



**MINUTES OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE (62)
OF THE CORPORATION OF BLACKPOOL SIXTH FORM COLLEGE**

Date: Tuesday 14th June 2011
Venue: Sixth Form College
Room: Committee Room
Time: 1700hrs - 1820hrs

Present: Mr R Weaver (Chair)
Mr S Brennand
Cllr. D Clapham
Ms K Edwards
Mr A Goodinson
Ms F Greeves
Dr A Mohan
Dr D Sanders

Mr J Boyle (Observer)
Ms K Kirkwood (Deputy Principal)
Mrs JA Trainor (Assistant Clerk to the Corporation)
Dr J Burgess (Clerk to the Corporation)

		Action
18.2011	Apologies for Absence Ms K Talboys and Mr G Curry	
19.2011	Declaration of Interest None.	
20.2011	Consideration of any items of urgent business None.	
21.2011	Minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2011. <i>(Paper A)</i> 21.2011 D1 Resolved: that the Minutes be approved.	
22.2011	Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 15th March 2011 <i>7.2011 Early Leavers and Persistent Absentees Report</i> <i>(Paper B)</i> The Principal observed that attendance statistics over the last three months had seen a positive increase in all departments. College Managers were determined to drive this improvement into the next academic year, despite facing the challenge of the loss of Educational Maintenance Allowances. It was anticipated that a more normalized timetabled, following the Phase 3 construction work, would help matters.	

The Principal noted that as school's attendance statistics have also been improving, and with OFSTED considering a 93% overall attendance is "Good", then the College is focussed to make this a key goal in the next year. She assured Governors that the General Studies attendance figures would improve following the selection process now in place. Governors echoed the importance of maintaining high attendance.

22.2011 D1 Resolved: that the **3-month Report on Student Attendance** be received.

23.2011 Mid-year Review of the Strategic Development Plan 2010 / 2011
(Papers C & C1)

The Deputy Principal introduced the annotated Mid-Year Review, which had been used as the basis to monitor the performance of all managers. Following the AS Examination results in March 2011, there had been a re-alignment of resources to address identified areas for improvement. It was likely that the College would be reducing the range of targets in subsequent years to facilitate a more detailed focus.

Governors sought clarification on a number of the progress notes and questioned the areas designated "red" – not yet achieved. They were assured that either managers were continuing to achieve the targets, (as in student attendance, costing of personal tutorials and securing Advanced Teachers to lead on projects & courses), or had reappraised the need, as for example in the target regarding delivering an integrated QCF curriculum.

Overall, Governors were impressed with the achievements reported and congratulated the College on the cost efficiencies in staffing. They also scrutinized the Comparative Student Numbers and Retention Report May 2011 and noted the positive improvements.

23.2011 D1 Resolved: that the **Mid-year Review of the Strategic Development Plan 2010 / 2011 and the Comparative Student Numbers and Retention Report May 2011** be received.

24.2011 Inspection of Provision Report on Sport and Media
(Paper D)

This second report of the new style of internal inspection of teaching areas covered two subject areas in which concerns had been raised. Governors voiced serious questions about the lesson observation grades that indicated that many were good in theory but weak in practice. The Deputy Principal concurred by stating that a number of lessons were very teacher led, lacking differentiation and on occasions somewhat superficial. Action had now been initiated to introduce more stretch and challenge into teaching sessions and address the other areas for improvement identified.

24.2011 D1 Resolved: that the **Inspection of Provision Report on Sport and Media** be received.

25.2011	<p>Career Academy Quality Assurance Report 2011 (Paper E)</p> <p>The Principal introduced this first and very successful external review of the College's first cohort of students going through the structured process of developing employability skills. The problems of securing paid internships, particularly in the public sector, were significant. However, overall, the provision is seen as a major success story in helping students acquire strong, relevant and contemporary employability skills.</p> <p>25.2011 D1 Resolved: that the Career Academy Quality Assurance Report 2011 be received.</p>
26.2011	<p>Staff Development Report (Paper F)</p> <p>The Deputy Principal tabled a short report on the present arrangements and future plans for delivering staff development opportunities to both teaching and support staff. The strengths and limitations of the bite-sized programme, which involves an extensive menu of one-hour inputs, were identified. In the coming academic year, formal links have been established to facilitate accreditation of a number of the College's internal staff development opportunities to elements of a Masters degree in Education offered at Edge Hill University. In addition, Kagan Communication will be featured in the first of the College's staff development conferences in August 2011.</p> <p>Governors welcomed the developments and the Chair commented on the very significant progress achieved in this area over recent years. The Principal noted that she was very hopeful that the Teaching Schools bid would be successful and would lead to a number of important strategic developments.</p> <p>26.2011 D1 Resolved: that Staff Development Report be received.</p>
27.2011	<p>The Times Best Companies Report 2011 (Paper G)</p> <p>Governors were particularly interested to review the outcome of the College's performance in the Times 2011 Best Companies Employees Survey, which secured a 65.7% response rate in comparison to the 56.1% response rate in 2010. Overall, the College's score improved from 616.6 last year to 636.5 in 2011, with 659.5 being needed to achieve a Grade 1* Accreditation. College managers were now focused upon improving results from three of the lowest scoring areas, namely Wellbeing, Giving Something Back and My Manager.</p> <p>27.2011 D1 Resolved: that The Times Best Companies Report 2011 be received.</p>
28.2011	<p>Equality Policy 2011 (Papers H)</p> <p>This Policy has been updated to reflect recent changes in legislation and links to the College's seven core values. Governors believed the revised and updated Policy was sound and proactive.</p>

	28.2011 D1 Resolved: that the Equality Policy 2011 be received.	Action
29.2011	Any other business None	
30.2011	Estimation of Risk Governors noted the critical imperative of sustaining the improvement in Student Attendance rates. They also highlighted the concerns raised in the Sport and Media Inspection Report and urged Senior Managers to be vigilant in monitoring this area.	
31.2011	Date of next meeting The next meeting of the Committee was confirmed as Tuesday 4th October 2011 @1715hrs. The Chair thanked members for their support, attendance and contributions and closed the meeting.	Members Note

Signed:.....

Name:.....

Date:.....