



**MINUTES OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE (59)
OF THE CORPORATION OF BLACKPOOL SIXTH FORM COLLEGE**

Date: Tuesday 28th September 2010
Venue: Sixth Form College
Room: Committee Room
Time: 1700hrs - 1855hrs

Present: Mr G Curry (Chair)
Ms K Edwards
Mr A Goodinson
Ms F Greeves
Dr A Mohan
Ms K Talboys

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

*In the absence of the Vice-Chair, Mr Curry was elected to Chair the meeting.
He extended a very warm welcome to Ms Katie Edwards, the newly elected
Student Governor.*

Action

34.2010 Apologies for Absence

Dr D Sanders & Mr R Weaver. Cllr. D Clapham did not attend.

35.2010 Declaration of Interest

None.

36.2010 Consideration of any items of urgent business

None.

37.2010 Minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2010.

(Paper A)

37.2010 D1 Resolved: that the Minutes be approved.

38.2010 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 15th June 2010

21.2010 Re-branding the College

The Principal confirmed that the new brand image was now fully launched and the new logo had been adopted successfully throughout the College.

24.2010 Lesson Observations

It was noted that the College is actively looking at involving students in its Lesson Observation process.

29.2010 Annual Strategic Development Plan 2010 – 2011

The final printed version in the new brand colours was distributed to Governors.

Clerk
To action

39.2010 Examination Results – 2010*(Paper B)*

The Principal provided a succinct overview of the key messages from this year's examination results. She highlighted:

- That overall pass rates at AS & A2 were as last year
- However, there was a significant increase in high grades achieved
- BTEC pass rates mirrored the very good achievement of last year with an impressive improvement in high grade results
- Value added results for A2 & BTEC provision had significantly improved to a 2, although the AS had slipped again.
- A drop in retention rates
- A 2.5% increase in overall success rates (although this was 2% down when key skills were excluded).

The drag effect of the General Studies results was a concern, and although the College believed that students derived considerable benefits from studying the subject, its impact on the results needed to be addressed. Currently, diagnostic testing is ongoing to assess the optimum time to sit the examinations or consider moves to alternative study routes such as Critical Thinking, where there are now five groups established.

Governors questioned the decline in student retention. The Principal believed that staff had committed considerable efforts to raising achievement rates, but in the process had neglected to provide a strong enough focus to retaining all students. A more coherent approach was being developed this year aiming to achieve a more balanced strategy.

The outstanding results in a range of Arts subjects were applauded by Governors, who were also keenly interested in the strategies to improve the results in some of the sciences, maths and geography. The numbers of students classified as "u" was a concern and the Principal explained that a detailed review of each individual failed student was being undertaken by tutors to produce action plans to minimise the risk of similar results in 2011.

Assurances were provided to Governors, from both the management and student representative, that the present high numbers of students on campus and Phase 3 re-development was not creating any significant problems, as the noise levels were well managed and only occasionally did students feel somewhat squashed.

Governors were impressed with the detailed analysis that had been provided for them and expressed their thanks to the Director of Teaching & Learning.

39.2010 D1 Resolved: that the **Analysis of Examination Results – 2010** be received.

40.2010 Student Attendance Report 2009 - 2010

(Paper C)

The Principal reported that student attendance was routinely measured and systematically monitored at each teaching session. The College was committed to driving up average attendance to 93%. During last year there had been a slight increase over the previous year, despite a number of environmental challenges, including heavy snow and volcanic ash. Governors noted the areas of improvement and again endorsed the College Policy of no holidays for students during term-time, unless on compassionate grounds. It was disappointing to learn, that despite the increased publicity given to this rule, a small number of students and parents were seeking to disregard this requirement.

40.2010 D1 Resolved: that the **Student Attendance Report 2009 - 2010** be received.

41.2010 Summary Report of Compliments and Complaints 2009 - 2010

(Paper D)

Governors reviewed in some detail the Compliments and Complaints Summaries and questioned the Deputy Principal on a number of the issues. They were pleased to note that all the complaints had been resolved within the designated timescales and that a number of improvement strategies and staff development initiatives have resulted from the reported incidents.

41.2010 D1 Resolved: that the **Summary Report of Compliments and Complaints 2009 - 2010** be received.

42.2010 Strategic Review Group

(Paper E)

Governors considered the minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Strategic Review Group, which had been established after discussions at the July meeting of the Corporation following the general election result.

Mr Boyle reported that it had been a good initial meeting, which had provided some sound thinking about the overall positioning of the College, given the uncertainties in the new Coalition Government's Educational Policy and the impending cutbacks in the October public spending settlements.

The Principal added that the Senior Management Team had reviewed the outcomes of the meeting in detail and the Management Forum would be doing the same shortly. The College's Marketing Team had been strengthened and an enhanced Marketing Plan was under development.

A proactive approach to brief and inform local MPs on a range of issues relating to the achievements of the Sixth Forms and specific current concerns was underway.

42.2010 D1 Resolved: that minutes of the **Strategic Review Group held on the 6th September 2010** be received.

43.2010 Quality Improvement Plan 2010 – 2011

The Deputy Principal advised that revised and updated guidance of the annual Self-Assessment Process was being circulated within the College. Detailed review / validation meetings were scheduled for 6th and 7th December for Curriculum areas and the 8th December for Business Support areas to which Governors were invited.

44.2010 National Challenge Trust – Progress Update

The Principal reported on the progress achieved at Collegiate High School. A dramatic 18% increase in GCSE results (A* - C) had been achieved this year and governance arrangements were now well established. A number of major challenges remained, not least to remove the OFSTED notice to improve, increase student numbers and assisting in mentoring teachers on specific subjects and on behaviour management.

Whilst the collaboration was progressing well, the issue of future funding for the support was being actively explored.

45.2010 Report on committee performance indicators 2009 - 2010

(Paper G)

Governors reviewed the outcomes and activities of the previous year against the Committee's key responsibilities and agreed that the same PIs be adopted for 2010 – 2011.

45.2010 D1 Resolved: that the **Report on committee performance indicators 2009 – 2010** be approved.

45.2010 D2 Resolved: that the same **committee performance indicators for 2010 – 2011** be adopted

46.2010 Any other business

a) Catering – given the late scheduling of the meeting, Governors requested a more substantial level of refreshments to include a range of sandwiches and fresh fruit.

b) Shared Services – The Principal advised that the College was working with the Lancashire Principals' Group to review shared services with the aim of improving economies and efficiencies.

47.2010 Estimation of Risk

The meeting reflected on the items discussed and observed that, in the light of the national, regional and local political uncertainties and the very significant financial funding questions, the College's Academic Performance, Marketing Plans and Funding Streams were at risk due to the problems of managing somewhat in the unknown.

48.2010 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee was confirmed as **Tuesday 30th November 2010 @1700hrs.**

The Chair thanked members for their support, attendance and contributions and closed the meeting.

Members
Note

Signed:.....

Name:.....

Date:.....