



Making our best our standard



Wolstanton High School Academy Council Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 24th November 2016

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

Apologies received and accepted from: Ms H Jackson, Mrs C Thomas

Guests: Mrs M Hobson, Mr I Verow, Mr C Lakin, Mr J Johnson, Mrs A Harvey, Mrs J Yarwood (SET)

Agenda item	Action	By whom
1 Election of Chair	Having established that Dr Chapman was prepared to stand for another year Mr Street proposed and Mrs Thomas seconded. Dr Chapman was elected nem con	
2 Election of Vice Chair	Dr Chapman proposed and Mrs Postlethwaite seconded that Mr Street be elected for a further year. This was agreed nem con.	
3 Academy Council Matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership • Confidentiality • Register of business interests • Declaration of business and pecuniary interests • Code of conduct 	<p>A resignation has been received from Mr Price and this means that there is a vacancy for Parent Council Member. In his absence the Council wishes to record their appreciation of all the work and support that Mr Price has given over many years of service on the governing body of the School. The process of finding a replacement for Mr Price will now be put in place by the school.</p> <p>The following Members' term of office will end at the end of the Spring Term: Mr Street, Mrs Jones, Mrs C Thomas. Council Members were reminded about confidentiality and agreed code of conduct.</p> <p>Mr Street declared that he provides pest control advice to Entrust and Walton Hall Academy.</p> <p>Pecuniary forms were issued and completed by all Council Members present and the Bursar will ensure that Absent colleagues complete these.</p>	<p>TT/AH</p> <p>TT/HC</p> <p>AH</p>
4 Minutes of the previous meeting Matters arising	The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted and signed as an accurate record. Any matters arising from the minutes will be covered during other agenda items	
5 Review of committees and nominated link Council Members	<p>Following an audit of Council Member skills, exploration of recruitment for a council member with financial experience will be sought either through the election of a suitably qualified parent or as a co-opted Council Member.</p> <p>Resources committee: Mrs T Thomas, Mr Street, Dr Chapman, Mrs Jones, Vacany, (Bursar)</p> <p>Education and Standards Committee: Mrs T Thomas, Dr Chapman, Ms Jackson, Mrs Postlethwaite, Mrs Wright, Mrs C Thomas, (SLT)</p> <p>Safeguarding/prevent/SCR: Mrs E Postlethwaite</p> <p>SEND/LAC: Mrs R Wright</p> <p>Pupil Premium: Mrs C Thomas</p>	TT/AH/HC

<p>6</p> <p>Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair and Vice Chair actions • Education and Standards committee • Resources committee • Nominated links 	<p>Neither the chair or vice chair had been required to use their powers to act.</p> <p>Reports from the Education and Standards Committee and the Resources Committee had been circulated prior to the meeting and these were accepted. A request from SET was noted that any questions asked are recorded and reported as part of the minutes. The Education and Standards Committee will discuss RAISEonline at their January meeting.</p> <p>The Bursar updated members on the current negotiations between the SET and Regional Union Reps with regard to statutory pay and it was noted that this is still under review.</p> <p>There were no reports from Nominated Link Members</p>	<p>Clerk Clerk/Hs</p> <p>SET/TT/AH</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Headteacher's Report</p>	<p>This had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting and the new format is being trialled for the SET. Questions relating to the STATS at the beginning of the report were asked:</p> <p><i>Does the larger number of students with SEND support impact on pupil premium?</i></p> <p>Members were informed that there has been an increased interest in the school for children with SEN since the Autism Outreach Unit had been based at the school. Whilst this is separate to the school, the community outside sees the school as having good practise in this area which has led to increased admissions but it does not impact on PP.</p> <p><i>Does the gender balance have implications for classroom dynamics?</i></p> <p>This had been discussed at the Education and Standards committee and it was noted that the school is monitoring this situation but at present it is part of the natural admission pattern coming through from Primary Schools. Revised attendance data was circulated to members.</p> <p><i>Concern was raised at the year 10 data.</i></p> <p>This is a small year group and this combined with some long term absence from a small number of students is reflected in the data.</p> <p><i>What is being done to address this?</i></p> <p>Attend clinics; very good service from the Attend organisation, disadvantaged students have been identified with Attend and these are being monitored with targetted work; any student with -90% attendance will receive a visit from Attend on first day of absence.</p> <p><i>Why is there no comparative data year on year for staff absence?</i></p> <p>This is a new format for presenting the data. Council members were assured that all staff who have long term absence have managed plans which are individual to them and that anyone who is absent will have a return to work interview on their return.</p> <p>It was noted that the number of hours of supply teaching required is decreasing.</p> <p>The Chair thanked members for their swift response to requests to attend exclusion panels and noted that the number of exclusions is lower than last year.</p> <p>Progress of pupils currently in school</p> <p>The school is currently looking at "small" data and the current Yr11 forecasts for A*-A and A*-C is being compared to 2016 national figures which should give a more realistic forecast for 2017 results.</p> <p>Pixl curve is also being used. At the end of yr10 the current yr11 had sat external examinations in Maths and English which had been externally marked and compared with other PIXL schools. English results were above and maths in line with other schools.</p> <p><i>Do you think the students understand the system? How do you know they do?</i></p>	

Every pupil is aware of their target and of the requirements needed to achieve this. This was confirmed by a council member who is currently doing supply work at the school.

There was much discussion and explanation of the new Progress 8 and the new 9-1 grades and how these related to the old A*-C measurements. Accountability will be 5 and above; measures are Progress 8, Below -0.5, MaEn 5+ and EBACC.

Members are satisfied that suitable targets are being given.

Members are pleased that the data now compares sub groups. Further questions were invited but members confirmed that they were clear on this data.

Why is high ability lower than 2016 results and what is being done to address this? (Page 8)

Fisher Family Trust 20 is now being used and targets set against this for the top 22%.

Students with a target of 9 are in the top sets.

Small data is being used to track A*-B as well as A*-C

There have been weaknesses in the past with disadvantaged students and also in the 2016 results. These appear to be showing again in the data. What is being done to address this?

Work is now being done from the start of year 7 and continuing through to year 11 to ensure that the gap is closing. Work was done during INSET at the start of the term. All disadvantaged students are identified on seating plans, discussed regularly at line management meetings and staff have performance management targets related to this area. The focus of work being done by learning mentors is more targeted to individual students.

Council Members noted that the Actions are much more specific than previously.

Why is there such a big gap in the year 10 data bullet point 2 last point on page 18?

This is currently being addressed. It was noted that as the SET MAT grows it will be easier to work with other secondary schools within the MAT and this will help sharing of good practice.

It was explained that comparison can be made with last yr 11 RAISE on line which shows the final outcome but comparison with the autumn term of past year is not relevant. However, future data captures for this year will be comparable.

How confident are you that the forecasting in science will be accurate this year?

The SET has appointed its own Director of Science from January 2017 who will work with the department to improve: teaching and learning; marking; departmental moderation and lack of aspiration for pupils. Work is being done to improve expectations for good behaviour and planning for the needs of the pupils. An action plan is now in place.

Is notice being taken of what students are saying?

Student voice is taken on all observations and as part of the line management process and this is always with different groups of students.

In light of all the conversation around the data it was agreed that departments should be invited to present to the Council and Maths will be asked to present at the next Education and Standards Committee meeting in January.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment

Council members were updated on the outcomes of the observations this term and the resulting coaching in place.

Is this being reflected in student voice?

Parent members reported that it was – improvement in behaviour and marking across subjects.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare of pupils

Safeguarding and SCR are secure and this has been verified by external audit.

The Bullying Log is now in place. Although this had happened previously it was not centralised. Myconcern – a new package was explained to Council Members. This is an online reporting package which is looked at daily by

	<p>appropriate staff with Heads of House having been trained to work more effectively to ensure the safety of students. All staff received training for this in early November.</p> <p>The Link member for this area will meet with the assistant head responsible for it and report back to Council at the next meeting.</p> <p><i>Historically there have been concerns that some staff have not reacted to concerns raised by pupils and pleased that this now appears to be being addressed.</i></p> <p><i>How aware are parents of the support that is going on and is available?</i></p> <p>MyConcern is high profile on the website and links to agencies can be found in the safeguarding policy which also appears there.</p> <p>Tracking of attendance and its impact on outcomes is now being monitored.</p> <p>Data for detentions is showing that there are now fewer pupils in detention than when the current procedure was introduced last term. Data is discussed as a matter of course at line management and support given to staff if required and appropriate action taken with pupils. Data for merits is also looked at alongside the detention data to ensure that positive praise is given to pupils.</p> <p><i>Has there been a difference moving from mini schools to houses?</i></p> <p>All Heads of House are now line managed by 1 assistant head and work to a line management pro forma which has meant more efficient communication and outcome.</p> <p>Support staff update and premises overview</p> <p>The original spec discussed with BET365 had proved to be too expensive and this is being reviewed.</p> <p>Council Members were updated on the recent fire in school and the damage done, mainly as a result of smoke. The fire department had praised the school on its evacuation procedures but had noted to fire doors were not fit for purpose.</p> <p>Budget virements for 2016/17 were issued, discussed and agreed.</p>	
<p>8 Safeguarding updates</p>	<p>There were no updates to the ones contained in the Headteacher report</p>	
<p>9 Privacy notice</p>	<p>This was noted and council members were assured that this is in place.</p>	
<p>10 Consultation on proposed admission arrangements</p>	<p>Information relating to this was distributed at the start of the meeting and members noted that there is no change to the current procedures.</p>	
<p>11 HR Aspects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy for flexible working • Time off for compassionate leave • Performance and management of staff 	<p>Policies relating to these are in place in accordance with the SET.</p>	
<p>12 Any other business</p>	<p>The Academy Development plan has been circulated to members and there were no questions relating to this as council members feel that it mirrors the Headteacher report and discussions arising from that.</p>	
<p>13 Confidential item</p>	<p>A confidential item was requested and staff members left at this point</p>	

Please note that the date of the next Academy Council meeting is: Thursday 2nd March 2017 at 6pm

Approved and signed by the Chair:

Dr H. Chapman: _____

_____ Date _____