about attendance and access to the new school app - Sims. Governors noted the school report supplied had been very useful and informative.

2.2 Predictive Data KS4

Covered in HT report

2.3 ADP - rag rated

GM advised teachers contribute to the plan but he reviews their input and challenges gradings.

Points highlighted from ADP:

Strand 1 -

- Stanchester has the second highest rate of suspensions in the county, 25% down on suspensions compared to the same period last year.
- 3 pupils have transferred in from other schools.
- Unfortunately, data has not been well tracked.
- 23 students attending Apex South. A lot of students are struggling coming back into school after visits.

GM outlined procedures and strategies for combating the areas highlighted red or amber.
It was asked how capable staff are with dealing with these issues and how are they responding to GM
Staff are responding well to a direct approach and GM went through some of the problems that have been highlighted and what was being put in place to remedy them.

A Governor felt it had been a big step to change the homework set up and that the information flow has been great but how could they be sure sufficient detail of the assessment cycle had been fully explained to parents. It was asked if there was a feed forward/feedback process.

GM agreed the value of homework does need to be explained and this would be relayed to parents and students.
It was asked if the one hour reading time before school was still being offered.
Yes it is. The Trust's aspiration is reading and we are committed to this as well. It is one of our key areas of priority in the SEF.

- Strand 3 - Pete Foster is supporting with the ECT staff. All staff will receive training on Ofsted readiness before Christmas break.
- Strand 4 - Values need to have input from all stakeholders.

2.4 SEF

GM advised the four areas on the SEF have been graded as Requires Improvement (RI). The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) are working on linking documents to each of these areas by November.

The SEF is a live document and will be updated every half term.

Areas identified for improvement during the October 2019 Ofsted inspection:

- Ensure that the school's planned approach to the sequencing of knowledge and the implementation of the curriculum helps pupils to know and remember more in all subjects.
- Redevelop the English curriculum so that is well planned and so that pupils build on their prior learning.
- Address support for pupils who struggle with reading or spelling.
- Improve the school's approach to developing pupils' literacy by implementing a more joined-up approach to improving pupils' literacy skills, across all subjects

The Chair valued GM candidness in sharing how the school is faring and what strategies are being put in place.

2.5 EBACC curriculum discussion

JY outlined the rationale/measures for EBacc

A query was raised with the triple Science requirement and it was asked if this change would be communicated to the students.
JY confirmed it would be.
It was asked if taking French away would limit the number of students undertaking EBacc as many students wanted to take

this subject. Also raised was feeder schools teach French and learning a new language is hard.
 JY agreed but Spanish here is outstanding and we have confidence that offering this subject will be successful.
 There was a detailed discussion on the various options for students and what the potential outcomes could be. Points raised covered enriching the curriculum with trips and visits, how to gain more interest in humanities and how can the school ensure delivery of these subjects are given by specialist teachers who will be able to support students.
 JY outlined the three proposals and the advantages/disadvantages to each one.
 GM also gave some context to why some subjects have not done well and how the staff structure will be arranged to ensure delivery is better.

JY asked Governors for a decision on which option they favoured the school adopting. All Governors gave their reasons and the recommended second option was adopted.

Governors thanked JY for a well laid and informative document.

3 **Statutory Reports**

3.1 Safeguarding

The Chair highlighted the terminology had changed in the KCSiE document. It is now child on child abuse not peer on peer abuse.

It was asked what the difference was between the two
 It was acknowledged that abuse is not always perpetrated by adults; children can abuse other children and within a school it is more relevant for it to be child on child due to their age.

- LW is new AHT and has been working through all the safeguarding complaints. There were 300+ entries on MyConcern and he has read each one. We are averaging 10 concerns a day but the number logged has reduced to 200.

It was asked if any help could be accessed from the Trust
 Yes we have support one day a week and we are on top of it now.

3.2 Behaviour and Attendance

GM outlined how behaviour is managed in the school now and is pleased to note that in class it is very good however free time is more challenging, but it is just a few students who are disruptive.

It was noted that Year 10 appears to be of most concern.
 GM explained that one tutor group has 4 pupils who are not attending and have the most complex needs. In this year

group there are 15 pupils with a high safeguarding risk and other severe issues. We have 5 in care with some low attendance which is varied by student. There are also 2 who have zero attendance.
It was asked if there was any help with children in care
There are PEP reviews.

3.3 SEN

Governors noted the report provided.

3.4 PP Statement

GM advised they are required to submit a statement each year to detail how the funding has been spent. This amount also includes recovery funding.

Governors approved of the spending and areas targeted.

4 **Policies**

4.1 Admissions 24/25

Policy was approved by all Governors

4.2 Child Missing from Education

Policy was approved by all Governors

4.3 Prevent and Prevent Risk Assessment

Policy was approved by all Governors

5 Positive engagement with the Community:

Discussion on positive engagement with the community to improve perceptions of the academy

It was acknowledged that GM had, throughout the meeting, successfully given a very detailed summary of the strengths and challenges the school is facing and Governors were very impressed with the strong strategy being introduced as well as being mindful of the impact with the community. Engagement and perception are key to ensuring a successful relationship with our stakeholders.

GM outlined the initiatives that have been put in place:

- SIMS app
- Open days and evenings
- Being visible at the school gate
- Engaging with the local primary schools
- Opening school for community events
- Meet with Yeovil college

It was asked how the school is engaging with business. Yr 11 have work experience being planned for next year. A staff member of Westlands has offered to come in and run mock interviews. Governors offered a number of ideas on who they could contact to ask to come in and support the school.

It was asked if Hinkley Point had been approached. We were unsure if they would be interested this far away from their site. The Chair offered to look into this and see if any help could be offered in securing support.

LGB

Action – LGB to give GM contact details of local businesses who could support with careers.

6 **Date of next meeting** – 23 March 2022 @ 5.30pm via teams