



MEETING OF THE CURRICULUM & POLICY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2017 AT 5.30 PM-7.00 PM

CRICKHOWELL HIGH SCHOOL

MINUTES

Attendees / Non-attendees: Mrs H. Dunne (HD), Mrs R. Dykes (RD), Mrs S. Farmer (SF), Mrs J. Parker (JP), Mrs N. Thomas (NT), Mrs H. Waggett (HW), Dr G. Williams (GW)

Name – denotes Governor not attending

1.0	Apologies for Absence No apologies were received.	
2.0	Election of Chair / Vice-Chair JP nominated SF as chair and HD seconded. HD nominated HW as Vice Chair and JP seconded.	
3.0	Minutes of the Last Meeting / Matters Arising SF took the meeting through the minutes. JP confirmed that DB will be on secondment to ERW until August next year and added that KT is now on her 2-year secondment to ERW. A new Welsh Bacc teacher will be starting in January, MW is covering for HOF and is doing extremely well. SF asked if it would be possible to retain MW after HOF returns from maternity leave. JP replied yes, budget constraints notwithstanding. JP advised the meeting that the budget deficit is now £400k over three years. Powys County Council has unfortunately overlooked our new build plans and so will need to provide us with mobile classrooms at the start of the new academic year. A discussion ensued. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted.	
4.0	Policies Agreed Policy for Adoption of Policies & Procedures 2016: This was approved. Assessment for Learning Policy 2016 (draft): This will be reviewed at the next meeting to agree amendments. Fire Evacuation Policy 2017: The policy was approved. Food & Fitness Policy 2017: The policy was approved. Learning & Teaching Policy 2016: This will be reviewed at the next meeting to agree amendments.	

<p>5.0</p>	<p>Examinations Update</p> <p>GW said the process of putting in the resits is now complete. L2+ is at 84%.</p> <p>The Welsh Government has changed NVQ French from a full GCSE equivalent to a half GCSE equivalent, but we're still one of the top 2 schools in Wales.</p> <p>The SSSP process is ongoing. This is where we challenge marks for each subject. Answers to those questions should come in soon.</p> <p>We're top of our family of schools this year for L2+.</p> <p>Year 10 results for English and Maths were as expected with English achieving 71% and Maths 72%. JP advised that it is hoped both subjects will rise to 85% after Christmas.</p> <p>JP stated that CHS is one of only 5 schools in Wales to achieve over 80% for L2+. A discussion was held.</p> <p>SF asked about the A level results. GW said that a review of the ALPS paperwork shows us to be doing very well. Subjects that were down last year have improved. Subjects which are under-performing will have an action plan in place to improve this by December.</p>	
<p>6.0</p>	<p>New Timetable</p> <p>JP said the new timetable has been very successful. Early options for Year 9 went very well. Only a small number of students needed to refine their choices after the first 6 weeks. Feedback from staff on early options has been positive in general. The only negative feedback was from Computer Science, so we're focusing on the skills that will enable them to grow and develop.</p> <p>Early options have had a positive impact on the behaviour of Year 9 and this has had a knock-on effect on Years 10 and 11.</p> <p>We're now building on the additional richness of our Careers Education and refinement of the Welsh Bacc course.</p> <p>The timetable is full with only 2 free lessons for staff beyond individual allocations.</p> <p>RD asked what the maximum class size was. JP responded that it would be 22 for popular subjects with most of the options blocks running between 15 and 24. We're looking at the possibility of bringing in extra Maths staff, but that is constrained by the budget.</p>	
<p>7.0</p>	<p>New Curriculum</p> <p>11 – 13 Curriculum: JP reported that the Big Questions are being asked in Years 7 and 8. We're working with the Directors of Learning and the curriculum has been well received by both staff and students. There's cross-curricular work being done in each subject, which is being linked in with other areas of the curriculum, such as Careers and PSE. It all fits in well with the Donaldson recommendations.</p>	

	<p>We're teaching our students to be ethically informed citizens.</p> <p>All students now have bronze, silver and gold targets for academic achievement, as well as individual milestones.</p> <p>13 – 16 Curriculum: JP advised that we're now starting our new curriculum planning and timetabling, refining the current situation and fine-tuning options. We'll be working with Year 11 to establish what options they'd like to study going forward post 16.</p> <p>16 – 19 Curriculum: JP said take-up is good. We've kitted out the LRC as a work space for students.</p> <p>JP explained that WRU funding for the Rugby Officer post will be reviewed at the end of the academic year. We now have two members of staff on board, namely AT and AP, who are a rugby specialist and a rugby enthusiast respectively, so rugby is thriving.</p> <p>JP said BTEC Sport is a funding issue. SF said it's very important to keep it for those students for whom that style of work is very beneficial.</p>	
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Pioneer School – Professional Development</p> <p>JP said Performance Management is supervised by the Leadership Team, which has now set elements of professional challenges for all staff this year. Staff have been set three challenges and there are specific things they must achieve within those challenges, such as networking with a fellow expert. JP added that whilst we're a pioneer school for professional development, we're also a pioneer school for professional learning for ERW.</p>	
<p>9.0</p>	<p>Digital Competency Framework & ICT</p> <p>Digital Competency Framework: JP said we're exploring the possibility of organizing sponsorship for student hybrid devices or County funding it as an ICT capital expenditure. Some parents don't wish to pay for iPads, which is an issue as this is an 'all or nothing scheme'.</p> <p>ICT: AL met with the Leadership Team. All staff have done CPD to upgrade their digital competency. There's a mandatory process in hand to map and audit the Digital Competency Framework and how it links in to ICT teaching. We hope to have completed this process by January so that each subject and Faculty will know exactly what needs to be done.</p> <p>Discussions with local businesses regarding sponsorship have been initiated.</p>	
<p>10.0</p>	<p>Extra-Curricular Activities & Opportunities</p> <p>JP advised the meeting that as part of the passport of opportunities, each Faculty is mapping against the Big Questions where things will fit in. It is mandatory for all students to have a storytelling week, a poetry week and a residential trip. We're also mapping the extra-curricular activities.</p>	

HD asked if it would be helpful if parents were asked what students do outside school, as this might flag up what extra-curricular activities we should be offering. It was agreed that this was a good idea.

RD asked about the status of the planning application for the floodlights. JP updated the meeting with the current state of play. It was agreed that this issue would need to be further discussed at the Governing Body meeting.

SF gave a vote of thanks to HJ for his contribution to the Governing Body over the last several years.

The meeting ended at 7.15 pm.