



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

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

**Date:** Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020  
**Virtual meeting**  
**Time:** 5.00-6.30pm

**Present:** Mr C Simkins OBE (Chair)  
Ms J Gray (Principal)  
Ms W Middlemas  
Cllr D Clapham  
Ms D Taaffe  
Mr N Webster  
Ms C Coyne  
Reverend S Haskett  
Cllr C Baxter  
Mr J Mannino  
Ms A Newton-Leeming  
Ms N Baranowska  
Ms T Vijayaratham

**Together with:** Ms G Yeadon (Deputy Principal)  
Ms T Cooper (Assistant Principal: Vocational)  
Ms S Ormson (Assistant Principal: Student Services)  
Mr Jon McLeod (Head of Admissions, Liaison and Marketing)  
Ms S Hawitt (Governance Administrator-FCAT)

**Apologies:** Mr A Burr

		<b>Action</b>
<b>22.2020</b>	<b>Preliminaries</b> The meeting took place using Google Meet. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the two new student directors and Jon McLeod (Head of Admissions, Liaison and Marketing) who had agreed to deliver a presentation on the college website.	
<b>23.2020</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> There were no Declarations of Interest	
<b>24.2020</b>	<b>Consideration of any items of urgent business</b> There were no items of urgent business to discuss	
<b>25.2020</b>	<b>Confirmation of Quoracy</b> It was noted the meeting was quorate	
<b>26.2020</b>	<b>Minutes of the virtual meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020</b> The minutes of the meeting held on 21 <sup>st</sup> September 2020 were approved	
<b>27.2020</b>	<b>Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda</b> a) <b>College Documentation</b> -(item 21.2020 from the previous minutes) confirmation current college documentation had been checked to ensure no reference to FCAT sponsorship remains	

28.2020

**Directors CPD-Overview of the college website delivered by Jon McLeod**

Jon delivered a presentation to directors about the college website, he navigated the different pages of the website which included information from the statutory requirements to information about college events. Directors were informed that the college website had been rebuilt over the Summer 2019 to improve its search facility.

He shared some data with directors which included the reach over the last 30 days, the number of users, new users within the last month and top pages by views.

Directors were informed that the college website is even more a crucial part of college operations and is working well in the current situation. It focusses on prospective parents and students and current parents and students also have their own portal.

Directors were invited to send any input they may have to contribute to the college website.

**Questions from Directors**

In response to a question about Search Chanel Optimisation (SCO) and how effective it is, it was noted that more work is being carried out in relation to SCO, however there are limitations due to budget. A discussion followed about Google Algorithms and mobile accessibility.

Directors were asked to access the college website and click on the various links which promote the college on a number of social media sites including Facebook and Instagram and offer some feedback.

*The Chair thanked Jon McLeod for his presentation and he left the meeting*

29.2020

**Teaching, Learning and Assessment**

**Level 3 Achievement Rates Report 2020**-Directors received and considered the report (paper 8.1a) presented by the Assistant Principal: Vocational.

Directors were informed that this year's A Level results were based on teacher predictions due to changes implemented following the Covid-10 lockdown.

It was noted BTEC students had completed quite a large number of assignments prior to the lockdown which gave added confidence in the predicted grades for these students.

**Route 3 Achievement Report 2020**-Directors received and considered the report (paper 8.1b) presented by the Assistant Principal: Vocational - she highlighted the following from the report. Improved pass rate and retention on all courses and on Route 3 overall, except BTEC IT.

A particular highlight from the report was the high pass rate in BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care which was 100% in its first year of the course, however low retention (81.6%) had impacted the achievement rate.

**Questions and comments**

Directors noted that the results show a positive picture, the Assistant Principal: Vocational noted that retention is very pleasing, especially during the difficult period of lockdown. There are improvements to be made and plans have already been discussed with Heads of Departments (HoDs) for these to be carried out.

In response to a question about examinations in 2020/21, it was noted that the current information from government is that examinations will take place, however discussions are ongoing about possible adjustments. Directors will be kept informed of any changes.

Directors were informed that advice from Pearson is that data should be collected in the usual way and any mandatory units for BTEC should be completed first.

Directors were also informed that government plans are changing rapidly and there are still many unknowns for the future, however the college are responding as soon as any new information is available and continue to support students to gain the best possible outcomes. Mock examinations are still expected to go ahead in February/March.

#### **ALPS Progress Report November 2020**

Directors received the ALPS progress report November 2020 (paper 8.2) presented by the Deputy Principal and Directors were invited to ask questions

#### **Questions from Directors**

Asked if we should be worried about English it was noted that discussions had taken place with the HoD about the consistencies of grades across the department. There are no concerns at present however, it was agreed that if results remain the same in December then further investigation will take place. It was noted that there are good strategies in place and staff had put every effort into remote/blended learning.

In response to a question about the score for sociology it was noted that this is a subject that has been problematic in the past, however there is a new Assistant HoD (AHoD) in post with greater consistency and better practices in place with an optimism for good progress being made.

The Deputy Principal noted that all staff have risen to the challenge of remote learning and have re-written schemes of work and are responding to the very many changes in a positive way and are committed to students making good progress and having confidence during their experience at college.

#### **Covid-19 Update**

Directors received the Covid-19 update report November 2020 (paper 8.3) prepared by SLT it reports on how the college is responding to the pandemic Covid-19 and covers the period August-November 2020 and was presented by the Deputy Principal

#### **Questions from Directors**

In response to a question about additional staffing costs due to self- isolation and should directors be concerned, it was noted that any additional cost relating to Covid-19 is reported separately to make sure it is easily identifiable should there be a reimbursement. It was also noted that staff who are self-isolating are still able to teach from home which means that the college has not had to rely on agency staff.

Asked about the high levels of local cases per 100,000 and the potential risk of students coming together at college from different areas it was noted that so far there have been no trends of infection rate at the college and any positive cases have been fairly wide spread. Directors were assured that college have systems in place to monitor infection rates within the college and local areas including regular updates from the directors for public health for Blackpool and Lancashire.

Asked about measures in place contributing to the decline in infection rates, it was noted that one such measure is 'bring your own device' which ensures all students now have a device to support their college work from home or within the college facility whichever suits their particular needs.

Directors thanked the Principal and SLT for their vigilance and hard work in keeping the college open during this difficult time.

### **30.2020**

#### **Attendance and Retention**

Directors received and considered the Attendance and Retention report November 2020 (paper 9.1) presented by the Assistant Principal: Student Support, he highlighted the following; careful consideration is needed when making comparisons to previous years due to the changes made to the college timetable in relation to Covid-19. He noted the high levels of retention and attendance for curriculum departments and qualification types which is very pleasing considering the current situation and challenges faced.

Directors were informed of low attendance (engagement) with remote pastoral mentor sessions which is having a negative impact on overall attendance of year groups, this has been addressed and live sessions are now taking place which is showing an improvement in the figures.

**Questions and comments from Directors**

Directors noted that the report is very detailed and precise and thanked SLT for their continued hard work. It was noted that the improvement in retention and young people remaining in education at B6 is testament to the staff.

Directors also highlighted that it is even more important for young people to remain in education to achieve the best possible results with an even more competitive time to be seeking employment. Directors were informed that the careers week at the college had been brought forward for this reason.

Directors noted that despite a negative impact on some industries, opportunities in some areas of the work force are starting to appear through different funding streams. It was noted that the college will continue to engage with employers.

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

**31.2020 Directors Self-Assessment**

Directors received and considered the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) 2020-21 (paper 10.1) it was noted that both action points had been completed and it is time to start to think about any further improvements the board want to achieve over the next 12 months.

The Chair of the Corporation gave some feedback on discussions that took place at the Self-Assessment Committee in relation to strengthening directors' individual self-assessment and filling in any gaps in director skills and knowledge through a series of training and information activities. Further updates will be available to directors in the New Year.

**32.2020 Identification of any new or amended risks**

No new risks were identified

**Date and Time of next meeting**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 5pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_