

Brooke House Sixth Form College

Minutes of a meeting of the **Standards Committee** held on 23 October 2008 at 1500 hrs.

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| Present | Sid Hughes (Chair) | Jeremy Jennings | Ken Warman (Principal) |
| In Attendance | Ralph Devereux (Clerk) | Philip Elliot (VP T&L) | Jonathan Stewart (DP) |
| Apologies | Lisa Huggins-Chan | | |

1/08 ELIGIBILITY, QUORUM, DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND APOLOGIES

The apology was noted. No notice had been received of any member becoming ineligible to hold office. The meeting was quorate and no interests had been declared.

2/08 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Jeremy Jennings proposed and Ken Warman seconded Sid Hughes as Chair, there were no other nominations; carried unanimously.

Sid Hughes was elected Chair for 2008/09.

3/08 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 3 July 2008 were agreed and signed.

4/08 MATTERS ARISING AND NOTIFICATION OF URGENT BUSINESS

- a. There were no matters arising and no urgent business was declared.
- b. It was agreed to consider a further meeting this term as a matter of urgent business.

5/08 QUALITY UPDATE

- a. Results. Results had improved significantly and, with the high levels of achievement in pass rate, focus was being directed to increasing numbers of "merit" and better awards. BTEC results were particularly impressive in all areas and as the cohort for this year was similar to the last expectations remained high. AS and A2 levels had also shown a stronger performance. Although the improvement was marked there was much scope for improvement and more effort would be made on preparation for key results such as maths which had a disproportionate effect on other subject areas and the first exam sitting with a consequent reduction in resits. It was stressed that these results represented only achievement figures and should not be taken as success rates. A full analysis of success rates would be presented to the next Corporation meeting.
- b. IQR. Internal quality reviews, inspections conducted by internal staff and external consultants, were in progress and concentrating on areas placed in (Internal) special measures earlier this year. Four reviews had been completed and the reports were circulated all followed that same format based on the 5 key questions, all teachers were observed twice and all relevant student/tutor data was available for scrutiny. Grade 3 in lesson observation grades had been split into 2 areas since to allow greater analysis of trends towards 2 or 4. Common trends included poor attendance, lateness, return of homework and low level disruption of classes
 - (i) Business. Lesson observations showed more "Good" or better than "Satisfactory" or worse (8:7) and had been assessed overall as grade 3 satisfactory. Key strengths were listed in each area assessed and considered together with clear listing of those areas for improvement. Initial judgements showed that the department was short of time and teachers tended to be tied to delivery.

- (ii) ICT/Maths. Lesson observations were disappointing with less “Good” or better than “Satisfactory” or worse (6:16)(including 3 grade 4 assessments) and had been assessed overall as grade 4 unsatisfactory. The attendance figure although anecdotally poor was not as bad as the 38% noted which had been caused by inaccurate data, this situation was being resolved. Nevertheless, concern was felt over the result of the review and continuing attention was required, assurance was given that this would be done. It was agreed that the Chairman would write another letter expressing the committee’s concern over the slow progress and improvement. Key strengths were listed in each area assessed and considered together with clear listing of those areas for improvement.
- (iii) Hair and Beauty. Lesson observations showed more “Good” or better than “Satisfactory” or worse (10:8) and had been assessed overall as grade 3 satisfactory. It was agreed that improvement was obvious and sustained. Key strengths were listed in each area assessed and considered together with clear listing of those areas for improvement. There was a new manager and team spirit and student behaviour had improved considerably. Despite the sound improvement it was not clear that the department were aware of how such progress had been achieved and analysis would continue.
- (iv) Health. Lesson observations showed fewer “Good” or better than “Satisfactory” or worse (4:14) although grade 3a registered 9 against 4 at 3b indicating that progress was being made. The overall grade 3 satisfactory was justified. Key strengths were listed in each area assessed and considered together with clear listing of those areas for improvement. The department had high morale and sought to improve but there was some feeling by the observers that teachers just were not aware of what an outstanding lesson looked like, measures to widen that awareness were being established with an advanced pedagogy tutor planned to visit shortly.

Although sound progress was being made there was still clearly much work to be done, especially in ICT/Maths and more reports on this were required. Four more IQRs, including 2 cross college areas, were planned this term and would be reported to the next meeting. The aim remained for steady, aggregated improvement based on firm and fair assessments and replacing the generous historical regime which the “No excuse” culture was now seen to be replacing. Focus continued to be maintained on student voice and student advocates were currently being elected. Staff turnover had recently been high, probably as a result of the changes and the new appointments were expected to settle and deliver through this term

- a. The chair would write to the Head of ICT/Maths;
- b. The information was received.

6/08 VA PERFORMANCE

Value-added is an analysis of advancement in relation to the prior achievement of students, at A level the comparison is against GCSE results. 2 separate systems/sets of data were available for such analysis; ALIS (A Level Information System) a broadly based system used in many colleges and the ALPS (A Level Performance System) a more specialist form used by sixth form colleges and schools; the latter is the more stringent. ALPS data for achievements for this year’s level results were then discussed were within the top 10% of schools and colleges nationally with a “T” score of 2.33 (2007 - 6.67); a score of 3.67 or higher is deemed to be very good or better. This was felt to be a commendable result and all involved were commended Furthermore, Government and Politics had been assessed at Grade 1 placing it within the top national 3%. Accounting, Art & Design, Biology, Chemistry, English Literature, History, Mathematics (and Further Maths), Philosophy and Physics were all assessed at Grade 2.

7/08 ENROLMENTS

Enrolments numbers had been disappointing and had been below target for the second successive year, however the enrolment process had preceded the publication of results and it was felt that this would improve number next year. Data produced by the learning trust was

circulated, the information showed the proportions by different sets of out of borough enrolments. The data was discussed at length, 65% of Hackney 16-18 year old students enrolled elsewhere and possible reasons were put forward. The current high emphasis on high profile of college success and the high standards of amenities and accommodation would continue.

8/08 URGENT BUSINESS

It was agreed as necessary to hold another meeting in advance of the December Corporation and the clerk would circulate members to determine the date.

9/08 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be 1500 on 12 March 2008.