



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

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

**Date:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017  
**Venue:** The Blackpool Sixth Form College  
**Room:** Committee Room  
**Time:** 5.00-7.20pm

**Present:** Ms W Middlemas (Chair)  
Mr J Boyle  
Ms J Gray (Principal)  
Cllr D Clapham  
Ms D Taaffe  
Mr M Waterhouse  
Mr N Webster  
Ms C Coyne  
Reverend S Haskett

**Together with:** Ms G Yeadon (Deputy Principal)  
Ms S Benson (Assistant Principal: Academic)  
Ms T Cooper (Assistant Principal: Vocational)  
Ms S Hawitt (Governance Administrator: FCAT)

**Apologies:** Ms V Blakeman and Ms J Trembles

		Action
<b>27.2017</b>	<b>Preliminaries</b> Wendy Middlemas had been approved by the Corporation to chair the Standards Board meetings going forward in her role as Vice-Chair to the Corporation. She welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Reverend Steve Haskett his first meeting as a Director. Steve gave a brief summary of his background and thanked Directors for the opportunity to join the board. Individual introductions followed.  Apologies were noted.	
<b>28.2017</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> There were no declarations of interest	
<b>29.2017</b>	<b>Consideration of any items of urgent business.</b> There were no items of urgent business to discuss	
<b>30.2017</b>	<b>Confirmation of Quoracy</b> It was confirmed the meeting was quorate	
<b>31.2017</b>	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017</b> The minutes of the meeting held on 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2017 were approved	

**32.2017 Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda**

- a) **College Glossary**--(item 20.2017 from the previous minutes) confirmation the college glossary of terms had been updated to include new language and redistributed. The Principal asked Directors to highlight any additional abbreviations in the future as this is a live document which will be updated as required.
- b) **Student Support**-(item 22.2017 from the previous minutes) confirmation destination reports from schools had been included in FCAT's Key Performance Indicators
- c) **Directors Self-Assessment**-(item 24.2017 from the previous minutes) confirmation Directors nominated an employer link to the college-Directors asked for clarification of the start time of the event
- d) **Directors Self-Assessment**-(item 24.2017 from the previous minutes) confirmation the Ofsted grading descriptor for Outstanding had been distributed to Directors
- e) **College Events**-(item 25.2017 from the previous minutes) confirmation event dates had been distributed to Directors

**GY/Clerk**

**33.2017 Teaching, Learning and Assessment**

**Results by Qualification Reports**

Directors received and considered A Level Results Report 2017 (paper 8.1) delivered by the Assistant Principal: (AP) Academic. She highlighted the positive results across A Level courses (linear and legacy) and the ALPs value added score of 2 which is an outstanding achievement and the first in college history.

Directors were informed that so many subjects continue to improve including some pleasing results with the new linear subjects.

**Questions from Directors**

Directors noted the excellent results especially with the linear reforms and were pleased with the outcome. In addition to the report it was noted that individual departments had analysed performance against other colleges and the results were positive.

In response to a question about ALPs and Level 3 Value Added it was noted that ALPs is the tool used to measure progress students make and can be used to benchmark against other colleges who buy into the system. It shows that Blackpool Sixth are in the top 10% colleges of those signed up to the system. It was also noted that L3 value added final results will not be available until January 2018

In response to a question of scores it was noted that a score of zero equates to students meeting their target grade, two years ago the overall college score was -0.15 compared to date 0.15 the Principal stated that early indication is good and all staff have worked hard as a team to improve results which is a cause for celebration.

Asked about the changes to AS data and if there is like for like data to compare, it was agreed to circulate the data with the linear subjects removed, the Principal assured Directors that there was no significant issues regarding the results. It was also noted that the most direct impact is that no external benchmarking exists at present, as a result staff have to be even more accurate with internal predictions.

Directors noted that Blackpool Sixth is the best performing 6<sup>th</sup> Form College on the Fylde Coast with their own data to rely on.

**JG/Clerk**

Directors wanted to highlight the fact that despite good results we should not underestimate how difficult and challenging the changes have been for students, especially not having past papers to consider. Directors wanted to commend staff for all their hard work in light of these changes.

Directors received and considered BTEC Level 3 Results Report 2017 (paper 8.1b) delivered by Assistant Principal: (AP) Vocational, she highlighting the 100% pass rate across all qualification types, high grades and upper high grades have improved on all qualification types except certificate

Asked about the decline in High Grades and Upper High Grades in certificate courses and what action is being taken, it was noted that of most concern is applied science which may have an impact on U6 SD results in 2017-18 due to insufficient remaining units available to improve grades. Strategies are in place to avoid this happening in future years.

Asked about the overall quality of science it was noted that overall the science team have done well when the focus is on science, it was also noted that recruiting the right students who are committed to science is vital.

Asked if students are choosing the right course it was noted that this has improved on enrolment and there are far less students changing courses early on in the academic year.

### **GCSE Maths and English Report**

Directors received and considered GCSE Results Report 2017 (paper 8.2) delivered by AP: Academic, she highlighted the disappointing results as they represent a significant decline on 2015-16 despite other centres using Blackpool Sixth work as exemplars for many previous years. In spite of detailed analysis it is difficult to identify what exactly went wrong. An action plan was shared with Directors and college are confident moving forward.

Asked about the comparison between Blackpool Sixth and National GCSE re-sits in Mathematics and English, it was noted that the number of students at Blackpool Sixth had increased but yet there is no comparable data at present.

Asked about the experience of teaching staff across GCSE subjects it was noted that some teachers with greater specialism in GCSE also teach A Level.

Directors noted the critical implementation of the action plan and the contact with feeder schools. The Principal stated that the real challenge is the new programme for the transitional students from Lower 6-Upper 6 with less than 8 months to complete a new two-year programme.

Directors also noted the value of the FCAT Quality Improvement Groups (QIGs) for comparing and measuring outcomes across FCAT schools and wider schools across the country. The Assistant Principal: FCAT has a responsibility for the development of a hub for English and is working with a range of schools.

Asked about the % pass rate (A\*-G) being lower than the % high grades (A\*-C) the AP: Academic agreed to check the data in the report

**SB**

Asked about an interim check it was noted that a baseline assessment is carried out which will identify which students will need further support and data collection points will be carried out across the year which will track progress. In addition Heads of Departments (HoDs) use their Personal Development Reviews (PDRs) to discuss any issues and concerns.

### **Route3 Results**

Directors received and considered the Route3 Results and Achievement Report 2017 (paper 8.3) presented by the AP: Vocational. She highlighted the positive results in finance, work skills and digital media in spite of an element of external assessment.

Directors were informed that although there was some pleasing results improvements can still be made. Retention has been a significant concern on the Route3 programme 2016-17. Staffing issues had a significant impact on this however this has been addressed for 2017-18. Directors were also informed that plans are in place to address some of the issues including re-branding of the programme and introduction of public services to engage students more effectively, direct line management of the Route3 co-ordinator is now with AP: Vocational.

### **Questions from Directors**

In response to a question about staff changes it was noted that a restructure of the role of Route3 co-ordinator and improved allocation of Pastoral Mentors had taken place to support greater success. Directors raised a concern about GCSE Science and asked if the college are attracting the right students onto the course. It was noted that science was one of the options amongst others, students did not necessarily choose science as one of their strengths. It was noted that this course will not be offered in 2017-18.

### **L3 Achievement Rates Report**

Directors received and considered the Level 3 Achievement Rates Report 2017 (paper 8.4) presented by AP: Vocational and AP: Academic.

Directors were informed of the changes to Level 3 achievement rates (previously known as success rates) it was noted that pass rates on BTEC are pleasingly high, however retention has had a negative impact on achievement rates, particularly for L6 BTEC students.

### **Questions from Directors**

In response to a question about the issues surrounding retention, Directors were informed of the 42 day rule (student official start date) and the impact on the college financially if students leave after this date.

The Deputy Principal highlighted the retention figures from the College Action Plan 2016-17 and stated that the sustainability of future U6 courses was positive.

Asked about reasons for students leaving, a number of reasons were noted, such as transport issues, friendship groups and misperception of college life. Directors were informed that all staff are very clear on the priority to recruit, retain and reward and are working hard with 'keep warm' activities to ensure success. In addition exit interviews take place with all students to identify the reasons for leaving.

In response to a question about engagement with parents it was noted that a parent charter will be introduced next year.

**34.2017 College Action Plan**

Directors received and considered the College Action Plan (paper 9.1) presented by the Deputy Principal, she invited Directors to ask questions. Directors noted the detail and highly comprehensive report

**Questions from Directors**

Asked about priority 5.3 options for potential curriculum alignment with Blackpool and the Fylde college it was noted that although potential cross over was discussed with both parties it was agreed not to collaborate at this present time.

Asked about priority 6.1 increasing the numbers of students attending Oxbridge/High Tariff University by 5% Directors noted only one student was offered a place in 2016-17

It was noted that a whole new programme had been developed to support the gifted and talent offer moving forward and that good feedback was received from students leaving the college.

**35.2017 Compliments, Concerns and Complaints**

Directors received and considered the summary of compliments, concerns and complaints for the year 2016-17 presented by the Deputy Principal who invited questions.

**Questions from Directors**

Asked if there was any concerns Directors need to worry about, Directors were assured that there were no issues of concern at present.

*SLT left the meeting*

**36.2017 Staff Survey**

Directors received and considered the Staff Survey report 2016-17 (paper 11.1) presented by the Principal she highlighted the following: overall results had significantly improved, job security was the most worrying for staff and in some areas local line managers came across as not as strong. Communication and culture had significantly improved overall.

**Questions from Directors**

Asked about the gender balance and the size of SLT it was noted that all appointments are offered to the best person for the role and that two members of staff who appear to be SLT are seconded to FCAT at present.

**37.2017 Principal's Report**

Directors received and considered the Principal's Report September 2017 (paper 12.1) presented by the Principal she highlighted the following; the actual recruitment figures to date of 1975 against the actual funding target of 2009 a difference of 34, she informed Directors that the key focus for the college is Recruitment, Retention, Reward which all the staff had embraced and are working hard to improve recruitment. There was 141 more visitors to the open day than the previous year with the vast majority being YR11s.

She went onto say that because of the savings made finance remains healthy with an outstanding grade.

Directors were informed of the first ever assessment of the library and learning resources by the council of learning resources in colleges (CoLRiC)-resulting in an 'outstanding' CoLRiC quality grade which demonstrates excellence in library and learning resource services. The college have been chosen to take part and deliver a session on leadership, culture and creating high performing teams, in the Sixth Form College Association (SFCA) Leadership Programme which will take place at the college in October 2017

**38.2017 Special Measures**

The Principal gave a verbal update on the progress of those members of staff on informal support plans. Good news, results have improved and one member of staff had been taken out of special measures and one member of staff is being carried forward onto a formal support plan.

**Questions from Directors**

Directors raised a concern about the reduced funding for next year based on recruitment figures it was noted that the data on strategy day highlighted the increase in market share from 6 schools. It was also noted that transition coordinators are in place to target schools Directors highlighted that recruiting to Route3 will bring in less funding in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

It was noted that a greater number of students from Lytham St Anne's had been recruited onto the excellence programme

Directors noted that they had not seen a more- lively and responsive management team which was First Class. Directors congratulated all staff for their continued hard work.

**39.2017 Identification of any new risks**

No new risks were identified

**40.2017 Date and Time of next meeting**

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_