



Helston Community College

Local Governing Body meeting

Thursday 28th February 2019 from 4.30pm

at MFL Block, HCC

1.	<p>PRESENT : Mr C Webb, Mr W Jenkins, Mr R Van der Lem, Mr B Drew, Mr D Reynolds, Mr G Vallender, Mr M Higgs, Mr C Leathley, Canon D Miller</p> <p>NOT PRESENT : Mr D Hearne, Prof P Foster, Mrs D Penberthy</p> <p>In Attendance: Mrs S Bayes (Clerk), Mr D McDonald, Mr D Lewis, Mrs P Laban, Mr D Pollard (Cornwall Enterprise Company), Mr T Sanders (Trustee)</p>	
2.	<p>APOLOGIES : Apologies were received and accepted from Mrs D Penberthy and Mr D Hearne</p>	
		ACTION
3.	<p><u>WELCOME AND DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS</u></p>	
	<p>Tony Sanders, one of the college's link trustees, introduced himself. The Chair welcomed him and Mr Pollard.</p> <p>There were no new business or pecuniary interests.</p>	
4.	<p><u>MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING ON THURSDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2018 AND MATTERS ARISING</u></p>	
	<p>The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate minute.</p> <p>WJe had sent out the information on the Gatsby benchmarks.</p>	
5.		
5.1	<p>Due to time constraints because of governor training later that evening, the agenda item order was changed.</p>	
5.2	<p>David Pollard, from the Cornwall Enterprise Company, showed a slide show on Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance. Since 2012 there has been no funding available for schools. Careers guidance aims to reach the Gatsby Benchmarks. Evidence shows that having professionals come into school is helpful and here two enterprise advisers come in to school regularly. <u>What is a stable careers programme?</u> One that is written down, evaluated and has feedback from teachers, parents and students. Two tools have been created; Compass to compare how the school is doing against the benchmarks and Tracker to track how students are doing at an individual level. At what age do you think you should start this? It used to start in Yr 9 but now from Yr 7. 'I love my job' talks in Yr 8 is proving to be successful. Careers education is becoming embedded at HCC. There is good collaboration throughout Cornwall sharing best practice.</p>	
5.3	<p>PLa – As a school, we are good at addressing the needs of each pupil. We are paying for an independent Careers4U advisor. We are providing lots of opportunities. Curriculum linking learning to careers is getting embedded – students don't always</p>	

	<p>know they are undertaking this learning. Evaluation has shown that Yr 11 need to encounter employers earlier in the year. In July Yr 10 will have a day out visiting various employers followed by a day of evaluation. We are now half way through the first year of the two year programme so this is still a work in progress but the collaboration with the careers hub has been very helpful. <u>There used to be a corner in the library for careers. What is different to that now?</u> Most of it is now online. A big challenge is how we communicate with parents and this is now being looked at. <u>Is there still a careers fair?</u> There hasn't been one for several years as students did not have the skills to use it properly. However, this year a select group will be going to the Cornwall Skills show. <u>Are we teaching them resilience?</u> This comes through in the curriculum and how we teach - you don't have to be perfect the first time, mistakes are learning opportunities. <u>Picking up on resilience, the culture of instant gratification seems to be prevalent. How do we get round this?</u> Broadening their horizons is a place to start.</p> <p>MHi joined the meeting.</p>	
6.	SELECTED TOPICS FROM STRUCTURED QUESTIONS	
6.1	<p><u>Safeguarding – D Lewis</u> <u>When was your most recent Trust Designated Safeguarding Officer visit?</u> Yesterday, from Richard Lawrence. Within the hubs the DSLs are on a round robin of visits acting as a critical friend to each other. Together they have produced a series of prompts to help with this which are useful for the day to day practicalities of safeguarding in school.</p>	
6.2	<p><u>What action has been taken on the council's feedback on the S157?</u> The council's feed back has been similar for the last 3 years: that there should be more depth in the answers. However, we are compliant and writing more in-depth answers does not help the school. In response to the action plan of the S157 the DSLs need to update their Tier 3 training but so far there has been no training available. Training for all staff had moved to a model of training in line with keeping children safe which addressed single agenda items such as FGM, but now there is a need for Tier 2 general training. Governors were welcome to view the PowerPoint slides. A key action identified for this year is an audit from the LA of our SCR. There was discussion on whether anyone coming in as a council employee is covered by the council letter of assurance. DLe will check this.</p> <p>Action: DLe to check that all Council employees are covered by the Council's letter of assurance</p>	DLe
6.3	<p><u>Does safer recruitment need to be updated?</u> On the S157 there is a list of who is current. There is no actual rule of when it should be updated but it is usually about every 5 years. WJe, PMa and AAt have received training recently.</p>	
6.4	<p>MyConcern has been very useful but we are now averaging 90 referrals a month. There has been a visible peak in referrals after training. <u>Are people expressing concerns about the same children?</u> We are not getting many multiple referrals but usually a child will disclose to one member of staff. However, 90 a month probably doesn't reflect 90 incidents. When we log an incident it is assigned to a category linked to that problem. Top this year is anxiety, followed by home issues, mental health, emotional health, and self harm. Mental health issues are now very prevalent. <u>How effective is our triaging? Do we have the capacity to deal with this number of concerns?</u> We prioritise by risk of harm. The more the students talk the better we are doing as they feel safe talking to us. Yes, we are managing those serious concerns well but we are struggling with the lower level due to staffing demands. <u>Is this something that should be addressed by the MAT or</u></p>	

6.5	<p><u>should the governors be looking at how they can support?</u> The Trustee will take this to the Trustees meeting.</p> <p>On CAHMS advice, the FLZ is now not being used as a time out space. Other spaces have been identified.</p> <p>Governors thought that Keeping Children Safe should be looked at more closely. MHi and CWe agreed to look at this and to meet together before meeting staff to decide on their focus. <u>What is the gender split?</u> At the high end mental health all girls but one. Self harm is 85% girls. Academic aspiration and social media are factors here. <u>Are there are any thoughts about banning mobile phones?</u> This will be one of the first things to be raised at the Forum. <u>Is there advice for parents?</u> Yes, but it is not particularly helpful.</p> <p>RVa, GVa, DMi left for the Ofsted training.</p> <p>Due to time constraints, Behaviour, Attendance and Wellbeing would be deferred to the next meeting but DMc would distribute his report.</p> <p>Action: MHi/CWe to meet to discuss reviewing Keeping Children Safe</p> <p>Action: DMc to distribute the Behaviour, Attendance and Wellbeing report</p>	<p>MHi/CWe</p> <p>DMc</p>
6.6	<p><u>Budget</u></p> <p>Salary expenditure was about 8% above what it should be. Key factors on how income is calculated are student numbers and deprivation. Decrease of P16 numbers and basic funding for the students has dropped. Numbers pre-16 have also dropped, having a financial impact. Deprivation appears to have increased in Helston over the past 5 years but this is not shown in the funding. <u>What are numbers like for the forthcoming years?</u> Around 220 – fairly static. <u>(A further update from County Hall following the meeting suggests that we may get above 230+ in future years.)</u></p> <p>Further hikes in pension contributions are inevitable. We will try to reduce expenditure by not replacing staff who are leaving. <u>Are you confident that the level of teaching will be high enough?</u> Yes, but there will less additional support available. <u>Do you know what the top-slice contribution we are paying to the MAT is used for?</u> The Head has asked this and is awaiting a reply. There was discussion on whether the lack of interventions in English and Maths would have an impact. The new build could have a saving on energy costs but this would be minimal compared to staffing costs.</p> <p>There was discussion on how the funding was allocated through the MAT and that governors should be aware of the three year plan. Clarification is needed between the central team and the staff in the schools who are making the spending decisions. <u>What is the 3 year plan and what do the Trustees consider to be the way forward?</u> Governors were concerned that there did not seem to be a strategy. <u>Have you had any support in preparing your budget?</u> The Head had discussions with the CEO.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Head for his work on this.</p> <p>Action: TS, the Trustee, would take the governors' concerns to the Trust board.</p>	<p>TS</p>
10.	<p><u>URGENT MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION</u></p>	
	<p>Foreign Educational Visits - PLa gave governors details of 3 approaching trips.</p>	

	<p>Ski trip to Italy at Easter – approved by Cornwall Outdoors. Approved by governors.</p> <p>Clive King to take jazz orchestra to France for one week in July. Approved by governors.</p> <p>S Barnes organising to take between 4 and 6 students to Brittany at May half term with Cornwall Marine. Approved by governors.</p> <p>The Chair endorsed the approvals but would like to see the final paperwork for each trip.</p> <p>Action: PLa to pass on final trip paperwork for foreign educational visits to Chair</p> <p><u>Are Structured Conversations taking place this term?</u> They have taken place but happened at short notice. Governors will be invited to the next round.</p>	PLa/CWe
11.	<u>MATTERS TO BE RAISED WITH THE TRUST BOARD</u>	
	<p>Governors had not seen a recent newsletter from CEO.</p> <p>Action: WJe to ask MAT office about the newsletter.</p> <p>Action: TS will take governors’ concerns regarding the budget to the Board (see item 6.6)</p>	WJe TS
12.	<u>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</u>	
	The date of the next meeting was to be confirmed.	

The meeting closed at 7.10pm

Chair’s Signature _____ Date _____