



Tile Cross Academy

Minutes of the Advisory Academy Body Meeting held at the School At 4.00pm on Thursday 16th November 2017

Present: Mr David Gettings
Mrs Jennifer Pemberton
Mrs Nazmeen Akhtar (4.10pm onwards)
Mr Javed Iqbal
Mr Nigel Bratt - Arconic
Mr Martin Holcombe – Birmingham Settlement

Apologies: Cllr John Cotton

In Attendance: Mr Chris Etheridge - Head of Academy
Mrs Clare Holmes - Clerk
Ms Bev Mabey - WHMAT CEO

Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of the 21st September 2017

Ms Mabey stated that all actions from the minutes dated 21st September will be dealt with under the agenda for this meeting.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the AAB meeting, held on 19th September 2017 be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

Pecuniary Interests

There were no additions to pecuniary interests

Election of Chair & Vice Chair

Mr Martin Holcombe declared his interest in becoming Chair.
Mr Nigel Bratt declared his interest in becoming Vice Chair.

All present were asked if they were happy to elect Mr Holcombe and Mr Bratt into these positions.

RESOLVED: That Mr Holcombe and Mr Bratt are elected into the position of Chair and Vice Chair of the Governing Body of Tile Cross Academy. The appointments will stand for a period of one year from today's date.

Pupil Numbers

Mr Etheridge reported that pupil numbers have risen since September by 30 pupils in year 7 and a slow steady increase in years 8 and 9. In order to improve pupil numbers the school has been holding weekly open mornings and has been working with local primary schools. Mr Etheridge reported that it had been disappointing that the school had not been invited to all local primary parents evenings and that the Eastwards consortium had met, this consists of 16 local primary schools, and that TCA had not been on their agenda. This had now been resolved as Miss Cook, Assistant Head Teacher, had been in touch and TCA will be on the agenda at their next meeting.

Ms Mabey asked for TCA to be more assertive in contacting local primary schools about their parent's evenings.

Ms Mabey advised that the key years are 7, 8 and 9 where it is essential that our numbers increase to 120 in each year group. This will require an increase in pupil numbers by 54 and will require a lot of hard work.

Mr Holcombe asked for details of what growth funding actually consists of. Ms Mabey explained that this is funding provided whilst the school is in transition. The school gets funding through the normal route for pupils that are on roll and any shortfall is funded by growth funding.

School Improvement Plan

The School Improvement Plan had been e-mailed out to all Governors on 9th November. Mr Etheridge explained that SLT have now produced a milestone document to run alongside the SIP. This has been produced with assistance from Mr Weir from Saltley Academy and helps to show progress on a half termly basis.

Ms Mabey asked if all Governors could have the milestone document e-mailed out to them.

Action: Mr Etheridge to e-mail out the milestone SIP.

Playing Fields update

Mr Etheridge reported that the school has been in talks with BCC regarding taking on the playing fields known as Shard End No 6. If the school were to take on the playing fields they would also take on all liabilities associated with the upkeep and security of

the grounds and changing rooms. There are issues with the state of the buildings and fencing and covenants dictating what the ground can be used for.

Mr Etheridge and Ms Mabey are meeting with representatives from BCC tomorrow morning and will update Governors of the outcome at the next meeting.

Mr Bratt asked what would happen if the school decides not to proceed with the leasing of the playing fields. Mr Etheridge reported that the school would be able to continue to use the playing fields between 9am and 5pm but would probably have to start to pay for its usage.

Action: Mr Etheridge to update Governors regarding playing fields at the meeting dated 18th January 2018.

Head of Academy Self Evaluation

Mr Holcombe asked for some clarification regarding the school's SEF. At what point does RI become Good? Mr Etheridge explained that the objectives in the SEF are the Ofsted criteria for Good. When the school matches this criteria it will have matched the "good" criteria but can only officially be called "good" once it has received its Ofsted visit and has been officially graded as good. Until this time the school will continue to judge its progress towards the "good" criteria by RAG rating its progress.

Mrs Pemberton asked if the fact that the school is the 3rd best in the area for progress could be publicised more with the local community and the local primaries.

Ms Mabey advised that the school is able to advertise this fact as long as other schools are not named.

Action: Mr Etheridge to look into the possibility of advertising this fact.

Mr Etheridge advised that he has a meeting with the Tile Cross Residents Association on 16th December and a meeting with Midland Heart Construction and East Meadway Gardens. At all meetings the school is looking at how we can engage with the local community and raise its profile. At the recent meeting with Midland Heart Construction who are building 65 new homes on the site of the old 6th form centre, it was suggested that the pupils get involved in a local litter pick. Midland Home are considering how they could support this by possibly providing tools, high vis jackets and possibly rewards.

Mr Iqbal commented that he has lots of experience in organising litter picks and would be happy to offer his assistance.

Action: Mr Etheridge to contact Mr Iqbal if litter picking is one of the community projects decided upon following his meeting with Midland Heart on 23rd November.

Mr Bratt noted that 2 of the 3 criteria concerning Governance were not RAG rated as green.

Ms Mabey responded that this was not a reflection on our Governors more a reflection of where our AAB is on its journey towards good governance.

Mr Bratt asked where the school is with the performance management cycle and what moderation takes place.

Ms Mabey responded that the school is coming to the end of the cycle for 16-17, reviews have taken place and moderation is underway. Targets for 17-18 have also been set. There will be a midpoint review and a final review of targets for 17-18 later in the year. Mr Etheridge added that the school runs a no surprises system, if staff are not on track to meet targets they will be aware. Ms Mabey added that there are a number of moderation processes that take place within school and a final MAT moderation.

Teaching and Learning

Mrs Haslam joined the meeting at 4.20pm. She stated that teaching and learning is still judged as “requires improvement” this is partly due to the fact that until outcomes are judged as good teaching and learning can only be judged as making limited progress. Mrs Haslam reported that the school had become smarter at measuring progress and looked at the residuals for all groups and did not focus only on exam groups. Training is directed at key areas that require improvement. This year so far there have been two sessions directed at homework which is an area currently RAG rated as red. Learning walks looking at homework have taken place and a curriculum area review for humanities has also taken place. Mrs Haslam reported that staff at Saltley had supported with the humanities curriculum review which helped to provide external verification and Mrs Haslam is helping at Saltley with a review of science. There will be a review of English taking place week commencing 20th November. 80% of current teaching staff are rated as good or better based on snap shot T & L observations. Some areas are making significant progress but as yet this is not across all areas.

Ms Mabey stated that it has been a real strength to the school to have across MAT verification of their judgements.

Pupil Development, Behaviour and Welfare.

Mr Kennedy joined the meeting at 4.25pm. Mr Kennedy reported that extended leaves of absence has proved a real issue for the school at the end of last year and the beginning of this year. 49 pupils have taken extended leave this year resulting in a 1.69% decrease in the schools attendance level. Attendance is currently running at 92.35%. Mr Kennedy reported a concern as 7 of the fines put through BCC for families taking extended leave have been rejected as the pupil’s attendance prior to taking the leave was good. Mr Kennedy expressed concern about what message this sent out to the school community.

Action : Mr Etheridge to bring this matter up at the next Secondary Heads Forum meeting on 7th December where LA reps will be in attendance.

Mr Kennedy reported that one family took their 4 children abroad which has resulted in a fine of £240 which if not paid within 21 days will double to £480. Mr Kennedy is hosting a Roma/Romanian attendance workshop at school this evening. 80 parents have been invited to highlight concerns and raise awareness.

Mr Kennedy reported that November has historically been a peak for exclusions with this November proving to be no exception however the peak is not looking like it will be as high as last year. The school is on track to make the further 20% reduction in exclusions as outlines in the schools SIP. Detentions have also reduced significantly.

Mr Holcombe asked if there are national figures for behaviour data.

Mr Marano stated that there is, the dashboard will be produced for the first time in the new year and will compare schools with like schools however this has not been produced before so no one is sure what it will look like.

Outcomes

Mr Marano joined the meeting at 4.20pm. He stated that most performance data shows a 3 year upward trend. RSL meetings have been taking place each week with each department on a rota specifically looking at raising standards. There has been an Aspire week for Year 11 students with motivational speakers, revision groups, careers information with external providers and post 16 and apprenticeship providers. Current data shows that year 11 have a residual of -1.4 with last year's year 11 having a residual at the same time of -1.9. The school has identified its weak areas through the collection of data and is aware that HPA students are an issue as well as SEN students. Interventions have been put in place for both groups. English now has more time on the timetable. Doodle is now used for KS3 to track progress with data being produced 3 times a year. Staff are now more aware of their classes own data and subjects that underperformed last year are being targeted.

Risk Register

Mr Gettings distributed the risk register and look up table. This had been shared with Business Managers from the other MAT schools last week and was well received. It has also been shared at SLT and key members of SLT have been assigned to particular areas. At future meetings Mr Gettings will report on any risks that have changed or any additional risks.

Mr Holcombe stated that his organisation produces a risk register and includes arrows to show if the risk has remained the same, increased or lowered.

Mr Gettings pointed out risk 2.36 regarding lock down procedures. He stated concern re the costs of implementing bells, screechers, panic buttons etc. Ms Mabey replied that this is being looked at by the MAT at present.

Policies

Charging & Remissions policy

Resolved that this policy be ratified as of today's date.

CEIAG policy

A discussion took place re the changes to this policy. Previously the school has offered a 2 week work experience placement to all year 10 students but this has proved problematic. The school is now entering a partnership with Arconic and possibly Birmingham Airport to provide placements for interested students each year at a time that suits the curriculum better. The school will continue to provide a high quality careers education for all pupils.

Resolved that this policy be ratified as of today's date.

Mrs Pemberton asked if pupils who find their own placement could still attend. Mr Etheridge responded that the school would look into this and it may be that pupils would be encouraged to carry out their placement during a school holiday.

Ms Mabey asked a question for future consideration, Is enrichment week in the right place?

The idea of a CRIAG offer reintroducing
A record of achievement was mentioned.

Action: Mr Etheridge to bring up ROA at the next MAT Heads meeting.

AOB

Mr Javed reported issues with pupils smoking outside of school and issues with the school bus outside of school in the morning.

Mr Gettings will ensure duties take in the grassed area at the bottom of Leycroft Avenue and the bushed area at the bottom of the old Martineau entrance.

Mr Gettings replied that the school is in talks with the planners re a bus concourse outside of the main school entrance, this would alleviate parking and crossing issues.

Action: Mr Etheridge to speak to David Mabey re the schools travel plan.

Mr Javed suggested a meeting with Cllr Ian Ward. Mr Etheridge replied that this was planned but Cllr Wards availability is limited.

The meeting concluded at 5.30pm.

Next meeting January 18th 2018 @ 4pm