



Yewstock School

Full Governing Board Meeting

27th of November 2023

Meeting started at 5.00pm

Clive Padgett, Pete Lagden, Peter Bush, Phil Ryall, Lucy Ross, Mark Hughes, Mandy Morgan, Sue Lauterwasser

Also present – Chris Chadwick, Jacqui Minton & Georgie Bottomley

Clerk

Vanessa Burton

Apologies

Seonaid Walton

Minutes of the last Meeting

No outstanding actions or comments

Agreed as a true copy and signed off.

Academisation

- No recent developments but CP has had contact from the Sherborne Area Trust and a visit from their director
- Sturminster Newton High School has now moved over to SAST.
- CP is continuing to make connections but will remain a part of TADSS.
- The deadline to academise remains 2030 but this may change with a change of government.

Report from the Finance Committee

- The committee met on the 6th of November but were not able to scrutinise the outturn as it has been delayed, this was due to the staff pay rises and factoring in the additional cost.
- The GMB Union had agreed a pay deal very late and it was not yet clear if County would support school with the pay increases.
- Work on the school premises has been carried out over the Summer and Half Term and the school site is looking very good – PB expressed his thanks to Richard Hunt (Site Manager) for all his hard work.

Report from the Curriculum Committee

MH informed the board that the committee had received 3 subject leader reports that were delivered by CP.

Science – Oliver Turner – This was a deep dive subject during Ofsted which came out very well. OT said in his report that it linked in very well with careers education and explained how the subject was taught to less able pupils.

Attachment – Josh Tun Pe – Detailed how the Nurture Base is taking effect. It also explained how pupils are prioritised. The committee discussed if it was good value for money, the impact it was having, the reduction of positive handling incidents.

Maths – Caroline Latimer – This was another deep dive subject for Ofsted and also came out very well and is being capably led by CL. The offer has been extended to include level 1 accreditations so that more able pupils can be stretched and challenged to reach their full potentials.

CC gave the committee a Curriculum update,

- Belonging and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion were discussed as well as the Initiative surrounding this from DC.
- The school had had a visit from Lyn Gadreau
- Mobile Phone use to support learning in school was discussed.
- Internet Filtering and an action plan on how this will be monitored going forward.

Governor Development Plan

- CP issued the training schedules for the Spring term. He went on to say that much more effort was being made to have targeted training on learning areas.
- Governors were welcome at any staff training but were encouraged in particular, to attend sessions related to their link areas. Learning walks should be arranged following the monitoring schedule and LG can support this.
- CP will send out key calendar dates to Governors and will ensure that Governors are kept up to date with events and activities going forward.
- There will be a new focus on Attendance strategy but CP would like a Governor for this. **PR kindly volunteered for this role.**

Accreditation & Destination

- It had been another really good year for accreditation and there are a wide range of subjects on offer at Yewstock. As well as traditional subjects, pupils are offered Duke of Edinburgh, Food Hygiene and Bike Ability qualifications etc. These all add up to useful accreditations for future work.
- more able pupils are now being offered higher level Maths and English qualifications.
- Pathways usually starts as early as Year 9 so that Parents and Pupils can prepare for the future. Yewstock takes a very proactive approach.
- Yewstock Leavers have gone to a variety of settings including Colleges and Employ my Ability.

Yewstock Professional Performance & Growth – Chosen Enquiry Questions 2023/2024

- CC - this was part of teachers PP&G and based around collaboration and research. Teachers choose an enquiry question that is linked to the school development plan. They could choose their own question as long as it also links to the SDP and has a focus on improving pupil outcomes.

CC gave out the list of all questions, divided into all the SDP Headings and said there was quite a range. Teachers that have questions that link can form little peer groups to look at research, CPD and do a presentation of their findings via a “show case” which will take place next year. CC went on to say that the process was to encourage professional curiosity.

Headteachers Report

- CP briefed that it had been a really good start for the new pupils.
- Pupils on Roll – There are currently 166 on roll but it is currently looking like there will be 175 in September.
- Attendance – CC, CP & MM meet regularly to monitor this and overall it is generally above average for a SEN school, and currently stands around 92%. CP said he would like to see this increase to 94%.

Safeguarding – CC presented the MyConcern Safeguarding Dashboard on screen and navigated through it. She explained how the general screen was broken down into categories such as;

- Sexually related concerns
- Bullying
- Onsite concerns

Following the Brooks traffic light training, these have been broken down into subcategories such as;

- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Peer on Peer abuse (now called Child on Child)
- Offsite concerns.

Staffing – CP said recruitment remains a challenge but two new TA’s have been appointed. There will be staff leaving at Christmas but currently the school is fully staffed.

Staff Training – Staff have received their annual Safeguarding training and Therapeutic Thinking training. PDR’s took place during the October Inset day and the TADSS Conference in the spring has been split, and Yewstock will be co-hosting.

School Development Plan – CP said this is progressing well

School Improvement Partners – Lyn Gadreau knows the school really well and was recently working with Subject leaders in preparation for Ofsted to give them experience of proper scrutiny. This paid dividends. Roz Carter-Jones and Hannah Coadsby-Smart will also be working closely with the school to scrutinise attendance and behaviour support.

School Self-Evaluation – This is updated termly and will be shared with Governors during the Spring FGB.

Interventions – The school employs Di Lewis, Jo Gilmore (SALT) and Rob Kirkwood (OT) which is supported under the current budget and will be again next year. The LRC has been re-branded and is now known as The Lighthouse. Tracey Witcher keeps a master spreadsheet of all pupils who are receiving interventions.

Alternative Provision – CP said that the school is not making as much use of this as in previous years, but home education for one pupil is currently being funded. This is centred around routines and health but progress is slow and it may be many months or even years before the young person will be able to return to school.

GDPR Breaches – None

Racial Incidents - None

Outreach – CP said that there were so many more pupils in Mainstream with Complex difficulties that require outreach services. As such the pressure is increasing to facilitate this. ***PL said he believed cuts in the High Needs Block funding will make this issue far worse.***

CP concluded his report.

Monitoring Planner

VB ran through this and the gaps due to Linda and Jeanette stepping down were reallocated. **VB will send out the updated planner to all.**

Policies

All were ratified at the committee meetings with the exception of Data Protection as there is still some work to do around this. There is also work to update the Allegations policy but for now the current one will continue to be used so that the school is not without one.

Finance, Personnel & Environment

Charging & Remissions
Scheme for Financing Schools
Grievance
Health & Safety
Register of Business Interests
Code of Conduct FSWP
Single Equality

Curriculum

Admissions
Allegations
CIC
E-Safety
Prevent
SEN
Sexting
Supervision
Work Experience

All Adopted

AOB

CP – will send out Christmas diary dates to all Governors

CC – Would like to make a date for a meeting with the Safeguarding Governors

Meeting closed at 6.15pm

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