



The Neale-Wade Academy
Full Governing Board
Draft Minutes
Wednesday 24th February 2016 at 5pm
Hapi Meeting Room

Present:	A Pugh (Chair), J Wing (Exc. Head), N Jones (Vice), K Butcher, A Chandler, J Nickalls, C Howlett, A Carlin (arrived 5.13pm)
In attendance:	K Reeson (Clerk), A Welling (Head), H Hitch (left 5.15pm)
Apologies:	A Triggs

Agenda Item	Notes	Action
	All relating documents were circulated before the meeting unless stated	
1.	Welcome & Apologies for Absence Apologies were received and accepted from A Triggs.	
2.	Declaration of Pecuniary & Non-Pecuniary Interest No new declarations were indicated.	
3.	Minutes of the Last Meeting 2nd December 2015 The minutes of the last meeting were accepted and signed as a true record. Matters Arising 4) Social Media - The Academy has recently sent a letter to all parents in response to a discussion on a local forum page on social media. Parents and students were invited to contact Mr Wing directly to raise any concerns regarding the issue around bullying, however no replies have been received. 12) Skills Audit – the Chair will ask KJ at the ALT if any skills areas need to be covered by governor recruitment.	CHAIR
4.	Young Carers H Hitch introduced a new initiative to support students who are young carers. Currently, the academy has drop-in sessions for students attended by approximately 20 young carers, which is run through Student Welfare. (A Carlin arrived at 5.13pm) We have signed up for the Bronze award of the scheme and should hear by Easter if we have met the criteria. Further information can be found at: http://www.youngcarer.com/resources/young-carers-schools (H Hitch left at 5.15pm)	
5.	Principals Report JW took the governors through the most recent principal's report. Points to note included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been some isolated random incidents that have resulted in a slight increase in internal and external exclusions 	

1 signed:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ‘managed move’ system with local schools works well and students we have received are suitably supported • Recent visitors Dame Joan Mcvitie and Rosemary Prince commented on the good behaviour they witnessed whilst touring the academy • Y10/11 girls won the Maths Challenge on a recent trip to Cambridge University • Attendance – current attendance is just above the national average at 95.1%. The academy is working hard with parents to encourage students with persistent absence to attend school regularly. Poor attendance can be the difference when striving to achieve a Pass/C grade. <p>GOVS: has there been any referrals under the Prevent policy? No – but this will be checked and reported on as necessary.</p> <p>GOVS: do young carers have difficulties with prompt or regular attendance? This can be an issue but there are specific attendance guidelines that can be applied to students in this situation to ensure they are not penalised.</p>	HEADS REPORT
6.	<p>Post-16 Results 2015 JW took governors through the A-Level results analysis for 2015. Points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The average points score dipped although overall the A2 subjects achieving a 100% pass rate stayed the same at 88.8% • Current predictions for 2016 predict a further slight dip but this is indicative of the cohort • A recent review of Post16 provision by Ian Seath (ex HMI) concluded that levels of progress were good and in line with expectations for Post16 centres with an Ofsted rating of 2 (Good) • The pass rate for the higher grades A-B at A2 increased by 4.7% • National data has still not been published so it is not possible to make any direct comparisons at this time • Subjects that experienced an overall reduction in their pass rate have been reviewed and supportive measures put in place e.g. Psychology is now taught at GCSE which will enable future A Level students to have a foundation of knowledge to build upon. A Statistical GCSE Maths course is also run alongside delivery of the Psychology A-Level to assist with analysis and interpretation of data. • The Pass rate for GCSE Maths retakes is 100% • We lost 22 students from Y12 at the end of 2015 with the overall majority seeking education elsewhere or taking up apprenticeships • The student retention rate should increase this year as the majority of courses are now run over two years • Overall, the pass rate for A2 is on an upward trajectory <p>It was noted that the performance of the Post16 centre could have an impact on the whole academy’s overall Ofsted rating, as it makes up more than 10% of student numbers.</p>	
7.	<p>AIP Update The format of the plan has been reviewed and amended to ensure positive actions demonstrate progress made.</p>	

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	<p>GOVS: if you were to review current impact using the RAG system, what would be red?</p> <p>History and Modern Foreign Languages would currently be flagged as Amber concerns. However, we are aware of what needs to be improved and appropriate strategies are in place to support where needed. Maths could cause some concern as the Head of Faculty is leaving at Easter but again, this is being addressed. Pupil Premium students could benefit from further individualised interventions as a small number of this cohort could impact greatly on predicted outcomes (see next agenda item).</p>	
8.	<p>Pupil Premium</p> <p>CH explained some of the key areas within the PP report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a critical group of 21 students who have been assigned mentors within SLT to establish what barriers to learning need to be overcome • Ingots ICT course has had a 100% success rate, therefore securing an additional qualification • A range of targeted interventions for Y11 are in place and constantly reviewed for effectiveness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1:1 and intensive teaching sessions ○ Early morning booster sessions (transport & breakfast provided) ○ Half term interventions ○ Sessions at Pidley for targeted teaching and teamwork activities <p>GOVS: can the impact of these interventions be demonstrated yet?</p> <p>Y11 are currently sitting their final PPE exams before the summer. These results should demonstrate improved performance and outcomes.</p> <p>GOVS: do some pupils feel empowered by the belief and support of staff?</p> <p>Yes, some of the least likely students access interventions without being asked! It is also hoped that work can start with the current Y10 after the summer exams.</p> <p>GOVS: is there a general profile of a Pupil Premium student?</p> <p>It is difficult to apply general categorisation to the wide range of needs of some of our students and therefore not always easy to demonstrate impact on individuals. It is hoped to include more cultural enrichment trips (theatre/sports events) to complement the educational support on offer.</p>	
9.	<p>Committee Reports</p> <p>Finance & Premises - the report was received by governors with no additional questions.</p> <p>Standards Group</p> <p>4) correction: '<i>students moving from <u>E-D</u></i>'</p> <p>5) Y11 has recently re-sat their ISA tests which should have a significant impact.</p> <p>It was noted that the KS3 data was very comprehensive and the governors thanked Jim Rowland for his work.</p>	

3 signed:

10.	<p>Link Governor Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Safeguarding Meeting 10/12/15 – no questions from Governors. ii. Book Scrutiny 8/1/16 – it was noted that it was interesting to observe the process and governors were reassured that procedures were robust in their implementation. 	
11.	<p>Policy & Procedures Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A copy of the Prevent Action Plan had been previously circulated for governors' information. It was agreed to adopt the recommendations within the plan and this was signed off. ii. ALT Procedures for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse by Staff. It was agreed to adopt by all governors. 	
12.	<p>Governor Vacancies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. There is still a parent governor vacancy which the clerk will advertise after consultation with JW. ii. A recent election for a Support Staff Governor did not yield any candidates, however there is a possible staff member who would be willing to join the LGB. <p>[Post Meeting note: Maggie Brown has agreed to take on the role of Support Staff Governor]</p>	
13.	<p>ALT Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Chair reported on the proposal from the ALT to increase the HUB numbers to accommodate a free school in Chatteris. This is in the consultation phase and further information is available on the ALT website. ii. The venue for the ALT HUB meeting in Ely on 14/4/16 has changed to The Poets House Hotel, St Mary's Street Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB7 4EY, Tel: 01223 653111 http://www.thehousecollection.com/poets_house/index.php iii. The governors discussed the response from the ALT regarding their query on meeting their roles and responsibilities and acceptance of ALT policies. It was decided to invite a representative from ALT for an informal conversation to go over expected duties. 	CLERK/ CHAIR
14.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The clerk advised governors that some courses now have a charge as we no longer subscribe to the training provider. Costs will be highlighted if they are applicable when training opportunities are forwarded. • KB took part in the recent Year 10 Employability Day and commented on the impressive conduct of the students, good questioning techniques and overall future workforce potential shown by those who took part. 	
15.	<p>Date of Next Meetings</p> <p>F&P 11/3/16 at 5pm Personnel 11/3/16 at 6pm Full LGB 11/5/16 at 5pm</p>	

4 signed:

Meeting closed at 6.45pm

5 signed:

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