



Yewstock School



Full Governing Board Meeting

Monday 28th of November 2022

Meeting started at 5.01pm

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

Also present – Chris Chadwick

Clerk

Vanessa Burton

Apologies

Lucy Ross

Minutes of the last Meeting

PL confirmed that everyone had read the minutes and that there were no outstanding actions.

Agreed as a true copy and signed off

Academisation

- CP had previously hosted Managers from the Delta Academy Trust. CP will visit the Quay School in Poole in January. PL will also attend but requested that another Governor also put their name forward in case he was unable to make it due to work commitments.
- A TADSS Academy partnership was a possibility
- Links with Sherborne Trust also being investigated.

Discussion around academisation took place

Report from the Finance Committee

- BT has presented the budget to the committee which detailed a carry forward but with plans in place for spending it
- The school is in a good financial position this year but next year may be more challenging as will subsequent years.
- CP is meeting with Margaret Judd where it should be confirmed if schools will receive an additional 3% funding. This extra funding would be welcome but would be swallowed up by the increase in staff salaries.
- The committee received a premises report from the Site Manager in which they were informed that the Nurture Base was now complete. Solar panels were planned to be installed up at the college in December but still no firm date.

- PL said that all space at Yewstock should be maximised to accommodate additional pupils if needed.

Report from the Curriculum Committee

- The committee received a Subject Leader report from Claire Donohoe on PSHE. She gave an overview of a number of changes regarding implementing EFL and incorporating new elements onto the curriculum. It is believed that PSHE could be a deep dive subject for Ofsted. There is a good stock of PSHE resources which are being utilised around the school.
- Both CC and CD also gave the committee a Curriculum update. This is being continuously developed and the question of “what is held dear?” Consistently asked. ACE targets have been replaced with PLGs
- Upcoming Governor Monitoring were agreed
- CP had shown the committee destination data for pupils that had left that had shown that they had all gone on to further education which is a good reflection of the school and proves that the curriculum works
- All policies were ratified and it was agreed they could go forward to the next FGB.

SEF - Autumn 2022

- CP presented the updated SEF and explained that it was a live document. He went on to say that he had arranged for Richard House and Lynn Gadreux to meet with subject leaders in two groups in order to scrutinise their knowledge of the curriculum.
- There is a different perspective around gradings from Ofsted and CP said we would need to reconsider ours.
- Gradings are heavily influenced by Attendance and Safeguarding. Attendance at Yewstock is good at 92% but this might not be enough to secure an Outstanding grade.
- Alternative provision could also be questioned but CP said he was confident that the use of it in Yewstock was appropriate and evidenced to show this had prevented a permanent exclusion.
- CP will continue to update the SEF and will share with Governors.

School Development Plan Update

- Priority 1 – CP said there had been a great deal of Curriculum work and that the Subject Leader cluster groups had started and were working well. A brand-new curriculum document had been produced which was tweaked in the Summer and will be ready by Christmas. CP summarised that priority 1 objectives were on target.
- Priority 2 – CP said that Caroline Latimer (Lead for Maths) had done a very impressive job and all Primary teachers were now teaching the Maths Mastery programme. CL has also made good progress at implementing Maths interventions via the LRC.
- Priority 3 – English and Communication were working well and the Sign a long programme had been really successful, particularly with parents.
- Priority 4 – The Move Programme is being implemented and almost complete. Staff have received training and assessment and plans are in place for pupils. Jeni Pike (the Lead for Moving and Handling) has collected lots of evidence.

- Priority 5 – The Attachment Team have been established and have been allocated non-timetabled time to work
CP directed Governors to the last page of the SDP which detailed Budget information.

Governor Development Plan

- PL said a Finance Skills audit had been completed by the Finance Committee previously, but that it was important to understand the skill set of the whole board. If there are gaps then training can be sought.
- CP said doing a Skills Audit can seem a bit daunting but it's just about finding the gaps. He went on to say that a Safeguarding audit would be a good exercise as well as a more generic audit.

Pupil Progress

- Ofsted will want to see statutory data and CP can show evidence of progression in every key stage and by need.
- Children in receipt of Pupil Premium in each category (FSM, LAC, Service Child etc) make just as good progress as non PP Pupils and this is good to outstanding.
- This evidence gives plenty of data to identify gaps or highlight what is working well. Ofsted will want to know what is being done with the data produced.
- CC said that becoming a Level 1 Centre is being looked into and CP added that it was important for our pupils to be challenged but not to the point that it becomes detrimental. Ofsted will want evidence of how our pupils are being stretched.

What to Assess and When

CP directed the board to look at the handout on this and CC said that the point of it was to not stress and overload teachers and that if formed part of Staff Wellbeing. She went on to explain that the document was a guide to what should be assessed and that teachers who engage their TA's to assist was a successful model. The document covers all Key Stages. ***PL asked how had teachers taken to this (EFL)?*** CP said it was difficult at first but now that its been embedded, its working really well and he has received positive feedback from staff. They were also happy with CC's guide as they felt it gave clarity. ***SL agreed with this and said it gave her an understanding of the whole framework and how the dots connect. MH asked if some teachers make better use of EFL than others?*** CP said yes, but this is the case in a lot of schools. Discussion around this took place and CP added that good teachers make use of their TAs to support this process.

TA progression at Yewstock was also discussed and CP made the point that they were very well supported and many currently here had gone on to become teachers.

Accreditation 2022

CP said that all pupils had achieved expected levels of accreditation.

Head teacher's Report to Governors

Attendance – CP said that from last Easter to this term, attendance has returned to Pre Covid-rates of 92%. However, the target is to reach a rate of 94%. Individualised figures have been sent home to parents which is a new procedure. This has received a mixed response. CP said that Sally Yates Webber (the Inclusion Lead for North Dorset) advised that we should maintain the current figure but

aim to push forward. One pupil currently at Yewstock has a life limiting illness and has only been in attendance a handful of times since September.

Behaviour – This is guided by an individual approach and with input from a range of professionals. It is well supported and CP considers it to be outstanding.

Safeguarding – CP said that there is a large volume of concerns coming in daily but he is confident that they are all closed and actioned. **PL asked why such a large amount? Was it because there was better training or because there was a genuine rise in cases?** CC said recording concerns had been drummed into staff and was part of the culture at Yewstock. Discussion around this took place and CC said that all staff get full Safeguarding training, even if they start mid-term. They are not allowed in class with the pupils until it is complete. **SL said the cost of living crisis will increase the level of concerns.**

Staffing – CP said that we were not receiving as many applications for Teacher and TA posts. **SW asked if staffing levels were as they should be?** CP said currently, yes, but this may change.

CP concluded his Heads Report.

Monitoring

PL and MH have monitoring responsibilities this term.

Policies

Finance, Personnel & Environment

Attendance (staff)
Capability
Charging & Remissions
Data Protection
Financial Efficiency
Bursary Fund
Flexible Working
Single Equality

Grievance
Health & Safety
Initial TE/Training
Probationary
Register of Bus Ints
Retirement
Scheme for Financing Schools
Stress Management

Curriculum

Admissions
Allegations
Behaviour
Educational Visits
E-Safety
Exams
LAC
Intimate Care
Move

Learning Mentor
Link Gov Monitoring
Prevent
SEN
Nutritional Standards
Registration of Pupils
Sexting
SMSC
Supervision
Work Experience

All Adopted

Parent Governor Election

VB informed the board that there had been no response from the letter that was sent out regarding Parent nomination for Governor Role. MH had already agreed that he would do another term of office. **It was proposed that he be re-elected as Parent Governor. This was agreed unanimously by the board. Proposed by MM and seconded by PL.**

AOB

PB – asked if the IT problems had been resolved. CP confirmed that they had been. He went on to say that there had been 2 issues. One was caused by a cable that had been moved. The problem with the emails was an external one but was sorted quickly. CP also said that they had received a good response from Oakford Technology. ***MH asked if there was a fail-safe plan for the future in case of similar incidents.*** CP said a Business continuity plan is in place and that all data is backed up.

SW – asked when the pedestrian gate was going to be fixed and was the water meter checked, as discussed in the Finance meeting? PB said the water meter had not yet been checked. CP said he would chase up the pedestrian gate repair with Rich Hunt.

SW raised the issue of parking and said that there was adequate parking at the leisure centre for staff and that she was dismayed to see staff parking in front of the drop curb and on yellow zig zag lines. PL added that he had had 3 people approach him in town to complain about parking and taxi drivers.

CP said he would send out a reminder to staff about parking sensibly.

PL suggested that the board come up with some ideas for resolving the taxi/parking issue

Meeting closed at 6.37pm

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