



**Mission Statement:** *Inspiring learning, developing character, building futures*

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS BOARD**

**Date:** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017  
**Venue:** The Blackpool Sixth Form College  
**Room:** Committee Room  
**Time:** 5.30-6.35pm

**Present:** Dr P Anderton (Chair)  
Mr J Boyle  
Ms J Gray (Principal)  
Cllr Don Clapham  
Ms W Middlemas  
Ms D Taaffe  
Mr M Waterhouse  
Mr N Webster  
Ms V Blakeman

**Together with:** Ms E Bellamy (Assistant Principal: Academic)  
Ms T Cooper (Assistant Principal: Vocational)  
Ms S Hawitt (FCAT: Governance Administrator)

**Apologies:** Mr J Corry, Mr G Curry, Ms J Trembles, Ms M Wakefield  
and Ms T Choudhury

		<b>Action</b>
<b>01.2017</b>	<b>Preliminaries</b> The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Victoria Blakeman her first official meeting of the Standards Board.  Apologies were noted	
<b>02.2017</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> There were no declarations of interest	
<b>03.2017</b>	<b>Consideration of any items of urgent business.</b> There were no items of urgent business to discuss	
<b>04.2017</b>	<b>Confirmation of Quoracy</b> It was noted that the meeting was quorate	
<b>05.2017</b>	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016</b> The minutes of the meeting held on 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2017 were approved.	
<b>06.2017</b>	<b>Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda</b>	

- a) **Retention and Attendance Report**-(item 78.2016 from the previous minutes) confirmation abbreviations will be written in full in future reports at least once and actual numbers are presented within the report alongside percentage points.
- b) **Teaching, Learning and Assessment, progress against Minimum Target Grade (MTG)** -(item 80.2016 from the previous minutes) confirmation the assessment process and the effect on students achieving high standards who are finding it difficult to achieve a green rating for minimum target grade (MTG) has been explored further.
- c) **Equality and Diversity Report** –(item 80.2016 from the previous minutes) confirmation the term ‘highlights’ will be changed to key points and the number of students involved in the data will be included in future reports.

The Chair thanked SLT for presenting high standard reports and making the minimal changes that were required to improve the overall standard of reporting which is already to a high standard.

## 07.2017 **Teaching, learning and assessment**

Directors received and considered the Mid-Year Progress Report to MTG by qualification (paper 7.1) presented by the Assistant Principals: Academic and Vocational. (AP)

Directors were informed that the new linear reformed A Level data has been separated. Year 1 and Year 2 refer to the new reformed qualifications, whereas AS and A2 are the subjects which are still modular. They will all be reformed by September 2017 which will allow for a more accurate comparison of data moving forward.

Discussions with SLT and student focus groups had taken place regarding the assessment process for MTG. It was noted that Pastoral Mentors have discussed the MTG grades with students to re-iterate that an amber rating is good and a green rating is exceptional. It was noted that targets are set high in order to be aspirational and support the students to become more resilient for the future.

The AP: Academic explained that progress in A Level year 1 is below target although as this is a two year course this is still an early prediction and the final standard has not yet been established by the examination boards. Level 2 is also still under target, although this has improved by 3.7pp since October predictions and our target setting is significantly above national benchmarks.

It should also be noted as a concern the relatively low prediction of 66.2% for the AS qualification for which there are 466 entries.

There has also been a decline in academic performance which may be partly explained by the fact that these departments have been impacted most by curriculum reform with very large percentage of each of them having linear qualifications.

Directors were assured that effective intervention strategies are in place to support improvements and ensure staff are skilled and confident in the new qualifications.

### **Questions from Directors**

Directors thanked the Assistant Principals for the high quality report and acknowledged the risk regarding predicted grades due to lack of benchmarking and final standards not yet being established by examination boards.

It was noted that the college are involved with moderation across different colleges as part of the Local North West Group. Directors asked for input/outcome of this to be presented at the next Standards Board meeting

SLT

Asked about removing the target of sustaining 75% it was noted that targets have been set using previous examples, Directors were informed that these are very ambitious targets under the new system.

Asked about the analysis by qualification type Directors asked if a percentage alongside the actual number could be added to the report in column 2

SLT

It was noted that the first key assessment will be extended beyond October in the next academic year to allow students more time to settle into college and for staff to get to know them better.

In response to a question about English, it was noted that there is no particular concern about English, it was highlighted that the department has some relatively less experienced teachers, however Directors were assured that SLT have strategies in place that will help make a difference and support staff through the changes. Such as, ongoing internal CPD, sharing of resources and moderating work with Runshaw College.

It was noted that this is the last meeting for Estelle Bellamy as Assistant Principal: Academic she will take on her new role as Assistant Principal: Fylde Coast Academy trust (FCAT), Directors thanked her for her commitment and wished her well in her new role.

In response to a question about Raise Online which is now available for sixth form colleges, it was agreed to deliver training for Directors at the next Standards Board meeting.

SLT

Directors noted the exceptional report including the analysis by department. The challenge by Directors was also noted and the response by SLT.

*Estelle Bellamy and Tina Cooper left the meeting*

## **08.2017 Residential Conference Feedback**

Directors considered the feedback from the Directors' Residential Conference in February 2017 (paper 8.1) it was noted that the relationship between the college and local employers had strengthened as a result of the stakeholder conversations. Employers are keen to attend college events which will be in the form of subject hubs.

A concern regarding the feedback from students wanting to leave the Fylde Coast after their studies was discussed. It was noted that the college need to strengthen their knowledge on apprenticeships in order to market themselves as a higher level apprenticeship provider and encourage students to work on the Fylde Coast.

As a result of the conference it was noted that contact had been made with BAE systems who are going to provide training for key staff about the right route to take and how to market the product. Directors requested an invite to the training to help promote links with employers. It was also noted that there was very good feedback from staff conversations, the Principal shared the feed-back with all staff in a 'you said' 'we did' item as part of the briefing.

SLT

A discussion followed about the model for the whole two days and whether the time is used as effectively as it could be. It was noted that the programme changes slightly each year taking into account feedback from previous years. It was also noted that there needs to be a balance between commitment and content and the time needs to be managed efficiently.

Suggestions included:

- moving some of the training from day two to a Standards Board meeting giving more time for reflection of the Directors Self-Assessment
- Developing a shared Google form to record feedback saving time on verbal feedback on the day.

It was agreed any changes in planning the conference 2018 will be discussed at Search and Governance meeting

S&G

**09.2017 Directors Succession Planning**

Directors considered the draft succession planning document (paper 9.1) and approved it with slight amendments including adding columns 'end of term of office', 'resignation date' and a column for the Blackpool Sixth Safeguarding representative which the Clerk agreed to make. Directors considered and approved the draft succession planning database with a view to it being documented as an Excel worksheet which the Clerk agreed to change. It was noted that work still needs to be done in recruiting potential Directors to the Board by all members.

Clerk

Clerk

Directors

**10.2017 Identification of any new risks**

The lack of teachers experience in assessment of MTG  
Under achieving subjects

**11.2017 Date and Time of next meeting**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_