

I certify that these minutes are a true record of the LGB meeting held on Wednesday 17th June 2015 at 2pm

Signed Chair/ Vice Chair Date.....



Cowes Enterprise College

Local Governing Body (LGB) Meeting

Date: 17th June 2015

Time: 2pm

Location: Cowes Enterprise College, Crossfield Avenue, Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO31 8HB

Governors

David Sword	(DS)	Chair
John Peckham	(JP)	Principal
Karen Baker	(KB)	Governor
Sean Harrison	(SH)	Governor

Apologies

Neil Strowger
Victoria Spencer
Christopher Rice

Attendees

Carole Bailey	(CB)	Clerk
David Doherty	(DD)	Head of School
Richard Marinelli	(RM)	Business Director
Gwayne Webb	(GW)	OAT Representative
Jemma Harding	(JH)	Vice Principal

1. Apologies for absence

Received and accepted from NS, VS and CR

DS said the governors need to be aware of recruitment issues for the governing body and JP is in conversation with two potential members. KB tendered apologies in advance for the 15th July 2015 LGB meeting.

The LGB congratulated SH on receiving his MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

2. Declaration of Interest and Confidential Items

No interests were declared, there are no confidential items.

3. Long term strategy

JP took governors through the vision document that had been presented to staff. This had been arrived at through brainstorming sessions by Senior Leadership Team (SLT) following discussions at the Governor Conference and permission given by the LGB for the SLT to progress the long term strategy.

There had been focus on the word 'enterprise' in the college's name and what it meant to students and staff. Educating for enterprise and enterprise in terms of personal skills that enable students to take control of their lives is the aim. Students learn best by doing things themselves; teaching may need to change to enable a more hands on approach for students. They need encouragement to persevere and try harder to develop mastery of areas of learning. Students need to explore by being asked open questions not closed ones.

The moral thread needs to run through all the academy does; we are not a 'grade factory'. The academy needs to develop young people so that they achieve good grades because of the way they have been taught.

JP tabled the one page vision for Cowes and invited questions and discussion from governors.

Governors examined the document.

Q. Is the phrase 'social enterprise' one that will be understood?

A. This comes from the Human Utopia feedback about the benefits of working with the community for the common good. It may be that this statement appears somewhere else.

Governors discussed the HEART strapline of **H**onesty, **E**mpowerment, **A**wareness, **R**esponsibility, and **T**rust. They liked this idea; should aspirations be in there? JP: This is the draft, it can be tweaked. Teaching staff also need to engage with this process and reactions to this document should be invited.

JP tabled draft versions of the Cowes logo with re-jigged wording. Discussions centred on the actual legal title status of Cowes, what Ormiston will expect to see in a title, and the perception of the academy within the local and professional community. Budget implications on a change to the logo would need to be considered and OAT approval sought.

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Governors discussed the use of the word 'aspirations' and the implication that if it is specifically mentioned there might be an inference that students don't currently have them. There is a need to specify that the academy builds on and celebrates high aspirations.

Governors looked at the main strapline and KB suggested that 'expanding horizons' rather than widening may be a better word. Governors wanted to make clear on this document that Cowes is a school which is there for its whole community, it does not specialise and therefore restrict its intake but offers good education for all. The line in yellow containing the 'social enterprise' wording could be removed entirely. It was felt that to make impact fewer words were better.

It was agreed that parents need to be consulted about the long term strategy and direction for Cowes. There has been major change over the last few years but the direction of the journey has changed for the better.

Action Point 1: JP will invite a parent focus group to look at options for the strategy document and bring feedback to the LGB.

Governors suggested that the role of technology in planning and implementing the long term strategy needs to be looked at. Students need to be taught skills such as the ability to research.

Action Point 2: JP will talk to students about the long term strategy for Cowes and bring feedback to the LGB.

GW suggested that 'achieve' should be included within the document. Governors discussed that the strategy will apply to staff, governors and the whole of the academy's attitude.

DS led a summing up of the conversation.

All liked HEART with some possible amendments to the following line alongside each letter to include 'achievement' and 'building on high aspirations'. It was felt that 'making a difference' was over used and perhaps better wording could be found.

The 'yellow' print line could go and some elements be incorporated under HEART.

Expanding Horizons was liked.

Governors would like to see 'Enterprise' linked to the statements alongside HEART and acknowledgement of the balance of high aspirations within the context of values.

The image of a horizon was discussed and the following points were highlighted: challenge a narrow view, child looking at the future; moving the barriers, must not forget to look at the opportunities close to home as well.

Change empowerment? Effort is the vehicle to moving forward, it is a critical issue and should be a strong value in the whole organisation. There should also be a notion of independence, of doing it for you. JP: Effort is a difficult word to use as the connotations can mean physical effort but it needs to reflect resilience, persistence and time on task.

DS asked governors if they felt all ground had been covered and if there was anything missing.

Governors said they were very pleased with this draft and look forward to seeing the revised version.

Governors discussed the need to define the 6th Form role and marketing of the courses. There is a need for clarity of vision regarding the 6th form as an integral part of the academy.

Cowes has a strong teacher base in its 6th Form and A level courses to enable application for universities are offered alongside the new collaboration of Marine Hospitality with UKSA. Some students want to go to Newport bases simply because it is Newport with a wide range of facilities on hand within the town. Changes have been made at Cowes to help counter this attraction.

Q. Do we have any offer for vocational qualifications within 6th Form?

A. No, we can't compete with the IW College which is set up for offering a wide range of vocational courses. We could offer collaboration with the IW College for those who need retakes of exams and this may be an area worth exploring. The main aim must be to provide access in this local area for 11-18 education.

Action Point 3: JP and the SLT will distil the ideas from this meeting, as well as the consultations with parents, staff and students and bring back to the first meeting in September 2015. Any drafts will be forwarded to governors for comment.

Action Point 4: GW will take the ideas from this meeting back to OAT for a first reaction and feedback to the LGB at the meeting on 15th July.

DS thanked everyone for their time and closed the meeting at 4.45pm.

Contacts:

Chair of Governors: Mr D Sword contact via the clerk or the academy office

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