The Swanage School MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STUDENT COMMITTEE

Held on Wednesday 11 October 2017, 5.30pm

Present: Isobel Tooley (Chair), Nick Brady, Jules Daulby, Tristram Hobson (Headteacher), Amanda Rowley, Al Stephens, Carl Styants, Nicky Taylor In attendance: Sue Fletcher (Clerk) from 6.30pm

| | Action | Lead | Ву |
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| Welcome The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. | | | |
| Apologies for Absence None. The Clerk had notified the Chair she would be late. | | | |
| Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest or conflict with any agenda item. | | | |
| Scheme of Delegation The Chair explained what the Scheme of Delegation covers and asked for input as to whether any updates should be recommended. AGREED TO RECOMMEND to the full governing body: to remove the need to agree the annual key stage targets for pupil achievements, as this was no longer a statutory requirement to swop the annual and termly reports of the Headteacher/Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) and the SEN governor, such that the SENCO reports annually and the SEN governor termly. to replace "to consider the Headteacher's statement on pupil discipline" with "to consider the Headteacher's / Heads of Houses' approach to behaviour management" | FGB agenda for approval | Clerk | Oct '17 |
| AGREED that the SEN governor would investigate whether a separate disability report is required, or whether relevant information is included in the annual SENCO report, and to consider whether disability reporting should also relate to admissions, accessibility and health & safety. | Disability report research | AS | Nov '17 |
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| | The Chair presented a summary of policies that the committee is responsible for, noting the strategic monitoring and evaluation requirements of each including surveys. Noting that the Community & Engagement Committee were taking on responsibility for the parent survey, it was AGREED that they be asked to include questions on bullying, behaviour, citizenship and collective worship. | Refer to C&E | Chair | Oct '17 |
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| | AGREED that the Headteacher would rerun the student survey using questions from a paid-for survey used two years ago (but not having the results analysed by the external service). A survey on bullying would also be run, perhaps tying in with National Bullying Week in November. | Student surveys | тн | Nov '17 |
| | AGREED that the Headteacher will report to the committee about drug use (the summary information should be readily available from My Concern) and the Heads of House will also be asked to report when they attend the Student Committee meeting. Comparisons were to be made year on year but not based on ethnicity and gender (given the small number of students). | | | |
| STU 1.5 | Minutes of the Last Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2017 were confirmed as an accurate record. | | | |
| STU 1.6 | Matters Arising | | | |
| | STU 4.9.1 E-safety Policy | | | |
| | The Chair would check with the Clerk whether the paragraph on school trips had been inserted. | | | |
| | STU 5.9/5.11 and STU 6.10 Policies The Uniform Policy had been re-approved by Chair's action following the last meeting. | | | |
| STU 1.7 | 2017 Results for Year 11 | | | |
| | Carried forward to an additional meeting to be held on Monday 16th October 2017, 5pm. | | | |
| STU 1.8 | Pupil Premium As above. | | | |
| STU 1.9 | Challenging Areas for 2017/18 | | | |
| | Actions on the new School Development Plan were discussed: - Interventions had already started for Years 10 & 11 in preparation for GCSE. | | | |

- <u>Parental engagement</u>: there would be a focus on improving this, not just at parents' evenings but on advising parents how to support their child's learning.
- <u>Student groups</u>: that key areas for review would be the academically more able students, especially given the new grading system, boys and disadvantaged students.
- Quality of teaching and learning: senior leaders were working to tighten up management to develop this, including building the skills necessary for managing a whole curriculum area.
- <u>Literacy</u>: the English Literature result was very good, but there was a need to build on this throughout the school. In response to a question, TH confirmed that the Curriculum Area Leader (CAL) for English is liaising with other CALs to promote literacy skills transferring across subjects.
- <u>Mathematics</u>: Now there is more mathematics throughout the curriculum there will be extra training provided to those subjects.
- Project Based Learning will be a focus area for development and improvement.
- <u>Attendance</u> continues to be dealt with rigorously and is now initially handled by the Safeguarding & Welfare Officer, with escalation to the Headteacher at a later stage in the process.
- Student leadership has been developed and will continue to do so this year.
- Marketing of the school seems to be working and is ongoing.
- <u>SEN provision</u>: the budget has reduced but the school is doing the best it can with the money it has.
- <u>Student Progress Data</u>: Management had identified that CALs weren't using student data effectively and they are looking to improve this. The committee would ask CALs about this when they attend meetings.
- <u>Vibrancy of school premises</u>: the school's appearance had been visually improved over the summer break. This will be added to as funds allow.
- Funding: there remains a need to look at alternative sources of funding.
- Improvement of quality of communication and procedural effectiveness is ongoing. IT asked if staff are notified when policies are updated. TH explained that the staff responsible for writing each policy are also responsible for the implementation. AS noted that it is a requirement when the safeguarding policy is updated that staff read it. The Staff handbook summarises most of the policies and is updated annually.
- Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar: NB asked how many subjects are now allocated marks for SPAG and TH advised that most now do.
- French: CS asked for an update on French and how the subject was doing, noting that less students sat the exam last year, and discussing whether students receive a deep enough

| | immersion into French given the limited number of lessons. It was noted that languages improve literacy, including for SEN students. There was a discussion regarding EBacc, it being noted that the school will need to work on getting more student to sit French, if the school is to meet EBacc objectives. | | | |
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| STU 1.10 | School Development Plan 2017/18 Covered under item STU 1.9 above. The Student Committee were supportive of the draft plan and did not have any comments to add or amend. | | | |
| STU I.II | Funding Priorities There were no particular priorities for funding that the committee wished to recommend. It was noted that additional funds would naturally be beneficial for staffing and learning resources, but recognised that school funding is a national issue. Admission numbers were key to achieving higher levels of funding and TH noted that a change to the Local Authority Transport Policy, as discussed at previous meetings, would be key to raising admission numbers. | | | |
| STU 1.12 | Mental Health Policy AS reported that she had met with the Safeguarding & Welfare Officer and that they had decided to restart the drafting of a new Mental Health Policy. It was agreed that it was best to keep policy and procedure separate. | Take forward | AS | Nov '17 |
| | 2. Citizenship Policy Changes made to the Policy were agreed, along with the following additional changes: addition of "digital community" to the last bullet point under "aims", it being noted that digital citizenship and staying safe online was part of Personal, Social, Health & Economic (PSHE) education and was feeding into computing lessons on e-safety deletion of reference to turning the policy into a democratic framework deletion of the proposal for student associate governors (it being agreed this would not be appropriate or helpful for the Student Committee as would distract from the key function of governors in challenging and holding senior leaders to account) addition of "participation in the Swanage School Challenge" under the paragraph headed "active citizenship will include" | | | |

| | APPROVED subject to the above. | Update & Publish | Clerk | Oct '17 |
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| | Literacy Policy APPROVED the proposed changes. Assessment, Target Setting, Recording & Reporting Policy APPROVED (no changes) subject to removal of the reference to "GCSEs taken in Summer | Update & Publish Update & Publish | Clerk | Oct '17 |
| | 2016 and 2017 (p.2). | | | |
| STU 1.13 | Reports | | | |
| | Special Education Needs (SEN) AS reported that she would meet with the SENCO and Jules Daulby who had taken on the governor link role for SEN. | | | |
| | 2. <u>E-Safety</u> NB noted that he will visit the school later in the year, it being suggested by TH that, if possible, it would be informative to observe one of the sessions being delivered to Year 7. | | | |
| | 3. Mental Health AS had nothing to report on mental health other than as discussed under STU 1.12.1 above. | | | |
| STU 1.14 | Timing of Meetings As a number of members of the committee would be unable to meet during the day, it was decided that meetings would remain in the evening. | | | |
| STU 1.15 | Committee Membership A wide breadth of skills and expertise was felt to be present on the committee and it was agreed there was no need for associate members. | | | |
| STU 1.16 | Any Other Business None. | | | |

| STU 1.17 | Confidentiality No item would require confidential minutes. | | |
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| | Next Meetings Monday 16 October 2017, 5pm Wednesday 22 November 2017, 5.30pm | | |
| | The meeting closed at 7.10pm | | |