

Newton Abbot College Local Academy Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21st September 2021 at 6 pm.

Present:

Christine Candlish [Appointed Governor]; Linda Caunter (Chair) [Appointed Governor]; Cathy Hooper [Parent Governor]; Marina North [Appointed Governor]; Amy Grashoff [Staff Governor - Headteacher]

Apologies: Emma Bone [Appointed Governor]; Sarah Wilkinson [Staff Governor]

1. Declaration of interests and recording of business interests

All present updated their Register of Business Interests. No specific interests declared for this meeting.

2. Election of Chair and Vice

Clerk advised that she had received one nomination for each office. The following was therefore unanimously agreed

- Chair - Linda Caunter
- Vice Chair - Marina North

LC welcomed everyone and thanked them all for their support.

Decision: LC and MN to continue as Chair and Vice Chair respectively

3. To agree Minutes of meetings held on 11th May and 21st June

Acceptance of these minutes was proposed by CH and seconded by MN and agreed by all present.

Decision

Minutes duly signed by chair as an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising from minutes of the last meeting

No matters arising.

5. To receive Principal's report

AGA reported a positive start to the term and staff all pleased to have things more normal. Face coverings continue to need to be worn in communal areas. Message relayed to students to return to positive working practices and reminder of high expectations - this is the main focus for this half term. College day back to 5 lessons - reminder to students about punctuality and transition from what became normal to what is normal.

- **Attendance** - overall nearly 95.73% first week. CC asked if absences are due to COVID. AGA replied that some are but change in governance guidance on registration marks means unsure at this point whether illness is COVID or not. There is a feeling that some families are still reluctant for children to return and support is being provided for them and any staff concerned with the full re-opening.
- **Safeguarding** training today - good job done by Student Support Team.

- Prefect team have run assemblies and also greet students on arrival at college. Two year group parent support evenings so far this year. Open evening next week with some adjustments being made for COVID measures. Open mornings will now change to 45-minute tours for restricted numbers of up to 10.
- **Summer Results** - paper tabled - positive picture with Progress 8 and reducing gap. The challenge is now to continue with this and achieve a similar set of results in Summer 2022. Exam Boards have still not provided information on how exams will be modified, but there have been some indications on how this might look. LC asked if students are aware that they should be working as if full exams. AGA confirmed this and that she has delivered this message in assemblies: Yr 10 taking Eng Lit exam this year. SLT to put support in place to help students (and their parents) - Year 11 will not have sat any mock exams in previous years, so no experience of sitting an exam and the revision work leading up to it.
- Also need to work similarly with younger year groups: Year 7s will not have undergone SATS. LC asked about assessments of Year 7s on entry to replace SAT information. AGA explained that data from primary schools has varied and there needs to be a coordinated approach to assessment this first half term to establish what level students are working at. This is needed to be able to set target grades for the students and teachers to work towards. Discussion around this.
- KS5 data also encouraging. Generally an upward picture. Number of students registering for Sixth Form is continuing to increase - it is felt that a lot of students delayed making a decision about their future learning until after results days. CC asked for the number of students and how many are external students. Also how many doing A Levels vs vocational course. **AGA to get this information towards end of October once registrations have settled.** CC asked about retaking Eng and/or Maths. AGA advised that any who do not achieve a Grade 4 have to re-sit and are provided lessons - explained about a handful of students who are registered here but full time at SDC and trying to sort out their mentoring and the delivery of retake lessons. CC asked what robust work is being done in Year 12 to ensure students are on correct course. AGA responded that the college's Academic Mentor and tutors work with them - they too have not sat an exam - and support is being discussed to ensure they succeed.
- LC asked if it is possible to make data comparisons with other schools. AGA advised that information has been shared within a confidential community of Devon schools and that the NAC data looks very positive within this group. Governors pleased to hear this. AGA added that Dawlish have also fared positively. Further discussion around the lack of exams; need for revision; revision for assessments; feedback; timing of mock exams; possible introduction of an assessment week in all year groups - reactions from staff re workload and curriculum time discussed
- AGA checked about format for future HT reports and this was discussed - written preferred in succinct form.
- CC asked about the CCTV situation in student toilets. AGA explained that the decision had been made before the summer and installation carried out over the summer break. PCO/AGA are conducting an internal review about the lack of communication in advance, and that this has had to be retrospective. There had been concerns raised about students feeling unsafe, vandalism, vaping, intimidation by large groups. AGA understands and supports the reasonings for the installation, but the communication issue is paramount, and the installation of dummy cameras in some single cubicle toilets does seem questionable - these have now been removed. The system the images sit on is very secure - AGA advised that she has viewed it and there are no shots of any students in uncompromising positions; she has asked for daily morning checks to ensure cameras have not been moved - some students were caught doing this. Initial feedback is that incidents of bullying and vandalism have been reduced. Unwanted attraction from press, 10-15

emails from parents about it, one of support, and AGA has responded individually to these by email or phone. Re-assured that only safeguard trained staff will check this information if a concern/report is received. CC commented that while she did not disagree with the decision to install she did feel that such a strategic decision should have involved governors and asked about Data Protection Impact Assessment report (DPIA) etc. AGA responded that this is what the investigation should unearth. Governors expressed surprise at the information that vandalism/bullying had been taking place as they had not previously been informed at all and were concerned regarding that transparency around this information and the decision-making has not been there. **AGA to bring findings of investigation to governors and the DPIA to the next meeting.** AGA has explained to students that the cameras in corridors have not helped aid management previously. CH asked about strategies to deal with vandalism. AGA advised that there will be sanctions - eg community service/payment towards repairs/exclusion.

Decision

AGA to provide data analysis on Sixth Form numbers

AGA to provide DPIA report and investigation outcome regarding camera installation

6. MAT update

Decision

Minutes from the last Trust Board meeting were noted

7. Policies

- a) Admissions policy 2022-23

Clerk advised that to date the draft policy annually prepared by Babcock as part of their service has not been received. Governors agreed to approval via email due to timescale for publication for consultation.

Decision

Policy to be circulated by Clerk clearly showing changes for governors to vote by email on approval.

8. Committees/Roles & Responsibilities

These were discussed and following changes/decisions agreed:

Decision

- Pay Committee - CC + MN
- Upcoming Fixed Term Exclusion appeal - CH/CC/MN

9. AOB

- a) Safeguarding training - Agreed to arrange for a Tuesday before half term.

After passing the necessary resolution the meeting passed into Part 2 which is minuted separately.

Signed Dated.....

L Caunter
Chair

The meeting commenced at 6 pm and finished at 7.30 pm
Date of next meeting: 16th November 2021

Chairs Initials Dated