



Minutes of the Meeting of the Academy Improvement Board Held at 4pm on 11th December 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 until 5.10pm
Mrs L Winston
Mrs L Newby
Professor J Crewdson
Mrs C Marney – Clerk to the Board

In Attendance: John Cowper (Vice Principal), Heather McClurg (Vice Principal) Sophie Lumsden (Acting Head of English) Tessa Davies (Trainee SENCO) until 5pm,

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 9th October, having been circulated have been approved and signed by the chair as a correct record.

4. Presentation by acting Head of English

The acting Head of English shared the long term plan with the board and gave a presentation on where we were last year in comparison to this year. Staffing was discussed for Year 11 and sixth form, staff planning has improved in planning for the individual needs of our students, this had led to an improvement in behaviour. The curriculum has been redesigned to reflect the schools intent. Tracking is now in place and there are more lesson drop ins which are welcomed by the department and are seen as a supportive measure.

Setting for students in Yr7 to Yr10 has had a positive impact and highlights early on students who need intervention. There is a need to promote the love of reading and the department are encouraging and suggesting books that may interest students. This year the exam board has

changed from AQA to Educas and it is hoped that all schools in the trust will be working from the same exam board eventually and can share resources.

The board questioned the acting Head of English on her presentation and were satisfied that she is doing all she can to improve the results at KS4 and KS5. The board asked if there was support needed in the department. Support from the trust will be utilised.

5. Presentation by Mr Cowper and Trainee SENCO

Mr Cowper shared a Power Point with the board and discussed where the SEN Department was in 2018 and changes that have been made since then.

The Trainee SENCO then talked through all those changes. Her priority was to update all policies and make sure that all the correct procedures were in place. SEN reviews have taken place recently and all chronology's are now in files so there is much more information available on these students. Staff still need to be assessed so that they are utilised in the best way possible and any necessary training needs to be arranged. There is a Monday briefing to ensure that all support is in place for the week ahead, there are also weekly pastoral meetings so that every child gets the best support and their needs are met. Communication has improved between school and parents.

In January staff will receive regular communication on SEN students with updates, this should improve student profile and give a whole child perspective. Safe Space offer an after school club and the Library is open after school for Homework club.

The board questioned how teachers know who SEN students are. Mr Cowper explained how the information is discussed at pre observation meetings and through Synergy.

The board thanked English and SEN for their presentations and they left the meeting at 5pm.

6. Principals Report

The principal read through her report that had already been shared with the board, on the issue of staffing due to ill health the board asked if additional support could be offered. Mock exams have run smoothly and the C Pen readers were used successfully. The Sixth Form Open Evening was reasonably well attended and was a successful evening. The board questioned the tablets that were being given to the sixth form students, the principal explained that there was Government funding for this for students who were taking Stem subjects, students could keep the tablets and insurance/firewall were in place.

The principal discussed the SIP visit and their findings. The board questioned the principal on her decision to select Humanities and PE for a deep dive.

7. ISDR & FFT Date 2018/19

This data had been shared with the board prior to the meeting and there were no questions.

8. RAG of Development Plan

This had been shared with the board prior to the meeting and there were no questions from the board but they did ask is anything could be postponed to ease workload on the principal and SLT.

Action: Mrs Nicholls to make contact with someone to assist with Mental Health Strategy

9. H&S Compliance Report

This report had already been shared with the board prior to the meeting and all agreed the academy is significantly more complaint than in the past. The board questioned why some boxes were in red and looked like they had not been completed, the principal explained that we were compliant in these areas but the inspector had yet to see evidence of this, he will be shown on his next visit. There will be a review of the Fire Procedure then the new panel is finally programmed.

10. Budget Report

This report had already been shared with the board prior to the meeting. The board agreed that the academy is in a much better place than the previous 2 years.

11. Safeguarding Update

The safeguarding check list had been updated with the Chair of the Board and the DSL.

12. Website Compliance

The website is now compliant.

13. PP Report

The principal discussed Pupil Premium Expenditure. Revision kits have been provided for Yr 11 students. Tutors have been provided in English Maths and Science. It was felt that tutors are our strongest strategy.

14. Confidential Items

There were no confidential items discussed

15. AOB

None

Meeting closed at 5.40pm

The date for the next meeting will be Wednesday 12th February 2020.