



Minutes of the Meeting of the Academy Improvement Board Held at 4pm on 9th October 2019 at Morecambe Bay Academy

Present: Mr P Bell – Chair
Mr R Gittins – Vice Chair
Mrs V Michael - Principal
Mrs L Nicholls
Mr G Gomersall
Mrs L Winston until 5pm
Mrs L Newby
Professor J Crewdson
Mrs C Marney – Clerk to the Board

In Attendance: Andrew McKinnell, Emma Pearson (Head of Science) until 4.40pm,
Natalie Carr (Head of Mathematics) until 4.40pm

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Mrs D Blezard.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th July, having been circulated have been approved and signed by the chair as a correct record.

4. Presentation from Head of Mathematics

A presentation was given by the Head of Mathematics on the progress of the Maths Department and actions that will be put in place to improve attainment. An explanation was given regarding the exam results and the board asked questions about setting and tracking. The board were satisfied that the Head of Mathematics, who has only been in post since the beginning of October, had made significant changes and purchased resources that will help students to achieve their best results. The Head of Mathematics thanked the trust for funding an Intervention Tutor in the Maths Department.

Initials:

5. Presentation from Head of Science

A presentation was given by the Head of Science on the progress of the Science Department and actions that will be put in place to improve attainment. There has been progress in Science outcomes this year compared to last year but things are progressing slowly. The Head of Science felt that this was not helped by staffing issues within the Science Department due to ill health, however, staff are very positive regarding changes that have been put in place. The board asked if the Head of Science was well supported and it was agreed that she was. The board also asked about resources in the Science Dept, the Head of Science had already received textbooks and revision guides and predicts improvements going forward.

The AIB thanked the Heads of Department for their presentations which they found interesting and informative and they left at 4.40pm.

6. Issues arising from DfE "School Governance Update September 2019"

The Principal shared a report from Lord Agnew, Minister for the Schools System. There was a brief discussion on this and it was confirmed that the Trust are responsible for the Academies Financial Handbook, it was agreed that the Trust are mostly responsible for maintaining risk registers but the AIB should also take some responsibility and check this. It was agreed at the last AIB that the Chair should be responsible for any Safeguarding issues and since the report states that there is a revised version of Keeping children safe in Education guidance it was decided that the Chair should meet with the Schools DSL.

Action: Chair to meet with Assistant Principal to check statutory changes for Safeguarding. Clerk to the board will arrange this meeting.

7. Examination Analysis Summary

The board had already received this information in the Principal's Report and so the Principal asked if they had any questions. The board questioned the Principal on all aspects of the examination results and asked about staff resilience and if there were pressures on staff due to performance outcomes. The principal explained that there are higher expectations from staff but that support is in place for anyone who feels they are struggling with workload. The board questioned the exam outcomes for boys as they were lower than the results for girls. The principal explained that during this year's option process with Year 8, there are 35 more boys than girls, this has been a key factor in producing the Option Blocks, more options have been added in which boys are usually successful i.e. PE, DT.

Action: SLT to write an action plan to compare boys results and make this an Agenda item in the Spring.

The board questioned if the DofE Award would still be running at Morecambe Bay Academy. This is going to be run through our PE Department and with an outside agency.

Initials:

8. SEF

The principal read through the SEF and acknowledged that overall effectiveness is RI but Management and Leadership was good, this document had already been shared with the AIB. The board questioned the Principal and asked that some changes be made to the SEF before it was finalised.

- Acknowledge that the Academy is receiving support from the Trust with QA for Teaching
- Improvements on behaviour and exclusions should be explained more in depth
- Abbreviations should be explained for Ofsted Inspectors eg ARC

The board questioned the arrangement between MBA and Carnforth Sixth Form and asked if there were Risk Assessments in place. The Principal explained that a Service Level Agreement had been drawn up between both schools. The principal will bring this to the next meeting.

Action: The Principal will bring the Service Level Agreement to the next meeting

9. Statutory Reports

SEND

The AIB had already received the report and the Chair questioned if SEND need to do more intervention with students, it was agreed that the Trainee SENCO will be attending the next AIB meeting and could explain to the board future plans and ideas.

CLAC

The AIB had already received the report and had no further questions.

Catch up funding

The AIB had already received the report. Plans are in place for Literacy across the school although it was felt that Literacy in SEN should be the main focus.

Action: Trainee SENCO to attend next AIB meeting. Clerk to make arrangements.

10. Update on building work

The board were taken on a tour of the ground floor building to see for themselves the improvements that have taken place so far and all agreed that there were significant visual changes and the school was much improved. The AIB received a report on works that are ongoing and gave credit to the site team for their continued hard work.

Initials:

11. PLASC

The board had not received this report and it will be sent to them ASAP. The principal discussed the budget and the consequences of having fewer students across all years the reason is, mostly from students moving out of area.

Action: Principal to send PLASC report to members of AIB

12. Discussion on future work of the AIB and Middle Leader Presentations

Action: The board would like to see presentations from SEN and the English Department at the next AIB meeting.

13. Confidential Items

There were no confidential items.

14. AOB

The Vice Chair asked if the school could support EU students during Brexit uncertainty and assist their families in their application for settled status. The Principal explained that she would speak to her contacts in the Polish School and discuss how best to offer support for these families.

Action: Principal to speak to the Polish School regarding Brexit arrangements

Meeting closed at 5.45pm

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 11th December 2019

Initials: