

Minutes of Meeting of New College Leicester Governing Body held on Thursday 5th May 2023 at 5.00 pm.

Present

Sue Billington – Chair of Governors
Jane Brown – Principal
Angus Fraser - Governor
Trevor Low – Governor
Deborah Rose – Governor
Ellen Rudge-Tezcan – Governor
Richard Seaman – Governor
Paul Wilson – Governor
Lynn Dawson – Clerk

In attendance

Cerin Wilson – Assistant Principal
Haroon Mansoor – Head of History/Celebrating Leicester (part)

1. Apologies for absence

Ian Chakravorty – Governor
Councillor George Cole – Governor
Dipak Patel – Governor
Sue Thistlethwaite – Governor
Kate Walewska - Governor

2. Minutes of last meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30th March 2023, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, noted and signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

1. Governors to offer dates to sit on Student Disciplinary Panels – a permanent exclusion committee was held on 24th April 2023. Thank you to the governors that sat on the panel.
2. Governors to explore sponsorship opportunities with their contacts – ongoing.
3. Sue Thistlethwaite to carry out a walkthrough of the college to review behaviour and attitudes to learning – next meeting.
4. Jane Brown to complete a high level spend plan for the college – ongoing.
5. Sue Thistlethwaite to look at, and report back on SEN students – next meeting.
6. A 10 minute Child Protection slot on each GB agenda in terms of briefing in accordance with the current procedure – on agenda.
7. DOLs to be invited to governor meetings – on agenda.
8. To prepare a business case for the future of Post 16 provision at New College Leicester – ongoing. Jane Brown reported that next year will be focused on Hairdressing only.
9. Jane Brown to speak to Wayne Allsopp re ventilation in small hall – ongoing.
10. To compile a brief of a timeframe for the contractors carrying out the condition survey and submit to governors – as point 4.
11. Report on the funding streams and finances to be produced for governors as part of upskilling them – ongoing.

4. Declaration of Interests

Sue Billington declared that she was a director for Propraxis, Trustee of Anstey Jubilee Hall and Grounds Charity, Anstey Parish Councillor and Trustee of Anstey Town Charity. Trevor Low declared that he was Chairman of Hinckley Gymnastics Club which holds the operating license for the New College Gymnastics Centre and Director of Clarendon Sports Ltd. Deborah Rose declared that she was a consultant for Edwards and Edwards. Paul Wilson declared that he is the Principal of Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth I and Regent College. Ian Chakravorty declared that he is Director of Subio Services Ltd. Dipak Patel declared that he is Director of Alchemmy Consulting Ltd, Sonikk Ltd, Redimeer Ltd, Double 6 Ltd and Dasad Ltd. Kate Walewska declared that she is Deputy Director for Global Recruitment for University of Leicester and Board Director for the Holy Spirit Multi Catholic Academy. Angus Fraser declared that he is Director of BID Leicester Limited and Dynamic Restaurants Limited. Councillor George Cole declared he is the Lord Mayor of Leicester. Richard Seaman declared that he is Senior Manager at Tarmac Trading Ltd.

5. Finance

Richard Seaman, Governor, presented and confirmed the final position for 2022-23 with a carry over of 1.64 million. Richard Seaman noted the school had received slightly more income than forecast with less spend. He noted that 2023-24 proposed budget was in the early stages but it would be likely that the school would spend lots of the carry over next year on maintenance which would result in a further carry over of £300,000 for 2024-25.

Jane Brown, Principal, reported that whatever increment was agreed for teachers and support staff was to be unfunded and would have to come out of the school's budget. The energy bill for next year was also forecast at £400,000.

Angus Fraser, Governor, asked if the school had a hedging strategy for the utilities cost. Jane Brown, Principal, replied that the school has new solar panels from district heating system which provided a lower cost system. The school had started work on a sustainable strategy. Jane Brown noted that it was likely there would not be enough money for the work that would be recommended from the condition survey as money would also be used for emergencies as well as forward planning.

There was a discussion about finance and governors thanked Richard Seaman for his report.

ACTION: Richard Seaman to send the 2023-24 budget to governors for them to agree.

Haroon Mansoor, Head of History/Celebrating Leicester, entered the meeting.

6. Celebrating Leicester Strategy

Haroon Mansoor, Head of History/Celebrating Leicester, introduced the work that the school were carrying out for Celebrating Leicester. He explained that this was a vehicle for anti-racist education so that all students saw themselves included in the curriculum. Research has shown that if they did not feel included, they became less engaged.

Haroon Mansoor reported the aims of Celebrating Leicester were getting the students to be proud of their culture through assemblies, working groups, curriculum visibility and tutor time and to show them that living in Leicester is something to be proud of. Assemblies would run each half term with CPD sessions being run to enable teachers to teach a mapped delivery on racial diversity across the curriculum so Celebrating Leicester can be spread across the school with a shared language of respect.

Haroon Mansoor reported that the school are also working with the Stephen Lawrence Centre which drives forward conversations that shape and influence how people think about race and social justice.

Haroon Mansoor explained that the school had already recruited student ambassadors who meet every first Tuesday of the month and the next steps for the school would be for them to be trained to develop their role and ask questions around the school. The outcome would be to ensure that every student is seen and heard across the school.

Cerin Wilson entered the meeting.

There was a discussion around the Celebrating Leicester Strategy and governors asked how they could help the school to move this project forward. Jane Brown, Principal, stated that the school had been enormously supported by Councillor George Cole who had lent a lot of his time and that a new Head of History had been recruited to give Haroon more time to concentrate on the strategy and give training to teachers who felt they did not have the expertise to deliver this into the curriculum. The governors thanked Haroon for his report and explained they would like to be involved/aware of what is happening with this strategy as every student with a protected characteristic should feel at home and be heard. The governors asked if there had been any resistance from students and Haroon Mansoor replied that students knew what Celebrating Leicester represented and there was a high profile around school regarding issues around race but this needed to be expanded to all protected characteristics. Hopefully this would give students pride in their culture.

The governors thanked Haroon Mansoor for his report and he left the meeting.

7. Data

Cerin Wilson, Assistant Principal, presented her year 11 Data Report and noted the progress figure compared to last year had increased from -0.82 to -0.63. Cerin Wilson noted that this year was returning to pre-pandemic assessments i.e. 2019 figures, therefore the grades could be slightly lower. Cerin Wilson also noted that with this year's cohort (171) there were a lot of issues with the students i.e. behaviour issues, mental health issues etc, which also could have an impact on results. There were also a higher proportion of SEN students in this year's cohort. There were 13 non- attending students that had all been invited back for their exams and lots of interventions had been put into place including "The Premier League" which focused on boys progress; after school revision and lots of coursework catch up in school which had resulted in 345 hours of intervention during the school day. Cerin also noted that there were 8 students expected to be disapplied as they were "new to country" or had joined after the January census.

There was a discussion around the biggest risk of progress being boys and disadvantaged students and Jane Brown, Principal, noted there had been a problem in Engineering whereby Kate Brown, Director of Learning for Arts, had trained herself to teach the subject and was delivering classes to years 10 and 11 which was a real testament to her. The governors asked Jane Brown to pass on their thanks to Kate Brown.

The governors thanked Cerin Wilson for her report and she left the meeting.

8. Behaviour/Attendance

Attendance

Ellen Rudge-Tezcan, Assistant Principal, presented the attendance figures which were tracking at 90.6% with pupil premium attendance at 87.8% and SEN attendance at 84.4%.

Ellen Rudge-Tezcan stated that the school had been hit by illnesses i.e. stomach bugs and viruses and also there had been two strike days by teachers where the school had needed to shut to students. Ellen Rudge-Tezcan noted that a number of pupil premium and SEN students have got complex needs and issues and there is a network group meeting once a month with Kim Bee, Police Liaison Officer and Jill Randall, The Hub. She noted that mental health issues had increased post pandemic. The Inclusion Department had set up

drawing/talking therapies for targeted students and training for this had been provided by the school's Educational Psychologist who was always on hand to support more serious issues.

Ellen Rudge-Tezcan stated that by the end of 2022/23, 393 School Attendance Panels had been carried out and for this year (2023/24) 362 had already taken place. There had also been 69 penalty fines issued and 11 holiday penalty notices issued. There had been no court actions as the school now needed to provide lots more evidence for these to go forward which is why the school was focused on attendance from the beginning to try and act as a deterrent before attendance became any worse.

Suspensions

Ellen Rudge-Tezcan then reported on suspensions where there had been 8 fixed term suspensions in half term 4. This was a reduction from last half term. This equated to 17 days being lost for 6 males and 1 female over all years. One of the students that had received a suspension had now moved to Zimbabwe.

Ellen Rudge-Tezcan then presented the termly safeguarding report. She noted there were three more Designated Safeguarding Members being mentored to decrease the pressure on the current team with 311 potential CP cases being referred to the team and 146 cases referred on to the children's Duty and Assessment team with the other 165 receiving support from the school's pastoral staff. This was an increase of 74 cases reported through in the Autumn Term 2022. There were currently 44 open CP cases. Ellen Rudge-Tezcan noted that student Social Workers were taking on high priority cases due to the shortages of Social Workers in the LA.

Ellen Rudge-Tezcan then went on to state there had been 64 operation encompass calls with 33 occurrences of students missing from education (4 students). There had also been 21 professional support meetings held for students with cases being stronger by joint escalation with other schools/agencies when needed. Jane Brown, Principal, stated that this problem was happening across all schools and she was confident that the safeguarding team were doing all they could with the amount of safeguarding issues they were receiving.

There was a discussion around safeguarding and Governors thanked Ellen Rudge-Tezcan for her reports.

9. Safeguarding Training

Ellen Rudge-Tezcan presented safeguarding training on Prevent which is a strategy to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism and The Channel Programme which supports and protects people who might be susceptible to radicalisation or extremism.

10. Specials

Ofsted Parent View

Jane Brown, Principal, shared the Ofsted Parent View results with governors and noted that 50% of the school's parents/carers have now entered their views. 96% of students are recorded as happy at school and 95% of students feel safe at school. 93% of parents stated that they would recommend the school to someone else. The governors agreed these were excellent results.

Turbulence and Elective Home Education

Jane Brown, Principal, presented the numbers of admissions/leavers and procedure for elective home education. She noted there had been 79 students joining the school in 2022/23 and 58 leaving the school. Jane Brown stated that the school still had a waiting list and are already taking in over the published numbers to support the LA.

11. Policies for Approval

The governors agreed the following policies:

- Acceptable Use for staff and adult users
- Allegations against staff
- Charging and Remissions
- Collective Worship
- Confidentiality
- Positive Handling

12. Any Other Business

- Sue Billington, Chair of Governors, reported that with regard to the permanent exclusion and the committee panel taking place, the governors had written an addendum for the behaviour policy for the school to tighten up on their search protocols. The statement tabled was agreed by governors and would be added into the updated Behaviour Policy.

The meeting closed at 7.07 pm.

Next meeting: TBC

Matters Arising

ITEM	ACTION	OWNER	DEADLINE
1	Governors to offer dates to sit on Student Disciplinary Panels	All	1 perm been arranged
2	Governors to explore sponsorship opportunities with their contacts	All	Ongoing
3	Sue Thistlethwaite to carry out a walkthrough of the college to review behaviour and attitudes to learning.	Sue Thistlethwaite/ Jane Brown	On June agenda
4	Jane Brown to complete a high level spend plan for the college.	Jane Brown	Ongoing
5	Sue Thistlethwaite to look at, and report back on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • impact of student disciplinary panels with a success rate. • looked after children • students who do not access the full curriculum • spending of pupil premium and the students' exclusion/attendance rates. 	Sue Thistlethwaite	On June agenda
6	A 10-minute Child Protection slot on each GB agenda in terms of briefing in accordance with the current procedure.	Ellen Rudge- Tezcan	Ongoing
7	DOLs to be invited to governor meetings.	Jane Brown	Ongoing
8	The Governors requested a Business Case for the future of Post 16 provision at New College Leicester	Jane Brown	As soon as possible
9	Jane Brown to speak to Wayne Allsopp re ventilation in small hall.	Jane Brown	Ongoing
10	To compile a brief of a timeframe for the contractors carrying out the condition survey and submit to governors.	Wayne Allsopp	Ongoing
11	Sue Billington, Chair of Governors, to carry out a H&S visit on the canteen areas.	Sue Billington	End of academic year