

Moulton School

Minutes of the Full Governing Body Meeting held on Thursday 03 February 2011 at 7.00 pm

No.	Subject	Action
	<p>Present:</p> <p>Trevor Jones (TJ) (Head Teacher), Anne Jeffrey (AJ) (Acting Chair), Richard Hollis (RH), Lesley Proctor (LP), Rosemary Lucas (RL), Angie Dabbs (AD), Simon Barrick, (SB), Steve Uden (SU), David Sherwood (DS), Michelle Devine (MD), John Hancock (JH), Fiona Polynj (FP), Jonathan Eales (JE).</p> <p>In Attendance: Mr Peter Earl (PE) (Clerk).</p>	
1	<p>Apologies: Nigel Smith (NS), Geoff Otley (GO) (Chair).</p> <p>Absent: Rev Peter Breckwoldt (PB), Robin Chapman (RC).</p> <p>Welcome: The acting chair welcomed a new governor – Mr Jonathan Eales.</p>	
2	<p>Notification of Any Other Business:</p> <p>There was no notification of any other business.</p>	
3	<p>Record of pecuniary interests:</p> <p>The acting chair asked all governors, including the new governor if anyone needed to record a pecuniary interest. Forms were collected from all those present and included nil returns. These were collated and passed to Judith Bambrough (Secretary) for filing via the Head Teacher.</p>	
4	<p>Declaration of financial interests:</p> <p>No declaration was made.</p>	

<p>5</p>	<p>Minutes of the full governors meeting held on 02 December 2010:</p> <p>These were agreed as accurate and accepted.</p> <p>The minutes were signed by the acting chair.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 1 – no matters arising. • Page 2 – no matters arising. • Page 3 – no matters arising. • Page 4 – all CRB checks have been completed. • Page 5 – no matters arising. • Page 6 – no matters arising. • Page 7 – NGA (National Governors Association) affiliation – a brief resume of the benefits of this were given by the Head Teacher who also reported that following discussions with the Chair of Governors it had been agreed that affiliation should take place. The Head Teacher will complete this process. 	<p>TJ</p>

7 School Presentation: Curriculum 2012

The outline document had been circulated to Governors and an opportunity to read it given prior to the meeting.

A curriculum plan for implementation from September 2012 was presented. This was an alteration to the previously agreed plan, which had been built around two GCSE's in each of years 9, 10 and 11. Subject leaders had raised considerable concerns regarding this, and there were particular concerns regarding the effect this model could have on A and A* grades. Following further consultation in school, the proposed model was put forward with the full support of both senior and middle leaders in school. The revised model also allows for greater emphasis on core subjects by generating more time for maths and English, particularly in the final year of studies.

As a brief summary of the plan, in Year 9 there would be a choice of 3 from: French/Spanish (2nd language), DT resistant materials/graphics, DT food/textiles, art, drama and music.

In Years 10 and 11 there would, in addition to the above, be a choice of 3 from: Business studies, ICT, PE (BTEC), Astronomy, Geography, History and Learning support (guided choice).

It would allow students to choose a vocational or language route in year 8 for commencement in year 9.

The plan facilitates the removal of triple science from the options blocks and incorporates these into the curriculum to be studied by all in years 9, 10 and 11.

RE is included as it is a legal requirement and it was felt that progression towards a GCSE resulted in students being more engaged in the subject and more motivated.

Engineering would be an option in year 10.

Although the Government white paper states the introduction of an English Baccalaureate with restricted subject components, it was felt that to be too prescriptive in option choices could seriously de-motivate, and may not be in the best interests of the student.

The proposal is for the current Year 7 to follow this new model.

In terms of costs, there may be an increase in examination costs, however it was felt in the long term, as the school moves from a modular system to a more linear one then there would be cost savings.

The proposal was unanimously agreed by those present.

<p>8</p>	<p>Performance Management Policy:</p> <p>The policy document had been circulated to Governors and an opportunity to read it given prior to the meeting.</p> <p>This policy has been approved by the Quality Assurance sub committee and has been brought to the meeting of the full governing body for their approval.</p> <p>The chance to ask questions was given.</p> <p>Question 1 – How do governors select the Head Teachers performance management panel? Answer 1 – The member of the panel were chosen at the full governing body meeting in July 2010.</p> <p>It was noted that the external support mentioned in point 8.2 of the policy would continue. This was felt to be extremely beneficial.</p> <p>Question 2 – How are the outcomes of performance management reported to the governing body? Answer 2 – in the absence of a pay policy committee outcomes are fed back to the finance committee.</p> <p>It was felt that in the next academic year a pay policy committee should be established and performance management review delegated to this committee.</p> <p>The proposal to adopt the performance management policy was unanimously agreed by those present.</p>	<p>TJ/ CHAIR</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Behaviour for Learning Policy:</p> <p>The policy document had been circulated to Governors and an opportunity to read it given prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Amendments to the policy were proposed in that a letter of apology should form part of the sanctions for the following: swearing in front of staff/swearing at another pupil, homophobic comments to staff/students, racist comments to staff/students, intimidating behaviour towards staff/students.</p> <p>It was reported that isolation had been effective and a downward trend in the defiance of staff had been noted.</p> <p>At this point a governor challenged why smoking did not appear on this list – it was recorded that smoking forms part of the drugs policy.</p> <p>It was felt isolations until 4.15pm had been effective as this made more</p>	<p>TJ</p>

	<p>parents become involved, particularly as arrangements to transport the student in question home was their responsibility.</p> <p>A question regarding use of the uniform card was raised at this point. The Head Teacher and AD provided a summary of its use for the benefit of all governors. It was felt the introduction of this measure had been very effective.</p> <p>With no further questions the proposal to adopt the behaviour for learning policy was unanimously agreed by those present.</p>	
10	<p>Governor Visits:</p> <p>AJ reported on a successful visit to the school council and student voice.</p> <p>Positive comments were received on the teaching and learning in the school and behaviour and learning.</p> <p>Membership of both the school council and student voice came from a broad cross section of the school.</p> <p>Chris Heaton-Harris, MP for Daventry is to visit on 4th March 2011.</p> <p>Debbie McIntosh is to be thanked for her commitment to driving the school council and student voice forward.</p> <p>The completion of teaching and learning questionnaires is to be encouraged, with the results fed back to the quality assurance committee.</p>	<p>TJ</p> <p>TJ</p>
11	<p>Education White Paper:</p> <p>A summary of the white paper together with a response form the Association of School and College Leaders had been circulated to Governors and an opportunity to read it given prior to the meeting.</p> <p>A brief discussion took place with the Head Teacher highlighting a few relevant sections.</p> <p>This white paper has been presented to Parliament.</p>	

<p>12</p>	<p>Pay and Benefits:</p> <p>All staff have now signed to accept the new pay and conditions that become effective from 1st April 2011.</p> <p>The cost implication for the school is approx £10,000.</p>	
<p>13</p>	<p>Academy Status:</p> <p>Academies are independent of Local Authority funding and receive this direct from the Government. Examples of the freedom that Academy status would give include the ability to decide upon the curriculum, change the length of school days and terms. A move to Academy status is felt to be the natural progression from foundation status and would provide access to different fund sources.</p> <p>A question was raised regarding the legal support required to make the change and it was answered that this support could be purchased as part of a package. There is a grant of circa £25,000 available in respect of the transfer costs involved in becoming an Academy.</p> <p>There are two routes by which Academy status could be pursued, one as partner with an existing Academy and the second by working with another eligible school. The latter is the preferred route as this would allow the school to retain its independence.</p> <p>The first stage is to register interest with the Department for Education. Following discussions between the Head Teacher and the Chair and Vice Chair of Governors the school has registered its interest.</p> <p>The next stage would be to meet as a governing body to establish whether we wish to pursue Academy status and to enter a consultation period with all stakeholders.</p> <p>The third stage is for the governing body to formally submit an application.</p> <p>It was felt that following a successful consultation and application it was feasible for the school to become an Academy as early as September 2011.</p> <p>It was agreed that an extra-ordinary full governors meeting would be arranged to assimilate the information available and decide whether we wished to pursue Academy status and enter a period of consultation. This would be arranged by the Head Teacher.</p>	<p>TJ</p>

<p>14</p>	<p>Community Governor Vacancy:</p> <p>The acting chair stated that a vacancy exists and asked if anyone present knew anyone who may be interested in the position.</p>	
<p>15</p>	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>As there were no items of any other business the meeting finished at 9.20pm.</p> <p>The date of the next meeting Thursday 7th April 2011 at 7pm.</p>	

Signed:..... Date: