

**Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting STC23.1 held by Teams on Thursday 21 September 2023
Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge**

Present: Jenny O’Hare (committee Chair), Paul Andrew, Yolanda Botham (Principal), Rob Howes, Lily-Kate McCormack, and Alex Pryce.

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

Clerk: Anne-Marie Diaper

Ref **Actions:**

STC23.1.1 Apologies for Absence

None. The Clerk advised that the meeting was quorate, and reminded the committee that one member, Carole Moss, had stepped down from her role on the Board at the end of the last academic year.

STC23.1.2 Declarations of Interest

None.

STC23.1.3 Request for any other business

None. The staff Governor wished to report on one of his student’s special achievements later in the meeting.

STC23.1.4 Minutes of the last meeting

With no suggested amendments, the minutes of the STC22.5 meeting held on Thursday 6 July 2023 meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

STC23.1.5 Matters arising

It had been agreed that actions included in minutes STC22.5.6 and STC22.5.7 would be carried forward to the next meeting.

Clerk

STC23.1.6 Review 2022/23 end of year student outcomes/examinations

The Vice Principal led this summary analysis of student examination outcomes for 2022/23, which included ALPS and Six Dimensions figures. His report included information on QAR, grade profiles, a value-added analysis, and a course team analysis by department, showing key strengths and areas for further work.

A Governor asked a question about one team’s outcomes on page 38, asking what could be learned from this. Governors noted there were also issues with the same course in 2019. There was a second question about QARs, and a short discussion about retention and how it is measured/recorded.

Ref**Actions:**

The STC Chair noted the progress on value added, and grades overall, congratulating the team on the most consistent focus, bearing fruit after many years' work. The meeting noted the exceptionally strong link between attendance and achievement.

Alex Pryce joined the meeting 5.38pm.

A Governor commented that this paper was well presented; it noted a successful year for the College, compared with the national picture. She went on to say that it was helpful to see openness where some things had not quite gone to plan.

The VP referred to the summary of targets paper, giving an explanation line by line reasons for the performance. For the top-level targets, when the SAR and QIP is in production, he explained that managers would welcome Governor input on different or new targets. The STC Chair commented that this paper was a helpful summary against priority areas.

STC23.1.7 Concern/review teams

The AP presented this item, outlining which areas were greatest risk and where there had been successes. He explained that ALPS Connect was widely used for A levels and there were more variable measures for applied courses. It was now harder to draw conclusions due to externally examined courses. He explained enrolment figures for the current year and explained which teams were being closely monitored and to what extent they were measured against 2019 results.

When focussing on outcomes of teams, he went on to say that there would also be a focus on employability and skills, and there would be more on this to be featured in the SAR, and the data for this would be helpful for action going forward.

STC23.1.8 HESA data

The AP presented her paper which set out information on progression, students when they progress to University (degree outcomes) and continuation rates. She explained overall picture, and picked out headlines, including the overall percentage of students achieving good grades returning to pre-Covid levels. The report compared LRSFC's positive performance this year compared with other schools and Colleges this year. The increased cohort size was noted, a greater number of students achieving grades at A-level to make them eligible for Russell group universities, and more Polar 1 students.

At this point in the meeting, the staff Governor informed the committee about one of his med-squad students who had scored extremely highly

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in a clinical aptitude test. Governors were very pleased to hear about this.

Actions:**STC23.1.9 Committee review of key policies**

Safeguarding and Child Protection policy. The AP reported this item. This policy had undergone its annual update following publication of the latest version of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE). She outlined the few amendments, which were shown clearly, mainly around language, and on online safety monitoring and filtering. She explained that staff training/updating was occurring. She explained the reasons for inclusion of paragraph 2.7.5 which had arisen as a result of some local matters. This was discussed in detail during the meeting. Governors were reassured, but asked for the wording to be reviewed slightly in that section.

Subject to the amendments discussed and outlined above, the committee was content to recommend Board approval of the updated Safeguarding and Child Protection policy.

Board**STC23.1.10 Committee annual/governance report 2022/23**

The STC Chair had drawn together her end of year self-assessment report on the basis of feedback received at the last meeting. The Clerk fed in a little context. There would be no separate GIP for this year as outcomes would be inbuilt into the external review of governance. Governors noted a couple of areas for training, including inspection, and the skills agenda. It was possible there would be a whole Board session, but the committee looked forward to a more in-depth learning than that for the whole Board. The Clerk outlined the possible next steps for the committee on the governance review occurring this term.

STC23.1.11 Any other business

None.

STC23.1.12 Date of next meeting

STC23.2 Thursday 30 November 2023, was scheduled to start at 5pm in College in Room A203. The VP commented that it would also be useful to provide a presentation on student outcomes to the 23.1 Board on Tuesday 10 October 2023, similar to that given last year.