



An Active Learning Trust School

The Neale-Wade Academy

Full Governing Board

Minutes

Wednesday 14th December 2016 at 5pm
Hapi Meeting Room

Present:	J Wing (Exc. Head), A Pugh (Chair), N Jones (Vice), J Nickall, A Chandler, R Watts, A Carlin,
In attendance:	S Gaskins (SLT), K Reeson (Clerk)
Apologies:	C Howlett, M Brown, K Butcher

Agenda Item	Notes All relating documents were circulated before the meeting unless stated Meeting commenced at 5.10pm	Actions & Agreements
1.	Welcome & Apologies for Absence Apologies were accepted from C Howlett & M Brown	
2.	Declaration of Pecuniary & Non-Pecuniary Interest No new declarations were indicated.	
3.	Minutes of the Last Meeting 9/11/16 The minutes of the last meeting were accepted and signed as a true record with one amendment to item 7, to read, ' <i>an additional teaching hour has been introduced for all years and this is staffed on a voluntary basis</i> '. Matters Arising 4) The strapline ' Dream it, Believe it, Achieve it ' will be adopted next term.	
4.	Principals Report <i>Student Story: JW reported on a conversation with a current Y11 student who was due to attend a presentation evening in Cambridge to receive an award recognising his efforts in Peer Support. He was now in a relationship and had been accepted at college on his preferred course. When the student joined in Y7 he was a regular member of the ACES class, having experienced low self-esteem and poor social skills. With the support of Mrs Cooke & Mrs Winslow, this student has grown in confidence and has a bright future ahead of him.</i> The Principal took governors through the most recent school data and answered questions: GOVS: the percentage of FSM for each year group is specified in the school characteristics, can we see how this relates to Pupil Premium numbers? Yes, the PP percentage will be higher than FSM. This information would be helpful when monitoring PP and can be added to the report. GOVS: what is the significance of the reduced numbers of exclusions? We have introduced PM schooling where students who would normally be externally excluded are schooled in-house from 2pm-5pm which has had a significant impact on the figures. GOVS: do we have a higher than average amount of Looked after Children? NWA, along with TCA, take a higher proportion of LAC students in Fenland. A lot of time and resources are invested in supporting LAC students, which is managed by C Howlett. There will be a detailed look at the amount of educational visits that are authorised as this has not always had a positive impact on teaching and learning. It has also resulted in a proportionally higher spend on cover staff which needs to be managed.	

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5.	<p>Committee Reports</p> <p>Finance & Premises 5/10/16: governors reviewed the minutes of the meeting. A short discussion was held regarding the processes used when considering new contracts. Governors were advised that the ALT have a specialised member of staff overseeing procurement for larger projects.</p> <p>Personnel 5/10/16: governors briefly discussed the production of a schedule of CPD for staff. It was decided that this would not be practical as areas requiring development are decided following observations and learning walks and therefore cannot be pre-planned. Governors also discussed the amount of positive publicity the school receives locally and how the profile of the academy can be raised.</p> <p>Standards Group 16/12/16:</p> <p>Focus on Post-16 – attendance is very good at 96% which is 8% above the national average. Results demonstrate better than expected progress. We run some courses with very low numbers but this is to cater to the needs of the students. The number of students applying to university is rising each year and a bursary is available to Post-16 students to assist with costs relating to this.</p>	
6.	<p>Pupil Progress</p> <p>Post -16 - this was reported in the Standards Group report in previous agenda item.</p> <p>GCSE – it is difficult to give an overall picture of predicted results for Progress 8. Previous government guidelines had indicated that a Level 4 would equate to a solid C grade. However, subsequent reports have now suggested it is unclear if a L4 or L5 will count as a Pass. This will not be known until the results are received in August but it is expected that nationally the headline figures will be lower.</p> <p>KS3 – the data tracking for KS3 shows very positive progress. Y7 usually experience a slight dip in performance in English and Maths but then recover.</p>	
7.	<p>Link Governor Reports</p> <p>A Carlin & R Watts reported on a recent visit made with the Director of Curriculum & Careers, Sam Mandley. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss what CEIAG initiatives were in place and how these linked into the School Development Plan. Notable points include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Careers Advisor, Helen Parks, will soon be qualified at Level 6. She has been a valuable addition to the academy and offers comprehensive advice and support to students. • Funding has been procured to assist with getting students into higher education. • Ofsted reported CEIAG provision was very good. • Governors were asked to support the next Careers Event on 19/1/17 <p>Governors were also asked to consider adding Curriculum to the existing CEIAG Link Governor role. This will then be solely covered by R Watts and A Carlin will move to take over the Safeguarding Link Governor role.</p> <p>Governors agreed unanimously that this would be a more effective allocation of responsibilities.</p> <p>GOVS: at what age do we expect students to decide their option choices?</p> <p>Historically this has happened in Y9 (for Y10 start), however some exam courses will now be offered earlier. Current Y8 will have information evenings to explain the curriculum changes for when they move into Y9.</p>	CLERK - Update link governor info
8.	<p>Policy & Procedures Updates</p> <p>Governors agreed to approve the following policies without any amendments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Young Carers Policy ii. Public Sector Equality Duty Statement <p>JW explained that Hilary Hitch's role had been promoted to SLT level. This was to ensure the academy was compliant with recommendations within the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' document. She will take on additional duties within the academy and also carry out audits across other ALT schools.</p>	

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	<p>GOVS: How many young carers do we have in school? There are approximately 33 that we know off but this figure could be higher.</p> <p>Governors agreed to adopt both policies and procedures and these were signed off by the Chair.</p>	POLICIES APPROVED
9.	<p>ALT Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burrowmoor Primary School have recently had an Ofsted Inspection and the report will be published shortly. • As previously reported, JW will withdraw from the Executive Principal role at BPS next term. J Nickalls left at 6.15pm • Littleport Academy is on target to open in September and Scott Gaskins has been appointed as Principal. • Their uniform will be blue blazers and grey trousers and prospective students designed the badge. • Y6 students from Littleport will be invited to NWA to attend a Science activity day. • There are no plans to expand the ALT from the current 22 schools, however this may not be discounted in the future. <p>The governors had a short discussion regarding the replacement of SG in the academy. JW explained that there may be a minor restructuring of the Senior Leadership Team but that succession planning was in hand.</p> <p>[Post meeting note: the Personnel Committee recently requested sight of an up to date staff structure chart. This has been diarised with S Kerr for circulation after any changes are implemented]</p> <p>GOVS: does the Trust make use of the skills audit information when filling trust governor vacancies?</p> <p>Yes, although at present the NWA LGB has a full complement of trust governors. The current Parent Governor election has been deferred until the New Year. The clerk advised the LGB that Trust governors who were appointed at the time of academy conversion will be reaching the end of their term of office on 31/3/17.</p>	DIARY
10.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Governors were reminded to return their signed receipt for 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'.</p> <p>The Governors thanked the Clerk for her work supporting the governing body.</p>	CLERK – advise ALT
11.	<p>Date of Next Meetings</p> <p>Standards Group - TBC</p> <p>Committees – 25/1/17 from 5pm</p> <p>Full LGB – 8/2/17 5pm</p>	

Meeting closed at 6.30pm

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