



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

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

Date: Monday 19th April 2021
Virtual meeting
Time: 5.00-6.15pm

Present:

Mr C Simkins OBE (Chair)
 Ms W Middlemas
 Cllr. D Clapham
 Ms D Taaffe
 Ms J Gray (Principal)
 Mr A Burr
 Ms C Coyne
 Cllr C Baxter
 Mr J Mannino
 Ms A Newton-Leeming
 Mr R Baker
 Ms S Woodhouse
 Ms N Baranowska

Together with:

Ms G Yeadon (Deputy Principal)
 Ms T Cooper (Vice Principal: Vocational)
 Mr S Ormson (Assistant Principal: Student Support)
 Ms A Crumblehulme (Assistant Principal: Business Studies)
 Mrs S Hawitt (FCAT Governance Administrator)
Apologies: Mr D Gascoigne and Ms A Vijayaratnam

| | | Action |
|----------------|---|---------------|
| 01.2021 | Preliminaries The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting especially, Ray Baker and Sukie Woodhouse their first meeting of the corporation, directors introduced themselves. | |
| 02.2021 | Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest | |
| 03.2021 | Consideration of any items of urgent business. There were no items of urgent business to discuss | |
| 04.2021 | Confirmation of Quoracy It was noted the meeting was quorate | |
| 05.2021 | Minutes of the meeting held on The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November 2020 were approved | |
| 06.2021 | Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda There were no matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda | |

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

ALPS Report-Directors received and considered the ALPS progress report March 2021 (paper 7.1) presented by the Deputy Principal directors were invited to ask questions.

Questions from directors

In response to a question about further training for staff on ALPS Connect, it was noted that one of the benefits of the unusual situation with Covid-19 restrictions is that all training has moved to online and this has resulted in more personalised training for staff with an opportunity to ask questions that really matter to Blackpool Sixth. Training for HoDs had been completed with further training planned for assistant heads and teachers.

Asked how the ALPS scores will work with predicted grades and how the college will manage the blue scores in the current climate, directors were informed that teachers are asked to make a professional judgement, using key assessments and assignment data to award progress grades to all students in November, December, February, March and May, the progress grade reflects the standard of work being produced by a student at the time of judgement. It was noted that in May, students will be awarded a teacher assessed grade (TAG) based on government guidance, this will be treated like exam grades and will only be available on results day.

In response to a question about the blue ALPS scores in sociology for L6 and what plans are in place to address this, it was noted that plans include, compulsory attendance at Academic Support Tutorial (AST) sessions and additional revision for students who are two or more below their predicted grade. Directors were reassured that there is a plan in place for all subjects with blue ALPS scores.

In response to a question about the expectations of students accessing level 3 courses as opposed to Route3, it was noted that following the 2020 centre accessed grades (CAG) process more students had been able to access level 3 courses this year compared to previous years. Overall, there had been some pleasing results despite the vast majority of BTEC moving over to Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) and some anxieties over the changes.

In response to a question seeking further clarification on the process for RAG rating students against their minimum expected grade (MEG) and the impact on students with a MEG of A* who can never achieve green, it was noted that further exploration into the use of MEG is being carried out especially with regards to motivation and encouragement.

Asked if the grades in the report were to be expected in comparison to previous years and if there is any link to the quality of online provision, it was noted that although the current situation had made it harder to compare to other years it was noted that it is expected to see more blue grades in L6 than U6, especially in for example maths where the expectation is for the grade to increase overtime. Directors were assured that there is nothing in the report that is causing concern.

In response to a question about evaluating the accuracy and effectiveness of ALPS Connect for future use, it was noted that once business returns to normal there is a facility within the ALPS programme that can evaluate its effectiveness.

Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs)-the Deputy Principal and the Vice-Principal: Vocational gave a verbal update on the TAG process. Directors were informed of the strong communication with students and parents/carers to ensure openness and transparency and staff training will ensure standardisation and consistency. Members of the Student Council had also been consulted on the process with positive feedback received. Consultancy work had been carried out to develop a system which will provide the ability to carry out internal assurance consistently across all teams using information from EMRIS.

It was noted that teachers and students had adapted so well to remote learning that the vast majority of assignments had been completed and assessed.

It was also noted that a system for appeals is currently being developed, however guidance and training from individual awarding bodies has yet to be received

The Principal informed directors that college staff had worked extremely hard through some bureaucratic systems and the importance of managing staff well-being and ensuring their workload is manageable. This is especially important given the expectation from government for staff to be present at college throughout the summer for enrolment, results day and to manage any appeals.

There is a big emphasis on well-being for staff and students at the college with lots of support available. U6 Student Council members have offered to promote the support on offer across social media sites.

The Chair of the board expressed her thanks to the Principal and all staff for doing such a fantastic job.

08.2021

Attendance and Retention

Directors received and considered the Attendance and Retention report March 2021 (paper 8.1) presented by the Assistant Principal: Student Support. He highlighted the following; there are over a 100 more students on roll compared to this point in 2019-20, student and course retention had improved compared to the same point last year, despite some concern regarding attendance for Route 3 and level 2, it was noted that they are a very small cohort and it does not take many students to effect the data. The focus now is to ensure students are supported to succeed in their studies this year and achieve the grades needed to progress.

Questions from directors

In response to a question about the decline in attendance in pastoral mentor sessions, it was noted that these sessions had been delivered remotely since September and the attendance figure for 20/21 reflects engagement with remote learning rather than attendance at face to face timetabled sessions. The introduction of 'live' video sessions to replace the more independent study method had resulted in a slight improvement since the start of February. Directors were informed that plans were in place to devote further time to pastoral work over the summer term so any gaps in learning can be closed. Asked when sessions are likely to return to face to face, it was noted that there may be time to look at this after 21st May when U6 and Route 3 cohorts finish college.

It was noted that if the attendance data shows students are not engaging, pastoral mentors will try lots of different strategies to ensure the students receive the support they need. It was also noted that these sessions support a lot more than just academic work and focus on the student as a whole which can be difficult to measure in terms of data.

Asked about comparable data across the sector, it was noted that it can be quite difficult to get like for like data from other colleges, measurements of attendance can be very different across the sector. It was noted that if PM sessions were removed from the data, then overall attendance is good. The Chair of the Corporation congratulated staff on the delivery of the PM sessions and noted the data was good despite the difficult circumstances faced by staff and students.

Directors were informed that in terms of the data for attendance for staff, there have been some huge improvements, remote learning seems to have removed lots of barriers and staff absences are a lot less frequent.

AOB

Operation Encompass

Directors received information about 'Operation Encompass via email from the Assistant Principal: Student Support, he invited questions.

There were no questions to answer, however directors pointed out the imbalance of females as key adults in the report, it was noted that the key adults had been based on the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy DSLs rather than choice but it is something to explore further at the DSL meeting.

The Chair thanked SLT and they left the meeting

09.2021

Directors Calendar

Directors received and approved the calendar of meetings for 2021-22

09.2021 D1 Resolved: to approve the calendar of meetings for 2021-22

10.2021

Identification of any new or amended risks

It was noted that the risk of the pressure on staff due to increased workload with the TAG process may need to be increased on the risk register

Date and Time of next meeting

Tuesday 21st September 2021

Signed _____

Date _____