

ST PETER'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
MEETING OF THE FULL GOVERNING BODY
TUESDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2015 AT 6.00PM

PRESENT: Mrs C Chivers, Mrs R Fisher, Mr C Hough, Fr B Jackson, Mr A McGlown (Headteacher), Mrs N McLaughlin, Mrs G Oldfield, Mrs K Pilkington, Mr T Sweeney (Chair)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs A E Shacklady (Acting Clerk to Governors)
Mrs H Pinnington (Deputy Headteacher)

1. Opening Prayer

Fr Jackson opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from: Mr R Morris, Mrs A Doran, Mrs S Tunney.

3. Items to be included under A.O.B.

There were no other business items raised at this point.

4. Declaration of Pecuniary/Business Interest

No declarations were recorded.

5. Headteacher's Termly Report.

The Headteacher referred Governors to his Termly Report. He highlighted the fact that schools faced a number of uncertainties over the coming years in terms of qualification reform and accountability measures. Although the detailed impact of these changes was not yet clear, the Headteacher stressed that the school's absolute aim was continued improvement in student outcomes.

Q Are the targets in the report the same as those set by the Pupil Progress Committee? The Chair remarked that the "working at" grade in maths seemed very out of line with expectations.

A. The Maths Department has interpreted the new "working at" grade very strictly, resulting in a wide differential from the predicted grades.

The Headteacher observed that:

- There were similar levels of ability in each cohort year on year.
- Predictions for 2017, on the new 1-9 scale for GCSE, would be the school's best estimate given current information.

- All examinations were now at the end of Year 11, whereas in the past students had been able to “bank” earlier results. Much depended on how well they were able to perform on the day of the final exam(s) in each subject.
- Drama had traditionally been a high performing subject in school, but this had not been the case in 2015. A change of examination board was being considered but this could not be achieved for 2016.
- Teaching and Learning in school was now between outstanding and good.

Governors were keen to explore how teaching staff had been supported in implementing the demanding new marking and feedback arrangements. Managers and staff present made the following points:

- Planning is key. Formative feedback takes place every 6 lessons
- For teachers, there is very good value in feedback, enabling pupils to make regular progress.
- Initially it had been a very difficult process, but staff were now exploring strategies to make it more manageable.
- The children were enjoying the feedback and the challenges.
- Through monitoring and work scrutiny it is easier to predict outcomes and there is much more clarity for individual pupils.

The Headteacher further reported that:

- The new Chaplain was settling in well and doing an excellent job.
- Exclusions were higher than was desirable but these were appropriate in each case. The recent increase was largely due to the fact that the current Year 11 included a larger number of challenging pupils than most other year groups.
- Re-marks had been requested for the IGCSE English but there had been no significant changes.

The Chair commended the report and placed on record the Governors’ best wishes and appreciation for the work done. Governors **accepted** the Headteacher’s Report.

6. National Leader in Education Health Check

Governors considered the report on the school provided by a National Leader in Education. The Chair commented that this was a very comprehensive report and the Governors agreed that it was a useful source of information/evidence..

Q Is this process compulsory?

A No, but because the school was unlikely to be subject to Ofsted inspection in the foreseeable future it was considered to be a worthwhile evaluation exercise.

Q It is a predominantly good but not perfect report - was there any danger that any student may ‘slip through the net’?

A If a student is not making the necessary progress it will show up through our tracking and monitoring processes.

7. Progress report on the Budget 2015-2016

The Chair noted that there was a positive balance at this stage and the Headteacher agreed that overall the 2015-16 budget situation was satisfactory. Governors **accepted** the progress report.

8. Governors' Allowances

The Governors felt that it was not necessary to adopt a Governors' Allowances policy at this time.

9. Register of Interests

The Deputy Headteacher suggested that the Headteacher and Mrs Oldfield should declare pecuniary interest as members of staff.

Governors accepted the requirement to display details of governance publicly on the School website.

10. Statutory Guidance

The latest guidance regarding the constitution of governing bodies of maintained schools was noted.

11. Health & Well-being Guidance

The Chair commended the document circulated, and expressed his agreement with the document's message that Headteachers should be treated fairly.

Fr Jackson commented on the difficulty in recruiting new Headteachers which was highlighted in the document. The Headteacher noted that there were 11 secondary schools in the Archdiocese which did not currently have substantive headteachers.

12. Governor Reports

The SEND visit had been a really positive and interesting experience. The Headteacher said that he proposed to conduct a full departmental review every term. Art had been the first Department to be reviewed, with very positive feedback. Maths had been overwhelmingly positive but with some room for improvement. Mr Hough remarked that the children were very focused with an immense amount of pride in what they were doing.

13. Governing Body Minutes

The minutes from the Full Governing Body meetings of 30th June 2015 and 8th September 2015 were **agreed** and accepted as an accurate record.

14. Sub-Committee Minutes

Premises Health & Safety	- 6 th October 2015
Personnel	- 20 th October 2015
Pay Committee	- 20 th October 2015
Student Progress & Curriculum	- 10 th November 2015
Finance	- 24 th November 2015

The Minutes of the above meetings were **agreed** and accepted as an accurate record.

15. **Matters arising from Committee Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

16. **Approval of School Visits**

Governors briefly discussed the school's plans for educational visits abroad. A Governor asked whether the school had any trips planned to any major cities in Europe in light of the recent tragic events in Paris. The Headteacher confirmed that:

- Visits were planned to CERN and to Normandy. The Normandy itinerary had been altered slightly.
- The Year 7 trip to Disneyland Paris would not be going ahead, and an alternative destination for a UK outdoor activity residential was being investigated.
- Advice had been taken from the appropriate sources and there had been no negative advice regarding visits outside of the Paris city region.

Governors confirmed that they were satisfied with the arrangements described.

17. **A.O.B.**

Appeals Panel

The Chair reported that he had received a paper from the Archdiocese and invited expressions of interest from Governors who were interested in becoming members of the Appeals Panel.

Pay Progression

The Pay Committee had considered the cases of 2 staff who had started in September, but did not at the time of the meeting have the evidence needed to progress up the pay scale. They had now provided evidence, and the Full Governing Body was asked to make a decision on their progression. The Chair asked if the staff concerned had supplied satisfactory information. The Headteacher confirmed that they had, and informed Governors that, had the staff concerned stayed at their previous school, they would have progressed. The Governors **agreed** to accept the evidence provided for pay progression. **Action:** The Headteacher to arrange pay progression for staff as agreed.

Maths Teacher interviews

The Deputy Headteacher and Fr Jackson agreed to sit on the panel for the Maths Teacher interviews.

(The meeting closed at 7.50pm)