



Yewstock School

Full Governing Board Meeting

Monday 25th of April 2022

Meeting started at 5.03pm

Clive Padgett, Peter Bush, Phil Ryall, Mark Hughes, Lucy Ross, Mandy Morgan, Sue Lauterwasser, Jeanette Rogers, Linda Caride, Seonaid Walton & Pete Lagden

Also present – Chris Chadwick & Claire Donohoe

Clerk

Vanessa Burton

Apologies

None

Minutes of the last meeting

PL gave his apologies for his unavoidable absence at the last meeting and thanked PB for standing in as Chair. PL confirmed with PB that the minutes were accurate and that there were no outstanding actions.

Agreed as a true copy and signed off

Curriculum Development Update – Chris Chadwick & Claire Donohoe

CP explained that he had asked CC to give the Governing Board an update regarding the school's curriculum. CP went on to say that Yewstock's current curriculum has been in place for 2 years, but plans are now underway to further develop it to the next stage. The curriculum will undergo a constant rolling development to ensure it meets the needs of changing cohorts of pupils. It is therefore, vital Governors have a full understanding of where the curriculum is now and where it is headed.

CC referring to her presentation handout made the following points;

- CC shared a timeline going back to 2018 to give some context and that there had been many phases of the curriculum journey based on the schools needs and statutory requirements from the Government.
- In 2019, Gill Howard (who was then the Deputy Head) carried out a number of consultation exercises with Governors, Parents/Carers and Pupils. All ideas and feedback were collated into the current Yewstock Curriculum. This was presented to Governors at a previous FGB Meeting.
- CC has since focussed on Subject Leadership during the lockdown period.
- Ofsted have indicated that they will conduct a number of "deep dives" into a range of subjects.

- Remote learning presented additional challenges and a change in working practices and additional policies were needed.
- The assessment tracking system also changed from Classroom Monitor to EFL. As such a focus group of staff members was set up, with between 10-12 staff attending each meeting, during which discussions took place around what would go into the frameworks for assessment. The curriculum was looked at again based on discussions that had taken place.
- CD is ensuring EFL is in good working order and meets the needs of the school. She is also looking at the planning of the different subjects and what the priorities are for pupil learning and to make necessary changes. She is also looking at ACE targets (activities centred around pupils EHCP outcomes)
- There is a real focus on individual targets, like life skills, careers and communication, which is a big one. The different routes available (Semi/Formal) and appropriate qualifications will also be looked at.
- CD said that she would like for the learning in the Formal and Semi Formal curriculum routes to fit into one curriculum and put subjects into umbrella headings.
- CP said that Yewstock was a generic SEN school with a wide range of needs. He went on to say how this posed a challenge when ensuring the curriculum is all things to all pupils.
- CD is looking at pupil personal learning goals and went onto to explain that these were either from individual plans or set by teachers

Discussion took place with the following questions asked by board members

- **LR asked if the new curriculum was planned to be implemented as soon as possible, or would it be a gradual rolling out?**
- **PL asked if everything would be in place for January 2023?**
- **MM asked if the ACE targets were the ones teachers set or the ones on EHCPs? She went on to say that targets are often outdated.**
- **MH asked how compatible our Curriculum was with other schools and are other SEN schools using EFL?**

CC and CD concluded their update and CD left the meeting.

Report from the Curriculum Committee

MH informed the board that the committee had received a careers subject leader report from Oliver Turner in which OT referenced where Careers sat within the School Development Plan and covered the 8 key measures. He made the following points;

- OT is up to date with relevant training and CPD.
- Engagement with Talantino to access resources and to carry out a careers health check has been done to identify any gaps in provision.
- Whole school's careers week has been a great success and is planned again this year.
- Work Experience – this suffered during the pandemic and was not able to happen but it is back on track this year with placements being finalised.
- Provision for Complex Pupils.
- Careers advice – JR is working with the school. CP explained that careers provision which is a statutory requirement was cut by DC so Schools have to provide their own.
- Engaging stakeholders – OT has made good links with local businesses, colleges and providers.

- Benchmarking – SIMS has now been linked to Compass.

MH said there were no other agenda items and no policies to review.

Report from the FP&E Committee

PB informed the board that at the meeting held on the 28th of March, the following was discussed;

- The committee received and reviewed a premises report detailing work that had been carried out and work planned over the Easter holiday.
- Best Value with regards Absences Insurance was presented to the committee by Bryan Trim. He had managed to secure a quote which included TA's and Support Staff as well as existing Maternity covers.
- BT also gave the committee an update on the ICT upgrade (due to commence in the summer term) and information behind the decision making process on selecting a contractor.
- Budget - BT had had to make a number of assumptions around things like Teachers Pay and the Schools Supplementary Grant.
- There was only one policy that was ratified by the FGB and agreed to go through to FGB.

The Budget was agreed by the committee to go through to FGB in which all board members agreed that the Budget could be authorised and signed off.

Head teacher's Report to Governors

Attendance – CP said this will be a real Ofsted focus going forward. Current Yewstock attendance is at 85%. There has been a small number of long term absence due to anxiety around Covid. Normal attendance for Yewstock is between 92%-93% and CP is keen to return to this as soon as possible. Attendance rates across state schools is at 83%. CP went on to say that his aspirational target for attendance is 96%.

CKM, MM & CC meet regularly to monitor attendance.

Behaviour – There have been no notable incidents, such as those that have required exclusion or input from outside agencies.

Bullying & Racism Incidents - CP explained that Ofsted will want to know what action was taken in such cases. All incidents are recorded on My Concern including an follow up action.

Safeguarding – CP gave the following figures – out of 159;

- 1 is on a Child Protection Plan
- 10 have Child in Need Plans
- 9 are Looked After Children
- 8 are Post Looked After Children
- 83 (52.2%) are in receipt of Pupil Premium

CP said the PP figure is high but it does fund all the interventions at school.

Complaints – CP said there had been one complaint from a parent relating to a Safeguarding concern that was reported to the LA. This has now been resolved.

Staffing – The school has been unable to recruit a new Janitor, despite the change in hours.

Organisation – Current Covid regulations are that masks are no longer required in school. Staff and pupils who would prefer to carry on wearing them are able to do so. There is still a small amount of Lateral Flow testing supplies in school but it is not possible to obtain any more. Testing in school is no longer a requirement. Current government guidance around isolation is being followed. Staff will remain at home for 5 days if they are suffering symptoms of Covid, and its 3 days for pupils.

Training – During the 4th Inset Day (on the last day of term) the TADSS Conference took place online. The 5th and final Inset Day will be the last day of the summer term.

School Development Plan Update

CP informed the board that anything highlighted in Green had been achieved. CP has also resumed observations and monitoring of teaching and learning.

Despite the disruption caused by Covid, all the Year 11 pupils left having completed their expected qualifications and accreditations.

Governor Development Plan

PL briefed the plan and made the following points;

- Training – VB can assist in accessing training on the NGA site or Governor Services. PL himself, has some outstanding training that he will complete. It is vital that all Safeguarding training is completed as soon as possible and kept up to date.
- The Ofsted experience – CP suggested a presentation at the next FGB
- Governor committees and their terms of reference are reviewed and agreed each year. New Governor should attend both committee meetings to gain a better understanding of how the different committees work, but then must be allocated to a committee. This period of time to be allocated to a committee should not span two FGB Meetings.
- Training on harmful sexual behaviour – CC did a presentation on this to Governors at the Autumn 2 FGB. PL recommended achievements and completed areas are highlighted in green on the plan, to align with the approach with the SDP.
- Monitoring Cycles – These are agreed at the start of the year but have dropped off due to Covid restrictions. However, monitoring is starting to pick up again and should be a high priority for all Governors.
- Safeguarding Training – Discussion took place with a number of board members saying they felt training offered on the NGA was quite basic. PL suggested that Governor Services could conduct some in house training. CP said Governors were welcome to come in and attend the whole school safeguarding training on the September inset day.
- The Headteacher reports – PL said these were very detailed and is very content Governors at Yewstock are fully informed.
- Skills Matrix – The finance committee have completed this
- SEF – This is a yearly activity. Lyn Gadreau who has previously consulted on this said it was originally too long and quite “wooly”. Her recommendations have now been implemented.

LR Appointed for another term of office

LR was appointed for another term of office as a Co-Opted Governor as there were no other applications.

Policies

Finance, Personnell & Environment

Curriculum

Working From Home

None

Adopted

AOB

PR – Had made arrangments to come in to school to conduct his monitoring but the teacher had not arranged cover.

CP – Said he really appreciated Governor support, especially around monitoring and thanked them for giving up their time to complete it

PL – Thanked the board for their attendance and their input and questioning throughout the meeting.

Meeting closed at 6.48pm

Signed as a true copy..... Date.....