

## Minutes

### Nightingale Community Academy Local Governing Body (LGB) meeting held on Monday 18 March at 4.30pm

**Present:** Barbara McIntosh (BM) [Chair]  
Andre Bailey (AB) [Principal]  
Angelina Morello (AM)  
Peter Truesdale (PT)  
Shamani Wathsala (SW)

**Also present:** Gaynor Barnard, Observer  
Angela Morrison, Observer  
Kaye Woodcock, Observer  
Yasmin O'Connor (YO) [Head of Sixth Form and Vocational  
Centre and Head of English Literature]  
Norman Macdonald (NM) [OHCAT Finance Team] Items  
Susanne Wicks [Clerk]

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

BM welcomed all present, particularly those for whom it was the first meeting. Everyone present introduced themselves.

#### 2. Presentation from Yasmin O'Connor, Head of Sixth Form, Vocational Centre and English Literature

YO circulated a confidential paper detailing the courses being undertaken by students in the Sixth Form and presented the information in detail, giving further details of course content, qualifications and individual students' attendance. The following matters were discussed.

Up until the age of 16, if a student is subject to a Youth Offending Order, engagement in education forms part of the Order. However, this is not a requirement for those over 16, so the school has no authority to keep those students in school. Discussion has taken place with LB Wandsworth Youth Offending Team about making engagement part of the Order for over 16s, and pressure from the school to do so will continue.

YO highlighted some of the success stories among students, particularly those doing well in mainstream colleges or those undertaking apprenticeships.

Governors noted that the BTEC qualifications currently on offer are heavily theory based which can be challenging for this cohort who prefer practical based learning and the compilation of a portfolio. In response to this, the school are looking at the curriculum on offer from City & Guilds for some subjects, to maximise the students' chances of securing employment or an apprenticeship.

YO circulated a draft of the Vocational Centre Accreditation Map 19-20 and emphasised the need to ensure that the school can offer a range of courses for young people with a range of needs.

In response to a question, YO explained that when the school successfully gets a student back into school and engaged in learning, it is often due to them feeling safe in the environment and free from any demands, coupled with therapeutic support.

She also explained that a student's successful transition to mainstream is often dependent on their increased independence, not only in their learning but also in travelling to and from school and at weekends. She advised that when a student has joined a mainstream college, the school will continue to provide support to them to maximise the chances of success.

YO expressed confidence that in two years' time, the Sixth Form will be very different to its current iteration, as the students benefit from having moved through this school, and so will be already able to learn, be successful and make a positive contribution.

Governors asked what more could be done to make a positive difference and YO replied that more stability in staffing would have a positive impact, to improve continuity for the young people.

AB updated governors on the efforts to raise funds to install a vocational kitchen on the school site. £40K will be donated from the Savoy Educational Trust, with £60K raised in total. AB advised that he would be asking OHCAT to loan the school the remainder of funds needed, so that the works could begin in the summer term.

The Chair thanked YO for her informative presentation and governors looked forward to regular updates in the future.

### **3. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Laurie Cornwell and Anne Murphy. Governors consented to their absence.

### **4. Declarations of Interest**

There were no new declarations of interest made.

### **5. Constitution and Appointments**

- i) Governors recommended to the OHCAT Board that Shamani Wathsala be appointed to the LGB for a three year term commencing 25.03.19.
- ii) Governors noted that Angelina Morello has resigned from the LGB with effect from 22 April 2019. On behalf of the LGB, the Chair thanked AM for her contribution as a governor. Those sentiments were echoed by the Principal who thanked AM on behalf of all children and staff, noting the impact she had made on teaching of Maths.
- iii) Governors noted that Gaynor Barnard had expressed an interest in joining the LGB and was observing this meeting.
- iv) Governors noted there were two vacancies for parent governors, and that there were two parents present at this meeting, who may join the LGB.

### **6. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2018 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

### **7. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda**

- i) The clerk confirmed she had circulated the link to The Key for School Governors and undertook to send it to SW.  
**Action: Clerk to send log-in details for The Key to SW.**

- ii) AB updated Governors on the position with regard to the provision of mental health support to students through Place2Be. He explained that whilst negotiations with CAMHS and the CCG are ongoing, the local authority are not providing sufficient support to young people this school, and that efforts continue to ensure that this school is at the front of the queue when additional funds are made available by central government. AB undertook to keep the LGB updated.

## **8. Principal's Report**

AB presented his report in detail and the following matters were discussed.

The 25 referrals will be managed over the coming months, with students hopefully starting in September. AB noted that students are encouraged to return to mainstream education where possible, but the transition must be managed carefully and led by this school. He highlighted the benefit of developing good relationships with Headteachers of other schools, and the importance of dual registration.

Governors noted the range of needs of learners on roll at the school, and particularly that there are increased numbers with more complex needs. BM asked about the impact of domestic violence upon students and AB responded that it's very hard to quantify, but advised that as communication with families improves, the school obtains better information about students and their families, which helps in getting the right support for them.

AB emphasised the need to continue to improve the infrastructure of the school building.

Governors noted that the recent Ofsted inspection had been a positive experience and the report reflected and validated the improvements that had been made throughout the school. BM advised that she had observed the much improved behaviour in class, and a calmer atmosphere pervaded the school.

AB pointed out that Ofsted challenged the safeguarding processes in place which were judged to be Good.

**Action: At the request of PT, AB undertook to share some Ofsted reports from his previous school in Hammersmith & Fulham.**

BM asked the two parent governors present about their experience of communication with the school, and both confirmed they never had a problem when they needed to discuss an issue with a member of staff. They noted that the playground interactions don't happen here in the way they do in the mainstream, which can make it harder to communicate. For example, parents don't always know what support is available from the school, so it may be beneficial to add some information to the website or provide an information stand at school events.

**Action: Governors agreed to discuss communication with parents in further depth at a future meeting.**

Governors received the Principal's report.

### **8a. Dashboard**

AB presented the Dashboard and matters discussed are as follows:

Governors noted that with a cohort this size, the attendance of a small number of students can dramatically affect the overall rates of attendance. However, rates are much more stable this year, with particular improvements in the Sixth Form.

AB pointed out that the numbers of behaviour incidents have dropped year on year, with behaviour improving all the time, as the students settle into school. He emphasised the school's approach of avoiding exclusions, preferring a restorative approach.

Governors received the Dashboard.

## **9. Portfolio Governor Visits**

Governors received the portfolio reports.

### **9a. Other visit reports**

There were no further visit reports.

### **9b. Governor training and development**

PT suggested that governors should plan another learning walk. AB invited them to the Farm Open Day in May and undertook to confirm the date and time.

**Action: AB to confirm date of the Farm open day.**

## **10. Finance and Funding**

NM presented the management accounts covering up to the end of January 2019. He advised that there was a forecast surplus of £35K at year end against a £5K projection.

NM emphasised that for this school there is a huge challenge in managing the budget, due to the changing roll, as students leave to go to mainstream.

NM described the way in which the school is funded and explained the current issue with LB Wandsworth, who have challenged the school's right to charge Place Plus funding for students over the PAN of 93, which amounts to £50K. LB Wandsworth have also indicated that they plan to reduce top up funding from April 2019. AB reported that this matter is being dealt with at Director level and that discussions will continue.

Pointing out that if the payment from LB Wandsworth is not made, the budget could go into a deficit position, AB advised that improvement works to the school have been paused until there is further certainty around the budget position.

AB reported back on meetings with fundraising consultants about CIF funding, who are working on a bid for replacement windows, improvement to the entrance and exit to the carpark, improved access to the building on Burntwood Lane, and cabling and electrics work. Applications will be submitted over the next six months with a decision made early next year.

Governors noted the need to achieve a more accurate picture of the farm's budget.

**Action: NM and AB to present a report on the farm's budget to the June LGB meeting.**

Governors received the financial monitoring report.

## **11. Policies and Procedures**

The LGB noted the policies and procedures approved by the OHC&AT Board and available to view on the governors' portal.

Governors noted that the Admissions Procedure complies with the OHCAAT Admissions Policy.

## **12. OHC&AT Governance Documentation**

Governors noted the updates made to the Scheme of Delegation and Schedule of Responsibility.

## **13. Consultation on Ofsted Inspection Framework**

AB gave a brief summary of the changes to the Framework, particularly the shift away from a focus on data and outcomes.

**Action: AB undertook to share the Ofsted consultation document with governors.**

**Action: AB undertook to share the recent report from Ofsted on the findings of their research project into knife crime in education with governors.**

## **14. Any Other Business**

No matters were raised.

## **15. Date of next meeting**

- Tuesday 18 June 2019 at 4.30pm
- Tuesday 26 November 2019 at 4.30pm

## **16. Confidentiality**

Governors agreed that the report circulated by the Head of Sixth Form must remain confidential.

The meeting ended at 6.45 pm.

**CHAIR** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Summary of Actions</b>		
7(i)	Clerk to send log-in details for The Key to SW.	Clerk
8	AB to share some Ofsted reports from his previous school in Hammersmith & Fulham.	AB
8	Governors to discuss communication with parents in further depth at a future meeting.	All
9b	AB to confirm the date and time of the Farm Open Day.	AB
10	NM and AB to present a report on the farm's budget to the June LGB meeting.	AB/NM
13	AB to share the Ofsted consultation document with governors.	AB
13	AB to share the recent report from Ofsted on the findings of their research project into knife crime in education with governors.	AB