

**HARRIS CITY ACADEMY CRYSTAL PALACE
GOVERNING BODY
GOVERNORS MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER 2010**

Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday 23rd September 2010, commencing at 5.00pm

Those present: Mr Keith Morley – Chairman
 Ms Emily Barrett Mr Steve Kenning
 Mr Andrew Brenson Mr Tony Bayon
 Ms Joyce Connell Mr Alan Marchant
 Dr Daniel Moynihan

In attendance: Mr Andrew Barr (Vice Principal)
 Mr Will Keown (Vice Principal)
 Mr Mike Antoniou (Federation Finance Director)
 Mr Henry Africa (Federation Business Manager)
 Mrs Debbie McSween (Clerk to the Governors)

KM welcomed everyone.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Ms Lisa Bradhaw, Mr Peter Harris and Mr Phillip Azevedo.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on Thursday 8th June 2010.

Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. In Point 10, the date of next meeting needs to be changed to 23rd September 2010. The minutes were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

- The SEF has now been removed – not required anymore. The format has been abandoned; something similar will be put in place. Currently waiting for further advice. A simplified format for the future.
- The VLE demonstration will be at the next meeting. The VLE is operational but there are a few issues. AB said that all the students are using it but there are some issues.
- There were no other matters.

4. Declaration of Interest

None declared at the meeting. All Governors to submit declaration to the Clerk.

5. Principal's Report

Exam Results

- The Principal's report was distributed. SK went through the report.
- The Post 16 results were good overall but we are looking at ways of improving the results. The way to move forward is to take ownership of the analysis. LL has produced a detailed report on Post 16. The Academy is also looking at improving independent learning. The goal is for higher targets for next year. The present Year 10 and 11 should perform very well.
- KM asked if studying at different site made a difference. DM said that that Post 16 had performed less well across all three. Students from outside achieve the same as ones coming from Harris. DM said that the only impacting significant factor may be the number of students in Post 16 and the rapid growth in Post 16. SK said that we need to get tighter with the results. There are more teachers involved in teaching A Level. Currently reviewing the tracking and monitoring of the data. We need to teach students to work independently and this will be a key factor and to teach teachers to teach independent learning.
- JC offered the use of her services to widen the knowledge base.
- SK said that the subject exam meetings were currently being held to discuss the results. History was the only subject which underperformed.
- KM said that the improvement in results overall was encouraging. At the next meeting we would have an update on what the Academy has managed to do with the results.

- Congratulations to WK who is now a permanent Vice Principal, Eileen Dye Head of Faculty for Science & Maths and Mark Sorrell Head of Faculty for Communications.
- There were approximately 3,000 visitors at Open Evening. There was a nice feel to evening. Improvements can still be made.
- A new telephone system has been put in place.

Building Works - Update

- SK reported on the building works. The rack seating will be going in the Sports Hall soon. By next summer everything should be finished.
- Still some problems for example when it rained today all the drains were blocked.
- Moving around the corridor is difficult at the moment. ABr asked if there would be a reward for the students for the disruption over the course of the year. The Academy/CTC had been around for 20 years and there would be a celebration when everything was completed.
- It was suggested that there be Tutor Group tours for the lower school to the Post 16 block.
- SK said that there were currently 360 in Post 16.
- KM reported that he had attended on the first day of the new school year and he had thanked all the staff for achieving the results on behalf of the Board.
- KM also added thanks to the staff that came in over the summer while the building works were occurring.

Development Plan

- SK went through the Development Plan. There were 10 targets.
- There was a discussion on A Level focus. There was a need to understand the steps the Academy were taking. SK said that this would be discussed at the next meeting.
- EB asked about emerging technologies. AB said that this was being looked into and the issues around how we use classrooms as a learning environment. Putting in fixed computer rooms may become an issue because this type of learning environment will no longer be required. We need to look at PDA or portable computers, providing screen interface, etc. The ICT is utilising cloud technology. Also looking at 3D printers. The students will be able to create in virtual reality and make a physical reality.
- TB asked about what the other academies in the Federation were doing. HCACP would test technology and feedback good ideas across the Federation.
- There was a discussion about IB and the points they needed to get them into university. Dartford Grammar school would be supporting the marking. There was a good take up of 21 students to start with and some were international students.
- JC asked about Post 16 support and the approach taken to support where they go. SK said that Belinda Jones, the Careers Consultant, does a lot of work with the students. KM said that Belinda is due to give a talk at the next meeting.

6 Federation Matters

- DM reported that a couple of schools would like to join the Federation. One secondary and one primary want to come in. Schools can bid to come in from November. There were discussions at present. Any school that was viable and can contribute was considered. The current ones are strong financially and there are discussions with the Local Authority.
- Leo Gilbert is now a Principal.
- BMA would like to have more students becoming doctors. The idea was for trainee doctors to mentor students from Year 9.
- HGAED and HBAED were nearly complete.
- DM reported on the achievements across the Federation and the visitors for Open Evening.
- There was a discussion on HBAED. HCACP has contributed hugely in other Academies and DM thanked them for their support.

7. Committee Report - Disciplinary Committee

- There was one permanent exclusion and the decision was upheld. The student has gone to Nigeria to study. The parents have appealed the decision. The appeal is based on clearing his name.

- On average there were 2/3 permanent exclusions per year. Last year's Year 7s and 8s were a little more challenging - SK to show figures at next meeting.
- On the whole the behaviour was good across the Academy.
- TB said that this permanent exclusion had produced 8 sheets of misdemeanours over 2 years. The Academy does not exclude at the drop of a hat. We have tried to support all the way down the line.

8. Financial Matters

- The financial position and current figures were fully discussed.

9. Policies

- There was discussion on the Education Visit policy. In 3.7 if a parent is providing a car. AB reported that we do not do that because of other issues such as safeguarding.
- Contractors Guide and Educational Visits Policies both required the date of review and the person reviewing added.
- KM asked if there were any other issues with the policies. All were agreed.

10. Any Other Business

- There was a discussion on the Freedom of Information Act.
- There was no other business.

11. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 5pm on Thursday 25th November 2010.

Mr Morley thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed 6.15pm.

Signed:

Mr Keith Morley, Chairman

Date:

Points for Action

- VLE demonstration – Mr Andrew Barr
- Submit Declaration of Interest – All Governors
- Feedback from Exam Meetings and Progression from Results – Mr Steve Kenning
- A Level focus – the next steps – Mr Steve Kenning
- Careers Report at next meeting – Ms Belinda Jones
- Exclusion figures – Mr Steve Kenning

Debbie McSween
 Clerk to the Governors
 23rd September 2010