



**CHESTERTON
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

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Strategic Committee Minutes

21st June 2013

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1. Present: Mark Patterson, Simon Peyton-Jones, James Strachan, Jim Warwick, Andrew Kennedy, Susannah Clements

2. Apologies: None

In attendance: Wendy Palmby (Clerk)

This meeting was quorate with 6 Governors out of 6 present. (Quorum is a minimum of 3 Governors)

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests: None were declared.

4. Register of Business: Simon Peyton Jones and Andrew Kennedy declared that they worked for Microsoft Research and "Tablets at Chesterton" are on the Agenda.

5. Minutes of the last meeting, (08.02.2013) were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

6. Matters arising:

Freedom of information Policy: Still in train

Action: Tracy Roden

7. School Improvement Plan:

The current draft had been circulated previously to all Governors.

This document will be handed over to the new Head, Lucy Scott with a Key issues document

Action: Mark Patterson

Comments:

- The introduction to the report covers Chesterton "Vision" and "Mission" statements.
- English results are predicted to be higher this year
- Some Governors felt that the document gave undue emphasis to Maths and English results; however discussion showed that there was reference to the free school meals cohort, the high achievers, as well as other curriculum areas.
- The document also concentrated on monitoring students' progress.

It was felt that we should continue to focus on working towards being outstanding in Ofsted terms, whilst not losing sight of the other issues that are important to us (if not to Ofsted). Examples of the latter are sport and fitness, community involvement, critical thinking and debating skills. It was agreed that the school has many good features aside from students' outcomes.

Governors asked if Student Voice could be added as they felt this was very important. This is being addressed within the vertical tutoring system.

Action: Mark Patterson

The revised School improvement plan will be sent to Lucy Scott.

Action: Mark Patterson

8. The Budget key document had been reviewed at the Resources committee meeting earlier this week. And the key choices will be seen by the Full Governing Body on 9th July 2013. The biggest additional cost is the Intervention model.

9. Admissions Pupil Admission Number (PAN): There was an informative discussion on the possibility of the school increasing the Pupil admission number (PAN) to reflect the upturn in the locality. The Local Authority (LA) had expressed an interest in talking to Governors about this. Our baseline position is that we are not minded to increase our PAN, for several reasons:

Signed

Date

- We are very keen to avoid being under-subscribed, because that leads to our places being filled with students excluded from elsewhere.
- We originally reduced our PAN because our site was too crowded.
- We are currently over-subscribed, but not massively so (certainly not by a full class).
- We are in no danger (currently) of not accepting all students from our catchment area who want to come.
- There is plenty of capacity at Manor However, it may be that the LA might offer inducements. **Action:** Mark Patterson to feed back the Governor comments to the LA. If, bearing in mind our initial position, they want to meet with us, we would give them a hearing.

The next discussion was on the possibility of Chesterton managing its own admissions. Mark Patterson explained the present process and how this would change. There was a bad mix-up recently; we have been assured by the LA that their recent failure to follow the correct mid-phase transfer protocol will not happen again. Governors were very unhappy about this situation and intend to write to express their concern.

Action: Mary Sanders

The date for deciding on our own management of admissions will be in the Autumn of 2013. Mark Patterson made a strong case for us managing our own admissions in the future; however, we left the matter open for now. **Action Clerk** to find out when the decision date will be, so that the new Head has time to prepare.

10. Quick Updates:

- The next Strategic meeting will be on July 19th
- The tablet scheme is progressing according to the schedule.
- Vertical Tutoring is going ahead and the Senior Head of House and four Heads of house have been appointed. Due to there not being quite enough Co-tutors, some will share a form and the strongest tutors will be the only form tutor in some cases.
- Staffing in Design & Technology (DT) - We are trying to fill a small requirement in DT due to a late resignation and a member of staff on maternity leave. A Head of DT will be required in the long term.

- Temporary Assistant Heads: One has been appointed and the Governors supported Mark's decision to appoint one other from the existing Temporary assistant heads.
- Pay Policy: Two unions have asked schools to hold back while they are in negotiation with the LA and the Educational Personnel Management team. The advice is for us to carry on with tailoring our own policy.
Action: Mark Patterson to send draft to Lucy Scott.
- The Pavilion is going ahead and the Resource committee had already received an update at their meeting this week.

11. Policies:

The updated Target setting Policy was previously circulated. Governors were all in favour and decided to review again in 2014.

- 12. A.O.B:** The EC English School are using the part of the school from now and into the school holidays. This is a lucrative contract, but it can also be very disruptive to teachers and students. This is a 3 year contract and will be up for renewal this year. Governors need to consider whether to continue this going forward. It was suggested that maybe a 12month extension would be a possibility. **Action:** Simon Peyton-Jones/James Strachan to Check with Tracy when a decision is needed.

- 13. Date of the next meeting:** Agreed date Friday 19th July 2013 at 8am

The meeting closed at 9.30am.

Signed

Date