

# Minutes of a Remote Meeting of New College Leicester Governing Body held online on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 5.00 pm.

## Present

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

## In attendance

Cerin Wilson – Assistant Principal

### 1. Apologies for absence

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

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022, 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 – ongoing
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 – November agenda
4. Jane Brown to complete a high level spend plan for the college – ongoing. Jane Brown reported the contractors were no further forward with the condition survey.
5. Chris Gowans to work on ensuring a safe environment for external users and to run a report as to what systems are already in place – Closed
6. Sue Thistlethwaite to look at, and report back on SEN students – November with a partial update on the agenda.
7. A 10 minute Child Protection slot on each GB agenda in terms of briefing in accordance with the current procedure – Deferred to November
8. DOLs to be invited to governor meetings – ongoing
9. To prepare a business case for the future of Post 16 provision at New College Leicester – ongoing
10. Mini safeguarding audit to be carried out on external lettings – Closed
11. Jane Brown to speak to Wayne Allsopp re ventilation in small hall – Ongoing – will be included in the condition survey
12. Sub-group meeting of governors to take place regarding review of Behaviour Policy – Meeting took place on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022. A copy of the updated Behaviour Policy is on the agenda. There is to be a mini audit on the re-offenders' case studies and findings reported back to governors.  
ACTION: SBI/STH/LDA to meet to discuss 6 student cases.
13. Follow-up from Ofsted complaint – Closed

14. To compile a brief of a timeframe for the contractors carrying out the condition survey and submit to governors – ongoing

15. Kate Walewska to work with New College to look at closing the gap on White British achievement using data from year 11 – all data has been sent to Kate - 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. Owen Jones declared he is a director of Calipro Software Limited and a System Engineer for Morris Angel and Son. 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.

#### **5. Data**

Cerin Wilson, Assistant Principal, took the governors through the IDSR report which is a copy of a report that Ofsted inspectors read before they come into the school. She explained on the left hand pages in black are areas that Ofsted are looking at and on the right hand pages in colour were the school's responses and updates for last year and this year to these.

Cerin Wilson, Assistant Principal, explained that the progress 8 figure for the school that was published by SISRA is -0.14. This figure has improved on the 2019 figure. She explained that the year 11's had coped really well in their exams considering the circumstances. There were 188 students in the year 11 cohort with 5 EAL students joining in year. In total, 13 students did not attend New College in year 11 – either because they were on alternative curriculum, attending The Children's Hospital School, or because they refused to attend despite support/prosecution. The Progress 8 figure of the 175 students who attended was +0.14. When attendance was taken into account, where students attended for 90% of the time or more, the Progress 8 was +0.45.

With regards to subjects, language results were lower but this was because fewer students were opting for languages. The college now teach French and Spanish. There had been a turnaround on Computer Science (which is now meeting national figures) because of a change of teaching staff and Mathematics results are improving year on year. Research taken during Covid was that the subject of Mathematics had been hit the hardest due to the hierarchical structure of its content.

There was a discussion around Progress 8 figures and Sue Billington, Chair of Governors, asked how the college's figures stood against national. Cerin Wilson, Assistant Principal, informed Sue that as soon as the national figures were published she would send them to governors.

Owen Jones, Governor, asked why the results included the students in the figures if they were not coming into school. Cerin Wilson, Assistant Principal, replied that the school were still responsible for the students therefore had included them. The results for the school would be above national if those students had not been included in the results. The governors asked to look at the gaps against national at the January meeting.

The governors thanked Cerin for her report.

## **6. Teaching and Learning**

Jane Brown, Principal, reported on the curriculum overview for 2022/23 based on the rounded education vision. She reported that the umbrella vision had been designed by Trustees in 2010 and updated in 2019. The reports showed the impact that education has on deprivation as 60% of the population in the school's area live in the top 10% of deprivation in the country. She noted that there are high cases of mental health, obesity and domestic violence in the area and some students start behind because they cannot read at their chronological age when they come into the school. Jane Brown, Principal, then spoke about the context table which shows what the school are doing to tackle the problems. Examples of this include free music lessons to students, sport to tackle a healthy lifestyle, health and wellbeing strategy to tackle domestic violence and SRE/PD/PSHE embedded in the curriculum in all areas. She also noted there is a limited gap between boys and girls achievement. She also stated that this has been helped by ensuring that all values – our 4 Rs (Respect, Resilience, Responsibility, Resourcefulness) are embedded into the school.

The governors thanked Jane for her report.

## **7. Behaviour/Attendance**

### Suspensions (formerly known as Exclusions)

Jane Brown, Principal, presented the suspension paperwork and noted that in Half term 6 there had been 8 suspensions which had resulted in 20 days lost. A governors panel had also been called for a permanent exclusion. She noted there had been a high level of turbulence with students leaving the school (59 students) and 11 of these were elected Home Education which the college did not condone. The college works closely with the EWO service to ensure students' needs are met. There had also been a number of students admitted from overseas. Jane Brown assured the governors that there were no concerns and would provide the governors with a termly update of turbulence.

### Attendance

Jane Brown, Principal, went on to present the attendance data which was currently tracking at 92.2% with PP attendance at 89.3% and SEN at 86.7%.

Jane Brown, Principal, went on to show governors the Self-Evaluation and Improvement Plan which showed the spend on the Pupil Premium gaps. There was a discussion about Pupil Premium students and Jane Brown, Principal, agreed to resend the PP strategy to governors. It was agreed at the next meeting that the PP spend and impact would be circulated and discussed further.

### Safeguarding

Jane Brown, Principal, presented the Annual Safeguarding Report for 2021/22 and noted that safeguarding referrals had increased dramatically. There had been 816 cases referred to safeguarding staff and 277 of these has been referred on to the Local Authority. 455 of referrals had been emotional cases and the college had received 88 phone calls from Operation Encompass. Jane Brown, Principal, informed governors that she was expanding the safeguarding team due to the demand of referrals and that Duty and Assessment at the Local Authority now had a higher threshold to be able to refer which has meant a much higher burden placed on schools. Jane Brown, Principal, also noted that the Mental Health in Schools Team were now based on the grounds of New College Leicester. There was a discussion around mental health and safeguarding.

Jane Brown, Principal, noted that although Sue Thistlethwaite was not present, she had sent in her safeguarding report to governors which had been previously circulated and there were no questions.

Sue Billington, Chair of Governors, agreed and signed the current Child Protection training register.

## **8. Finance**

Richard Seaman, Governor, presented the 2022-23 finance and noted that there had been an initial carry over of £1.7 million but final figures were not yet known so the plan for the college is to carry forward £1.4/5 million into next year. There was some minimal premises work being carried out but the college had not yet received all income. The governors approved the budget and carryover and thanked Richard Seaman for his report.

Jane Brown, Principal, reported that the lettings were almost back to full facility and part of the Health and Safety block had been rented out to the Mental Health Team in Schools and also free music lessons were being given to students in repayment of Leicestershire Music Services being based in the Learning Centre building of the college.

Jane Brown, Principal, also informed governors that there are 100 solar panels being fitted to the college over the next 2 weeks by Solex Scheme although the contract for energy with District Heating is fixed until 2025.

The governors thanked Richard Seaman for his report.

## **9. Update from Trust Board**

Sue Billington, Chair of Governors, gave an update from the Trust Board Meeting held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022. She noted that the Board had discussed the government paper which states that every school must be part of a Multi Academy Trust by 2030 and this was something that the Trustees were looking in to.

## **10. Specials**

Lynn Dawson, Clerk to Governors, noted that there were a number of governors terms up for renewal. These were: Paul Wilson; Ian Chakravorty; Dipak Patel; Ellen Rudge-Tezcan; Sue Billington and Sue Thistlethwaite. A vote was held and the decision to reinstate all said governors for another term was unanimous.

Lynn Dawson, Clerk to Governors, noted that all register of business interests had been completed and the scheme of delegation/review of the committee structure and the governors skills audit outcome would be discussed at the next meeting.

## **11. Policies for Approval**

The governors agreed the following policies:

- Admissions
- Appraisal Procedure
- Assessment and Feedback
- Behaviour
- BTEC Employer Involvement
- BTEC Malpractice
- Children with Health Needs that cannot attend school
- Complaints
- Data Backup
- Early Career Teachers
- Education of Looked After Children

- Employee Code of Conduct
- Employee Sickness Absence Management
- E-safety
- Homework
- Low-level Concerns
- Personal Emergency Evacuation
- Post 16 Bursary Fund
- Pupil Premium
- Relationships and Sex Education
- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- School Uniform
- SEND
- Slips and Trips
- Suspensions and Exclusions
- Teaching and Learning
- Visitors
- Volunteers

## **12. Any Other Business**

- Jane Brown, Principal, reported that 120 questionnaires had been completed on Parentview for Ofsted.
- Jane Brown, Principal, noted that although Sue Thistlethwaite was not present, she had sent in her Inclusion report which had been previously circulated to governors and there were no questions.

The meeting closed at 7.07 pm.

**Next meeting: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022, 5.00 pm**

## Matters Arising

ITEM	ACTION	OWNER	DEADLINE
1	Governors to offer dates to sit on Student Disciplinary Panels	All	Ongoing
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	Termly
4	Jane Brown to complete a high level spend plan for the college.	Jane Brown	November
5	Chris Gowans to work on ensuring a safe environment for external users and to run a report as to what systems are already in place	Jane Brown	Closed
6	Sue Thistlethwaite to look at, and report back on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• impact of student disciplinary panels with a success rate.</li> <li>• looked after children</li> <li>• students who do not access the full curriculum</li> <li>• spending of pupil premium and the students' exclusion/attendance rates.</li> </ul>	Sue Thistlethwaite	Ongoing
7	A 10-minute Child Protection slot on each GB agenda in terms of briefing in accordance with the current procedure.	Ellen Rudge- Tezcan	Ongoing
8	DOLs to be invited to governor meetings.	Jane Brown	Ongoing
9	The Governors requested a Business Case for the future of Post 16 provision at New College Leicester	Jane Brown	Next academic year
10	Mini safeguarding audit to be carried out on external lettings	Wayne Allsopp/Ellen Rudge-Tezcan	Closed
11	Jane Brown to speak to Wayne Allsopp re ventilation in small hall.	Jane Brown	Ongoing
12	Mini audit to take place on 6 student reoffenders	Sue Billington	Ongoing
13	Follow-up from Ofsted compliant - First Aid procedure to be reviewed regarding head injuries.	Jane Brown	Closed
14	To compile a brief of a timeframe for the contractors carrying out the condition survey and submit to governors.	Wayne Allsopp	Ongoing
15	To work with New College looking at closing the gap on White British achievement using data from Y11	Kate Walewska	Ongoing