



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

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

**Date:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
**Venue:** The Blackpool Sixth Form College  
**Room:** Committee Room  
**Time:** 5.00-6.20pm

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

**Together with:** Mr S Rimmel  
Mrs S Hawitt (Governance Administrator)

**Apologies:** Mr J Boyle and Ms V Blakeman

**Not in attendance** Ms A Hall

**01.2019 Preliminaries**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Steve Rimmel his first meeting of the Full Board, directors introduced themselves to SR

Apologies were noted

**02.2019 Directors' CPD-Mental Health Training delivered by: Stuart Ormson and Carla Duncan**

Stuart Ormson Head of Student Support and Carla Duncan second in department, Additional Learning Support provided a training session for directors on 'Mental Health and Young People' Directors were informed of how mental health issues can have an impact on young people at the college and what strategies are in place to support them.

**Questions from Directors**

In response to a question about the high number of female referrals when male mental health issues are on the rise it was noted that females tend to speak more openly about issues than males. It was noted that college are working hard to break down barriers that stop people speaking out and have invited male speakers into college to talk to students.

It was noted that the rise in trend at the college might be indicative of the culture in that more young people feel comfortable talking about mental health.

It was noted that directors had been invited to a debate about Young People's Mental Health which proved to be very useful.

Asked about information the college receive from schools it was noted that information sharing had significantly improved over the last 3 years and the college now has data sharing agreements in place with all partner schools.

*The Chair thanked Stuart and Carla and they left the meeting*

**03.2019 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

**04.2019 Consideration of any items of urgent business.**

There were no items of urgent business to discuss

**05.2019 Confirmation of Quoracy**

It was noted the meeting was quorate

**06.2019 Membership Matters**

Following a recommendation from the Chair from the Search and Governance Chair, the following appointment was approved by Directors

- Mr Steve Rimmel-Non Executive Director and member of the Administration and Finance Committee

**06.2019 D1:Resolved Non -Executive Director approved**

**07.2019 Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018 were approved

**08.2019 Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda**

- a) Teaching, Learning and Assessment-**(item 42.2019 from the previous minutes) confirmation EPQ data will be removed from future reports
- b) Destinations Report-**(item 43.2019 from the previous minutes) confirmation 2<sup>nd</sup> choice prestigious universities will be reported on in future reports  
Confirmation a definition of 'low skilled employment' will be replaced by the wording 'employment without training' is recorded in future reports
- c) Terms of Reference-**(item 47.2019 from the previous minutes) confirmation changes were made to the ToR to include four meetings per academic year

**09.2019 Teaching, Learning and Assessment**

Directors considered a report on progress towards Minimum Target Grade (MTG) (paper 9.1) presented by the Assistant Principal: Academic. She invited directors to ask questions.

In response to a question about why table 4 only includes physics for Yr1 and 2 and not other science subjects it was noted that table 4 only refers to the underperforming subjects following Summer results 2018. It had been agreed to track these subjects in more detail and report back to directors.

In response to a question about the situation regarding PE, it was noted that some improvement had been made by girls but boys seem to be less motivated, this is not helped by the students receiving unconditional offers from university. Directors were informed that issues in the past regarding gathering suitable footage of the course as coursework evidence was proving to be a problem, despite this some changes had been made and climbing is now part of the curriculum which will hopefully be easier to record.

Directors were informed of some of the changes that had already been made to drive improvements, including exploring passed exam papers and finishing teaching in March allowing for extra revision time before exams. Asked about the number of students involved, it was noted that the numbers are very low, 6 boys and 5 girls.

It was noted that some creative subjects, such as music and GCSE PE are not being offered in schools and this is having an impact on recruitment at the college, however it is important to keep these subjects on the college portfolio for future recruitment.

Directors were informed that if improvement is not made quickly in PE then a different approach to the curriculum offer will be discussed with the team.

Directors were informed that the college will be moving towards the new Alps Connect, an online system that can help analyse in-year results, help track, monitor and influence student's progress throughout the year. The Deputy Principal gave directors a brief overview of the benefits of Alps Connect. She explained that previously Alps only compared to those colleges who bought into the system and Alps Connect includes all colleges nationwide.

## 10.2019 **Equality and Diversity**

Directors considered the Equality and Diversity Results Report 2017-18 (paper 10.1) presented by the Deputy Principal, it was noted that the gap between boys and girls remains a national long term problem. Groups of particular concern for the college are outcomes for students with mental health issues and value added for students on the Excellence Programme, both of these gaps have widened in 2017-18. Directors were informed that these issues are key priorities within the College Action Plan.

### **Questions from Directors**

In response to a question about the data being shared with students it was noted that the report goes to the Strategic Equality Committee made up of staff and some students, however it was noted there is no female student representation on this group. It was noted that consideration will be given to how it can be shared with students going forward.

In response to a question about the difference between official/ actual attendance, it was noted that actual attendance means actually in your seat at college, official is any college business related to your learning, attendance figures are based on official attendance. The Student Director noted that not all students are aware they have to inform their Pastoral Mentor about any official work they carry out.

Asked if there is any information/trends nationally to compare E&D data, it was noted that when college move over to the new ALPS connect live in-year data can be used as a comparison against national data.

*The Chair thanked SLT for their reports and they left the meeting*

## 11.2019 **Directors Self-Assessment Report and Quality Improvement Plan 2019-20**

Directors received the Self-Assessment Report and Quality Improvement Plan presented by the principal. It was noted that the report had been shaped from the feedback received from the Directors' Annual Conference. Directors discussed the two main areas on the action plan ;

- Increase directors' engagement with local and regional employers
- Further enhance directors' knowledge and skills

Further discussion took place regarding the proposed grade of Outstanding and it was noted that the positives were outweighed by the issues for improvement it was agreed based on the evidence a grade of Outstanding was the best fit. The Clerk agreed to update the changes and distribute to all Directors.

SLT

SLT

Clerk

**11.2019 D1 Resolved: Approve the SAR and QIP 2019-20**

*Steve Haskett left the meeting*

**12.2019**

**Identification of any new or amended risks**

No new or amended risks were identified

**Date and Time of next meeting**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 5.00pm

Department Visit –Humanities-4.00pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_