

**Meeting of Student Experience and Outcomes Committee
10th March 2014
School Library
4.30pm**

MINUTES

Governor Members Present: Emma Farrell, Alison Frost, Jeremy Holtom, Jennifer John (Chair), Rosamond Lomax.

Officers Present: Teresa Carter (Clerk)

In Attendance: Chris Lee, Sue Middleton, Paul Watson

<u>Agenda items</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	
<p>1 Introductions</p> <p>a) Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence received from Richard Bradford.</p> <p>b) Declarations of Interest None</p> <p>c) Review of Agenda and Requests for Any Other Business Item 3b was moved to before 2a, the minutes have been recorded in original agenda</p>	
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<p>2 Last meeting Dated 27th November 2013</p> <p>a) Approval of Minutes The Student Experience and Outcomes Committee reviewed and approved three pages of minutes subject to one alteration regarding the time of departure of an attendee. The Chair signed the minutes as confirmation of their accuracy.</p> <p>b) Matters Arising Not Included Elsewhere on Agenda None</p>	
3	
<p>3 Main Strategic Items</p> <p>a) Special Educational Needs (SEN) Update The Chair introduced this item by advising that a document had been published across the Local Authority regards the delivery of service to children with autism and that as a result Governors had requested an update on what plans the school would be putting into place. Paul Watson, special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO) presented on behalf of the school. Governors were advised of the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Authority had been one of 30 pathfinders for government proposed changes to SEN provision and in this role had decided that autism would be an area for particular focus. • Currently the school's cohort of students diagnosed with autism was eighteen and included girls as well as boys. Four of these students had a statement for high level needs. This represented 1.4% of the total student cohort and was statistically double the percentage across the city. • A scrutiny panel had identified that schools needed more support from the Autistic Services Centre (ASC) in providing to students with autism as they present the condition in a wide range of ways, which require individualised plans. Current support totalled six days a 	

Signature.....Date.....

year.

- The school was under pressure to provide the potential level of support required for the students and a four further students with the condition were expected from September. The school were in agreement with the Local Authority proposals but required help both professionally and financially to provide the full range of support necessary. Examples of the daily challenges facing staff and the types of personalised learning in place were provided.

In response to questions from Governors the following information was provided:

- Peer groups had been run to raise understanding of the challenges faced by students with a range of special needs. This was something that the school would like to expand on, as it was likely that the schools profile of SEN would shortly change significantly.
- Parents were very supportive and in addition to current forums a SEN parent forum was something under consideration to put parents at the heart of the schools planning process.
- Accessibility around the school was another area that presented challenges for delivery to students with physical disabilities who might in the future choose Dorothy Stringer as heir preferred school.
- Voluntary inset training had been offered to all staff.
- The schools local offer for SEN had been submitted but was yet to be published by the Local authority.
- Schools were working in cluster groups in the city and transition of children with SEN was an area that could be part of this partnership work. A vulnerability index had been developed at Dorothy Stringer and rolled out to other schools.
- The learning gateway was being looked at as a potential tool for providing a clear indication to teachers of the profile of needs of any particular class or group of children.

In conclusion Governors were reassured that the school were doing everything possible to prepare for changes in SEN provision.

5.40pm - Paul Watson left the meeting

b) Student Voice

A group of four students were welcomed to the meeting and invited to talk about the junior leadership team's (JLT) activities and responsibilities. Governors were advised that the JLT membership included two representatives from each form who reported to a year leadership group who in turn liaised with the senior leadership team (SLT). Each student was able to report any concerns to the SLT via their form representative or through a JLT surgery, which was run on a Friday in the training room. The JLT had appointed a Chair and Vice Chair and had set up a committee structure for focussed discussion on particular issues. These eight committees were as follows:

- Upper school
- School investment
- Rewards and sanctions
- School uniform
- Charity
- Social, moral, spiritual and cultural
- Canteen
- Bullying

Governors were impressed with the number of initiatives that students were involved in and the clarity of vision. They asked a number of questions to which the following information was provided:

- The JLT was a replacement for the previous student parliament where the numbers of meeting attendees had prohibited discussion. The JLT was more focussed on active involvement and getting things done.
- A presentation to students on the JLT had been given at assembly but there were still some work to be done to raise awareness.
- Arrangements would be made for elections in summer to appoint officers for the following year.

4.56pm - The students were thanked for their contribution and left the meeting with Sue Middleton.

Discussion followed about other student voice initiatives. Governors heard how staff were being encouraged to get feedback from students by the use of end of lesson questionnaires and feedback to improve their own practice. Plans for a survey linked to the Ofsted inspection findings was also underway.

4 Other Governance and Regular Items

a) Student Progress

A verbal report on student progress was provided with full data to follow at the Full Governing Body meeting. The following points were noted and discussed:

- Latest data collection showed that 67.2% year 11 students were on track to achieve 5 GCSEs at grade A* - C which was significantly below the end year target of 77%. A number of initiatives had therefore been put in place including booster after school sessions, university revision days, Saturday revision sessions and allocation of individual mentors. The option to retake controlled assessments was also available for some students.
- It was reported that staff at Varndean College had been impressed with the students from Dorothy Stringer who had applied to the college and attended interviews in February.

b) Safeguarding Update

No incidents to report but there was a possibility of a serious case review of an earlier reported incident.

Safeguarding training had been provided to heads of department on 4th March with a whole school update was scheduled for 1st April after school. Governors were invited to attend the update session.

Site security had been raised as an issue by Ofsted inspectors due to the open nature of the school site. Governors discussed how some used the site as a short cut but it was felt that closing off the site would be both cost prohibitive and create an environment, which was against the school's ethos of being a community facility. Governors suggested training for staff and students to raise the awareness of risk and how to report suspicions.

5 Policies and Other Documents for Review/Approval

a) Child Protection Policy (Statutory Policy)

The child protection policy was reviewed and other than an update of the named individuals required no amendment.

ACTION - Update to child protection policy to include the names of the current individuals with safeguarding responsibility. TC

b) Behaviour Principles Written Statement (Statutory Document)

The Clerk advised of the requirement for the Governing Body to produce and review a written statement of general behaviour principles. It was thought that these were included within the schools behaviour policy already and could be extracted and copied into a separate document to meet the statutory requirement.

ACTION - Clerk to produce a draft written statement on behaviour principles using the current behaviour policy, to be presented to the Governing Body for consideration. TC

6 **Consent Agenda Items**
None

7 **Any Other Business**

a) Mental Health Impact on Students

The committee discussed the support that could be put in place to alleviate the problems that students' experience through their own or family members mental health. In addition to the counselling service that was available sessions on mindfulness and assemblies with representatives from MIND were suggested.

ACTION - Further research to be carried out into mental health issues and support with the outcomes and recommendation reported to the Full Governing Body for consideration. JJ

End of meeting - 6.21pm
Date of next meeting - 24th June 2014

Actions Arising from the Student, Experience and Outcomes Committee 10th March 2014

Actions Agreed	By Who	By When
Update to child protection policy to include the names of the current individuals with safeguarding responsibility.	TC	End of term
Clerk to produce a draft written statement on behaviour principles using the current behaviour policy, to be presented to the Governing Body for consideration.	TC	Next committee Meeting
Further research to be carried out into mental health issues and support with the outcomes and recommendation reported to the Full Governing Body for consideration.	JJ	Next committee meeting