



Making our best our standard



Wolstanton High School Academy Council Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 16th June, 2016

Present: Mrs T Thomas, Dr H Chapman, Mr M Street, Mrs M Jones, Mrs R Wright, Mrs E Postlethwaite, Mrs C Thomas

Apologies received and accepted: Ms H Jackson, Mr A Price

Guests: Mrs H Hobson, Mrs A Harvey, Mr C Lakin, Mr J Johnson, Mr I Verow.

Agenda item	Action	By whom
1 Academy Council Matters	Council members were reminded about confidentiality of the meeting, membership situation, agreed code of conduct. Mr Street declared that he provides pest control advice to Entrust and to Walton Hall Academy.	
2 Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs J Morgan (CEO, SET) sends apologies to the meeting but academy council members were assured that there is a good working relationship between the school and the SET with the Head meeting regularly with JM. • DBS checks for Council Members are now up to date • New software is now in school which relates to the PREVENT agenda and this is proving useful and user friendly. The minutes were accepted and signed as an accurate record.	
3 Reports: Chair/vicechair; Committees; Nominated link members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neither the chair nor vice chair had used their powers to act • Reports from the committees had been circulated • Reports from link members would be included as part of the full agenda items 	
4 Headteacher's report Circulated to members prior to the meeting	<p>Personnel, Premises and Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members were updated on the personnel situation. Council members wished to record their thanks to the Bursar for all the work done on this. Credit was given to SLT, particularly the Bursar, for the smoothness of this process. • Council members were updated on the CIF bids, both of which have been awarded and were reported fully in the Resources minutes previously circulated. Members were updated on the areas of work and the effect on the school day. Council members gave good wishes for the work and acknowledged the benefits of being part of the SET with regard to these projects being awarded. • Following full reporting to the Resources committee members were updated on the school budget. The minutes of this meeting had been previously circulated to members. The trend on numbers is not as good as had previously been thought which was due to new data now being available. This will mean that a review of the budget modelling previously discussed. However, numbers for September 2016 are above those projected. Council members agreed that this was a good sign and that every effort must be made to ensure this is repeated. There was much discussion and challenge as to why there is a downward trend but the school feels that negatives previously experienced are now being turned around. This will impact in the 	<p>SLT</p> <p>Ah</p> <p>Ah</p>

	<p>future on sibling intake and positive views within the community.</p> <p>Council members wished to record their thanks to the Finance Team for their excellent work on the budget and, in particular, the significant turnaround from earlier predictions. They are sure that the work being done will have a positive impact for future budgets.</p> <p>Curriculum and Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members were updated as to the changes in place which will, hopefully, lead to improved results in the summer. These had been fully discussed at the Education and Standards committee whose minutes had been circulated prior to this meeting. Council members wished to record their thanks to Ry for all his work on the ECDL. This qualification will be carried forward and developed into the ICT curriculum offer. • The Deputy Head is leading on PIXL and working with English and Maths. This should help to improve results in both areas by improving marking so that more accurate comparisons can be made against national expectations. • The timetable is well underway and the Deputy Head explained the various timetabling options for setting and grouping across both key stages. This was fully discussed and challenged and members feel that this will make for more efficient targeting of students. <p>Council members wished to record their thanks to the Deputy Head for her work.</p> <p>Alternative Curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members were updated on the Lego Suite at NULC. This is part of the alternative curriculum and was discussed fully at the Education and Standards Committee. • Several students had attended an Oxbridge event to raise awareness of opportunities available at Higher Education. This had been led by a member of the council alongside a member of the SLT. It is hoped that this will be covered in local press reports. <p>Council members wished to record their approval that the disadvantaged at all ability levels are being supported at WHS and the vibrant life of Wolstanton is being spread throughout the community.</p> <p>Teaching and Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members were updated on Teaching and Learning which had been fully discussed and challenged at the Education and Standards Committee. They were pleased that the supportive but persistent approach to T&L appears to be working positively for all concerned. There will be full lesson observations for all staff in the near future and 4 core curriculum areas will be scrutinised for work and marking. This should result in more efficient monitoring. Senior members of the SET will carry out the inspections and will speak to DoLs and ADOLs. This should help to explain variability in results and ensure consistency of results in the future. • Schemes of Work are being reviewed by the Deputy Head and Assistant Head T&L to ensure that there is a relevant curriculum in place for all students. This will be completed and in place by September 2016. Members were pleased to see this work is being done and explained that it could be included to positive effect in student behaviour panels relating to fixed term exclusions. SLT were also keen to express that setting would be according to ability not behaviour which members acknowledged was the right way forward. <p>Applications, Attendance and Behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assistant head with responsibility for primary links updated and clarified points made in the report. Council members acknowledged the work being done in this area. • Members were updated on behaviour. The new detention system (lunchtime) appears to be having a significant impact. The detentions are led by an Assistant Head and the Heads of each House. This followed 	<p>Hs</p> <p>Hs</p> <p>Lk</p> <p>SLT</p> <p>Hs/Ve</p>
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	<p>questions from a council member as to how they were being staffed. When asked how they were impacting on the rest of the school council members were informed that there had been positive feedback from students frustrated by the behaviour of others and that fewer detentions were being issued. Those students who are repeat offenders are being targeted for support to improve behaviour.</p> <p>Council members wished to record their thanks for the work being done in this area.</p> <p>Safeguarding and Prevent Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members were fully updated on Safeguarding and Prevent. • An assembly is being planned on the theme of exploitation with a subsequent competition to be held. <p>Members wished to record their thanks for all the work being done in this area.</p> <p>Headteacher's reflections</p> <p>The Headteacher wished to set on record her thanks to her team for their excellent work in moving the school forward. She feels that good progress is being made in all areas. Following on from the review in the autumn term it is felt that changes and developments now in place are enabling everyone to work as a team and this is empowering both staff and students alike. The feeling for September is very positive. There will be 1 staffroom which will help communication and team working and improved results will set a positive tone.</p> <p>Council members thanked the Head and her team for all their work and feel there is a sense of vibrancy within WHS. The different view of leadership is appreciated and it is good to see the impact it is having. "Small steps, big leaps".</p>	Lk
5 Policies	2 policies previously circulated: Supporting pupils with medical conditions; Teaching and Learning These policies were fully discussed and adopted.	
6 Financial update	This had been fully covered in the Resources Committee and as part of the Headteacher's report.	
7 Health and Safety	The 2 CIF projects had been fully discussed earlier and at previous meetings. The business continuity plan is to be re-written linking it into the SET plan.	TT/AH
8 Any other business	There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.40pm	

Please note that the date of the next Academy Council meeting is: TBC

Approved and signed by the Chair:

Dr H. Chapman: _____

Date _____