

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GOVERNORS' CURRICULUM SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2007

PRESENT: Mrs A Dabbs, Mrs A Jeffrey, Mr T Jones, Mrs C May, Mrs J McQuaid, Mrs J Sayers.

Mr Otley (Chair of Governors), Miss D Macintosh and Mr A Lancaster (Assistant Headteachers) also attended.

16/07 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Mrs Jeffrey was elected.

17/07 APOLOGIES

Mrs R Knight.

18/07 TERMS OF REFERENCE

- To review school policies related to curriculum, teaching and learning (delete eg Sex Education, Special Needs, Religious Education)

Add

- Monitor and evaluate the school's Self Evaluation Policy and Procedures
- Monitor and evaluate developments in Teaching and Learning

19/07 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 26 JUNE

The minutes were approved.

20/07 MATTERS ARISING

12/07 Special Needs Year 7 provision - the small French group is now doing literacy support work. The school had lost one LSA but had gained three.

21/07 KS5 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR 2008-09

Mr Lancaster circulated a paper outlining proposed changes.

Entry requirements – change in entry criteria for level 3 courses.

The Leadership Team had been looking at, in detail, present and past student scores, the level of drop-out and more realistic timetabling. The Leadership Team felt that, if students have the ability to achieve at A-level, they should be offered the opportunity.

Mr Otley pointed out that, some years ago, the governing body had reviewed entry criteria and had decided to raise the entry level.

Governors had believed that the school could achieve better results and, as Moulton was in competition with other institutions, some students would, inevitably, go elsewhere if the standard was set too low.

Mr Lancaster said that the school does have a good reputation and had only lost three students this year.

Mr Jones explained the rationale behind the proposed changes; to enable students who could succeed at AS/A2 to do so at Moulton and to support less able sixth form students through targeting three subjects, rather than struggling in four. The accommodation situation would be no worse than at present.

Level 2 applied GCSE courses – removal of the level 2 courses from Sixth Form curriculum.

General Studies – a proposed alternative method of delivery of General Studies was outlined.

Post-16 collaboration – withdraw from current cluster arrangements and enter new collaboration, which would enhance the quality of provision and enable the beginnings of an academic/vocational mix.

Mr Jones said that, at a cluster meeting in October, he had mentioned that the school was considering changes which would necessitate withdrawing from the present cluster.

Sixth Form application – application process for all students to facilitate more effective timetabling and smaller group sizes.

After discussion the committee agreed to recommend the changes to the full governing body.

Mr Lancaster then left the meeting.

22/07 UP-DATE RE TEACHING AND LEARNING

Miss Macintosh presented a paper detailing the work of the group.

She said that the focus for the year is to improve the quality and consistency of teaching and learning in lessons on a daily basis.

Aims included developing strategies, working with faculties, ASTs and the Faculty Board, evaluation, effectiveness sharing approaches, departmental reviews and to raise awareness of teaching and learning issues with all staff.

The committee expressed its appreciation for the work of the Teaching and Learning group.

Miss Macintosh then left the meeting.

23/07 KS4 CURRICULUM PROPOSAL 2008-09

Mrs May circulated papers outlining the proposed KS4 curriculum review and a KS4 model.

She said that the school recognised that there are, at present, few opportunities to study vocational subjects and the aim is to re-engage a minority of dis-engaged students. The school intends to collaborate with Moulton College and Northampton College and to give more guidance and support to Y9 students when choosing options. It would be essential to provide sufficient training and funding and to evaluate the effectiveness and benefits of the revised curriculum.

KS4 model – Core subjects, English, maths, science, ICT, French, RE and PE.

Mrs May explained that there would be changes to the option blocks which would facilitate an open choice. Proposed new subjects included a range of BTEC courses.

Mr Jones pointed out that students often perform better in subjects they have chosen.

The committee voiced their appreciation for all the thought that had gone into the proposal, and agreed to recommend the changes to the full governing body.

34/07 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 13 March 2008 at 3.45 pm