



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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE STANDARDS BOARD OF BLACKPOOL SIXTH FORM COLLEGE**

Date: Wednesday 12th December 2018
Venue: The Blackpool Sixth Form College
Room: Committee Room
Time: 5.30-6.45pm

Present: Mr C Simkins OBE (Chair)
 Ms W Middlemas
 Mr J Boyle OBE
 Cllr D Clapham
 Ms D Taaffe
 Ms J Gray (Principal)
 Mr A Burr
 Mr N Webster
 Mr S Haskett
 Mr R Hill
 Mr M Hellewell

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

Apologies: Ms V Blakeman
 Ms C Coyne
 Ms A Hall

		Action
36.2018	Preliminaries The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself as the new chair of the Standards Board and shared a little background information about his work in education. Apologies were noted	
37.2018	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest	
38.2018	Consideration of any items of urgent business. There were no items of urgent business to discuss, however the Principal asked for an item of AOB to be considered.	
39.2018	Confirmation of Quoracy It was noted the meeting was quorate	
40.2018	Minutes of the meeting held on 24th September 2018 The minutes of the meeting were approved subject to the following amendment; item 32.2 it was noted that information shared by the Chair in his capacity as a consultant for Sixth Form Colleges as opposed to National Leader in Governance (NLG)	Clerk
41.2018	Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda	

a) **Qualification Achievement Rates (QAR)**-(item 29.2018 from the previous minutes) Directors asked for the calculation to be presented in future reports. Directors were informed that college had received the report from the DFE, however it was inaccurate and had been sent back for correction. It was agreed that the report will be circulated to Directors via email and be discussed at the Directors conference in February

SLT/Clerk

42.2018

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Directors considered a report on progress to Minimum Target Grade (MTG) December 2018 (paper 7.1) presented by Assistant Principal (AP): Academic. She informed Directors that the report provided a summary of BTEC, A Level and GCSE progress to date. It was noted that teachers are asked to use their professional judgement to award a predicted grade at four entry points across the year.

Questions from Directors

In response to a question about the accuracy of predicted grades and how many students achieved A*

The AP: Academic gave an example of a student with a predicted grade of D in the first year and a grade of A in the second year, it was noted that staff look at a range of information, including key assessments, effort and attendance and use a best fit model to arrive at the predicted grade for each student

Asked how the actual results compare with predictions, it was noted that meaningful conversation take place between staff and Heads of Department (HoDs) at regular intervals and teams are constantly reviewing predicted grades, however significant differences could be merely down to individual students.

Directors noted the pleasing predictions for A level and BTEC in comparison to GCSE predictions. Directors were informed that lower predictions are used to provide further motivation to the GCSE students.

Asked about the data points and the schedule of the Standard Board meetings not corresponding it was agreed to add this report to the Corporation meeting in March to coincide with the next data collection

Asked how the Summer results in French increased significantly to 100% for November 2018 it was noted that a change in teaching staff and the confidence in her ability to improve outcomes was a noteworthy indicator

Asked about the predictions in maths, it was noted that teaching staff are very cautious about over predicting.

Directors asked if PE is causing a concern, it was noted that there had been some problems with the practical elements, for example students providing video evidence, as a result the college will be providing better cameras. It was also noted that some changes had taken place to the curriculum. Directors were informed that if the college cannot deliver student success to a high grade in PE then SLT will discuss the future of this particular qualification and its suitability for Blackpool Sixth students.

Asked about the significant drop in AS predictions, Directors were informed that after a lot of work with the Examination Board Principal Moderator SLT were informed that predictions for EPQ grades should not take place due to the nature of the programme, i.e students are not permitted to submit a draft of their coursework for feedback. Asked if Directors wanted this data removing from the report it was agreed to discuss further with SLT and feedback to Directors.

Directors were informed that the percentage of students meeting or beating their target grade in EMFL including GCSE is 63% compared to 84% excluding GCSE and in maths 46% including GCSE against 59% excluding GCSE. Directors asked for this information in future reports.

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agenda

SLT

AP:
Academic

43.2018

Destinations Report

The Deputy Principal presented the Destinations Report 2018 (paper 8.1) and invited questions

Questions from Directors

Asked about the number of students undertaking apprenticeships (46) it was noted that there had been a significant amount of work carried out to promote higher level apprenticeships within the college, including a trip to a careers fair. It was also noted that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the college students progress to university and a $\frac{1}{4}$ take on apprenticeships

Student Directors confirmed they had heard about opportunities and trips to different universities.

Asked if the variation to high tariff universities is due to application or failure of success, it was noted that it is usually the latter, however students can only apply with a certain suite of predictions.

Directors noted that the most important outcome is the students make positive progress and that each cohort is different

In response to a question about the applications to high tariff universities it was noted that the proportion of students progressing to Russell Group universities is declining with a corresponding increase in students progressing to other high tariff universities. Directors noted that a large proportion of Blackpool Sixth students stay in the local area for a variety of reasons

Directors asked for 2nd choice universities to be identified in future destinations reports.

Asked about 'low skilled employment' it was noted that this was employment without training Directors asked if a definition of this can be recorded in future reports

Directors noted that employment by sector is recorded in the report but not higher education by subject, Directors were informed that this piece of work is carried out by Heads of Departments and reports have been succinct to meet Directors requirements

SLT

SLT

44.2018

Student Voice

Directors considered a report on feedback from students on college matters (paper 9.1) presented by the Deputy Principal.

Questions from Directors

Directors noted the report highlights the student voice very well. It was noted that the Deputy Principal and Student Directors are meeting to discuss questions for the student survey.

Asked about how the information is shared with students, it was noted that students receive the information in bullet point form and in poster form around the college referring to 'you said we did'

In response to a question about funding student activities, it was noted that student council have their own bank account but some activities such as the water fountain are paid from college budgets

Student Directors noted that they were happy with the student voice work carried out by the college.

45.2018

Compliments, Concerns and Complaints

Directors received and considered the summary of compliments, concerns and complaints for the year 2017-18 (paper 10.1) presented by the Deputy Principal who invited questions.

Questions from Directors

Directors acknowledged and were pleased with the compliments made about the college. Asked if they should be concerned about the concerns made regarding EMFL (2) it was noted that these concerns relate to French and German, it was noted that due to changes in staff these concerns have been resolved successfully.

The Principal shared a compliment with Directors about the exemplary behaviour by students on a recent trip to London, which was reported in an email by a member of the public.

SLT left the meeting

46.2018

Directors Quality Improvement Plan

Directors received the QIP (paper 11.1) presented by the Principal; she gave an update following the Self-Assessment meeting. Three out of four actions on the plan had been fully achieved and one partially achieved.

Issue 3: Improve director engagement with local employers.

Directors were informed that a number of employers were sourced, however, the target of 12 was not achieved. It was agreed to continue the work to improve engagement with local employers.

It was noted that Directors Self-Assessment will form part of the Directors' Annual Conference and a QIP for 2019-20 will be shaped.

Directors

47.2018

Terms of Reference

Directors reviewed and agreed the committees Terms of Reference to include the following changes; further discussion took place about the schedule of these meetings and the data collection points, it was agreed to increase the number of Standards Board meetings to four per year. An additional Standards Board meeting was arranged for this academic year to take place on Monday 11 March 2019.

Clerk

48.2018

Identification of any new or amended risks

Directors reduced the risk from high to medium of recruiting a financial expert to the governing body. A re-organisation and plans to use an external consultant has mitigated the risk

49.2018

**AOB
Clerking Service**

The Principal gave Directors an update on the Clerking Service, which is provided by FCAT. The Principal and Head of Finance had carried out a price comparison with other Clerking services and it was deemed very good value for money and proposed the agreement with FCAT continue.

49.2018 D1:Resolved: Directors approved the Clerking Service with FCAT

50.2018

Date and Time of next meeting

Monday 10th June 2019 at 5pm

Signed _____

Date_____