

**Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting STC22.4 held on Thursday 4 May 2023
Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge**

Present: Jenny O’Hare (STC Chair), Paul Andrew, Maryum Jadoon, Lily-Kate McCormack, Carole Moss and Alex Pryce

In attendance: Steve Dann (Vice Principal), and Harriet Riches (Assistant Principal)

Clerk: Anne-Marie Diaper

Ref		Actions:
STC22.4.1	Apologies for absence The Principal had given her apologies for absence due to scheduled training. The meeting was quorate.	
STC22.4.2	Declarations of Interest None	
STC22.4.3	Request for any other business None	
STC22.4.4	Minutes of Standards committee STC22.3 held on Thursday 2 March 2023 With no suggested amendments, the minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	
STC22.4.5	Matters arising The VP had placed in the file a copy of a House of Common report on the Future of Post-16 qualifications, published on 28 April 2023. The STC Governors pondered what weight the report had and what the likely next steps would be and the meeting briefly discussed this.	

Carole Moss and Maryum Jadoon joined the online meeting at 5.08pm.

The STC Chair wished to discuss meetings for the next academic year. Whilst virtual meetings were effective, one or two members were keen to return to some in person meetings, whilst at the same time not many Corporation members were keen to increase the overall number of physical Corporation meetings. Should the Board decide to meet virtually once a year (date TBC) the committee could schedule in one ‘in person’ meeting during the year. The Clerk would discuss this further with the senior managers and the STC Chair before reporting back.

Clerk

STC membership was also discussed. The Clerk reminded the committee that with min 5 to max 7 members the committee was already bigger than the other committees (all which had 4 to 6 members), and despite the Board being at almost full establishment,

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and some other committees carrying vacancies, she could not recommend an increase in STC numbers, but said that this matter was always brought for review through the Governance & Search committee (GSC).

STC22.4.6 Current summary data

The VP presented his written report. With information on A-level mocks, the College was overall pleased with pass rates and consistency (although value-added was likely to be distorted by the entry GCSE grades). The VP reporting that now was a tense time when students consider their own level of readiness.

A Governor asked a question about the relationship between students having accepted ambitious UCAS offers in relation to their anticipated grades. The VP responded, and the staff Governor commented that Colleges were focussed on this year's year 13 cohort post-Covid, and grade boundaries affecting overall results. A student Governor gave the student perspective on this.

Governors commented that the data overall looked really encouraging, particularly for the concern teams; showing attendance alongside achievement data was very helpful. The VP explained a little more about individual departments and the reasons for the current performance and the approach being taken to ameliorate the factors affecting those departments.

A student Governor added input about other issues that impacted student preparation for exams, such as strikes, bank holidays and Covid. A senior manager also contributed to the discussion on length of syllabuses and the knock-on effect on teaching time.

On applied courses, extra checking and prep was occurring for exams in the summer. On two new one-year courses the VP explained the performance of these, and a Governor was keen to understand how many students were on these courses, and their relationship with progression.

A Governor actively inputted to discussion regarding retention and attendance. Retention, particularly of vulnerable students, was not a concern. On attendance there were no national figures, so College would look at modal attendance alongside general attendance. The meeting referred to schools' attendance figures. At CENBASE, VPs discussed attendance, but LRSFC's data looked favourable.

A Governor was keen to know more about tutorial feedback and its impact on student retention and outcomes. The AP commented that

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tutorials fitted around timetables as much as possible and were not moved around a great deal.

On student voice, the committee commented that the qualitative information was interesting to see, and the meeting was given more insight.

The meeting went on to discuss students using AI to produce work and the tools available to identify/detect this. Teacher suspicion was helpful and cover sheets would require students to declare that the work is neither plagiarised nor produced with AI.

STC22.4.7 Progress against targets in quality improvement plan (QIP)

The VP drew the committee's attention to the data targets on page 2. He focussed on the amber rated areas and the reasons for these, he described measures taken in relation to the amber sections and then paused for questions.

A Governor asked about the line in the QIP about the accountability statement. The VP explained its purpose, about meeting local skills needs leading on from the Post-16 Skills Act. The meeting went on to discuss careers, skills, employability, and dashboards. A Governor was interested in focussing in this area for the Corporation and the Clerk commented that she would aim to find a sample 'role description' and send it to the Governor for consideration.

STC22.4.8 Safeguarding update

The AP referred to her short report early summer report, touching on wellbeing, staff training, counselling, and support for students leading up to the upcoming exams.

The designated Safeguarding Governor had met earlier in the day with the DSL so there were no further questions. The AP explained that data on the helpline should be available at the next meeting; the College was intending to talk with another College where the student helpline is a success.

STC22.4.9 Governance

The committee reviewed the governance improvement plan (GIP) which had been updated by the Clerk. The committee noted good progress on several deliverables and the committee was very pleased to again have good student input at this meeting.

STC22.4.10 Review risks

The committee reviewed the paper drafted by the Clerk which had identified two new risks, neither of which came as a surprise to the

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committee. The Governors were looking forward to discussing the key strategic issues at the training/strategy day on 10 May 2023.

STC22.4.11 Any other business

None.

STC22.4.12 Date of next meeting

STC22.5 Thursday 6 July 2023, at 5pm. The meeting closed at 6.30pm