

GOVERNOR SERVICES: EDUCATION QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE SERVICE

SIR TOM FINNEY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL (06135)

Minutes of the meeting of the Pupil, Curriculum and Standards Committee held via video conference on Tuesday 22 February 2022 at 11.05am.

Present: Mr P Main (Chair)
Mrs P Barlow
Mrs R Hurley
Mr I Fazackerley
Mrs M Rothwell
Mr S Jukes (Headteacher)

Also present: Miss R Alesbury (Clerk to Governors)
Mr J Cockerill (Assistant Headteacher- Observer)

Apologies: There were no apologies for absence.

	<u>ACTION</u>
<p>22.01 Declaration of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest in relation to agenda items.</p>	
<p>22.02 Election of chair</p> <p>Mr P Main was nominated and elected chair until the first meeting of the autumn term 2022.</p>	
<p>22.03 Terms of Reference</p> <p>The terms of reference were adopted without amendment.</p>	
<p>22.04 Minutes of the Last Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 12 October 2021, having been circulated, were approved, and would be signed by the chair as a correct record.</p>	
<p>22.05 Matters Arising</p> <p>Minute 2.5, pupil premium case studies had been followed up with Mr Fazackerley. The pupil premium evaluation had been posted on the school's website. Student impact statements were planned to be taken to the full governing body meeting.</p>	FGB

22.06 Covid-19 Impact Update

The headteacher explained Covid-19 guidance had changed. It was different for special schools compared to mainstream.

They had started the new term with the basics in place like hand hygiene, ventilation, and regular cleaning.

The latest announcement from the prime minister was delivered last night, the school then received the DfE (Department for Education) guidance at 6.45pm.

Mr Jukes planned to circulate information to all staff and parents following a response from the Lancashire County Council.

A governor asked if they were to continue testing. The headteacher confirmed in special schools yes.

A governor queried if lateral flow tests would still be available. Mr Jukes confirmed they would be available to the school for the foreseeable.

A governor questioned who was testing. The headteacher confirmed the staff were testing twice a week, students were requested to.

A governor wondered if anyone was absent with Covid-19. Mr Jukes confirmed they had no members of staff absent. There was one student suspected, and two who had tested positive for Covid-19.

A governor asked if they were anticipating if they were positive, they would stay at home. The headteacher confirmed it would form part of the school's policy like they have for sickness and diarrhoea. It was suspected other special schools would do the same.

The headteacher from Acorns Primary School agreed with Mr Jukes and confirmed that was what they planned to do.

Mr Jukes added, it was still a serious illness and they must keep everyone safe. The issue would be from parents. The headteacher planned to circulate an update to parents as soon as possible.

In response to a question, it was confirmed it was part of their risk assessment.

22.07 Student Numbers, Distribution/ Complexity and other relevant updates

The headteacher confirmed there had been two new students in KS4.

There was a new student under an assessment for placement in KS4 from Nigeria who needed to get an EHCP (Educational Health Care Plan)

A governor asked about the family's status. Mr Jukes explained this was unknown, they work at the hospital and did speak English. The student had been out of school for seven months waiting for a placement.

There were 27 students planned to start in year seven in September. On top of that, there had been some year eight and nine students looking for places.

Year 11 and 12 would not be formal until the end of March. They knew all their year 11's wanted to stay which would take the school over its commissioned number. They could get asked for more places in addition.

It was predicted to have 210 on roll, but this would be dependant upon LCC placement requests.

A governor questioned the impact on classes if they go above the commissioned number. Mr Jukes explained there may be a funding implication and staffing and resources would be determined by the strategic planning for September.

A governor queried if the students wanted to continue in school because they like it or because they required the provision. The headteacher confirmed it was a local authority decision based on what needs the school could meet and what places they had.

The current year 11 want to stay, Covid-19 had played a part in it, families don't see colleges offering anything more than we do already.

Out of the current cohort, four students could potentially be in a college environment if the correct provision was in place.

In response to a question, the headteacher confirmed they had 14 leavers this year. The next set of commissioned places was 63. With the current year 11's they were at 64. A further ten from Astley park were interested in places.

A governor wondered if they were on track with the building works upstairs. Mr Jukes confirmed it was on track apart from the roof, drainage, and car parking. The internal works were going forward at pace.

A governor added following a health and safety walk round, ventilation was being monitored and asked if it had eased. It was confirmed the CO2 monitors were all ok.

ACTION

22.08 School Improvement Plan

The headteacher planned to circulate a summary to the full governing body.

**Headteacher
FGB**

Mr Jukes confirmed anything impacted by Covid-19 or the new build project had been carried forward.

Attendance had been added to the new school improvement plan. It was not because the school had an issue with attendance, but it was timely to look at and review attendance policy and practise.

Mr Jukes explained absences could be identified and across the years very few had ever been considered persistent absences.

Governors requested feedback for the next meeting.

Summer term

22.09 Online Safety Week

The online safety committee had been re-established.

All class group had put something together and shared across school.

A group from PREVENT had been in to do some drama / artwork, listening to responses from the young people they were incredible.

The headteacher said they had a strong underpinning for online safety in ICT. The flow of communication was good. The next meeting was planned in for March.

Mr Jukes confirmed it was a positive week and couldn't speak more highly of the young people involved.

22.10 Professional Development and Training

Professional training had continued despite Covid-19. They had completed more training since it was delivered virtually.

Many people were now virtually fatigued, and they want to attend face to face meetings.

Highlights from training included;

- The school had an ECT in school (Early Careers Teacher)
- The new assistant headteacher John Cockerill had started an NVQ for headship.
- Three members of staff were undertaking NPQ's, (National Professional Qualifications) two were senior leadership NVQs.
- Further training for subject areas and SEND had taken place.

- Interim appraisals planned to start next week.

A governor asked about staff requests to enhance their subjects. The headteacher had mentioned to staff if they needed resources, to get their requests in. The headteacher was inundated with wish lists. They were creative and very specific. They included things for sensory development and physical development.

They had spent £30,000 on resources which had allowed teachers to develop their subjects.

Mr Cockerill added he had asked for subject plans to be updated this week. They had a lady deliver workshops from Safe Net. She was also planned in to deliver staff training.

A staff governor added a student got a new piece of equipment called 'Neater Eater' which had enabled them to eat independently. Mr Jukes added she needed an incredible amount of support to be fed which had been replaced with this piece of kit.

A governor asked how parents had been kept up to date. The headteacher confirmed they were kept up to date with regular newsletters and sharing information on how to keep students safe. Feedback would be shared with parents following the online safety week.

22.11 AOB

- The school advisor had been in and sent a report. It was planned to have training with governors and senior staff around Ofsted inspections. The headteacher would circulate a date.
- Governors were invited to a whole school assembly planned on 18 March. This was the first whole school assembly since the pandemic began. A presentation was planned from the fund raisers MJH Accountants for over £16,000 which would support the equipment for ICT.
- Governors were encouraged to look around the school following artwork and wording placed on walls around the school. A student commented it had given life to the corridors.

A governor commented it was vibrant and lifted the whole area.

A governor asked who did the work. Mr Jukes confirmed OUTTAREACH did it following designs by the senior leadership team.

The headteacher thanked all staff in school for their work, effort, energy and enthusiasm to maintain teaching and learning standards under difficult circumstances. The standards maintained had been overwhelming.

22.12 Confidentiality

There were no items deemed confidential.

22.13 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Pupil, Curriculum and Standards Committee would be held at 11.30am on 3 May 2022.

The chair thanked governors for their attendance and input and closed the meeting at 12pm.