

SOUTH MOLTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Governing Body

Curriculum Committee Minutes					
Date/ Time		14 November 2016 5pm			
Location		Classroom 2			
Minutes to		Governing Body			
Committee members	Initials	Notes	Apologies	Initials	Reason (Category of Governor)
Andrew Redpath	AR				
Wendy Rickard	WR				
Sarah Robinson	SR		Absent without Apology	Initials	
Arthur Symons	AS				
Ellen Vernon	EV	Chair	To Attend	Initials	Role
Andrew Finney	AF	Principal	David Lewis	DL	Assistant Vice Principal

	Agenda Item	Action
1	Election of Chair	
	AF took the chair. EV nominated herself for the chair. SR proposed and WR seconded. It was agreed a Deputy Chair was not required; any member could substitute if required.	
2	Declaration of interests	
	SR – school employee, parent EV – North Devon Council employee, parent AR – occasional work for schools within Devon WR – parent	
3	Apologies	
	None	
4	Approve Terms of Reference (draft attached)	
	It was acknowledged there was an element of overlap with the Terms of Reference for the Teaching, Learning & Achievement Committee in terms of school performance. This was felt acceptable. It was agreed to review the Terms of Reference at the start of the next academic year. AF proposed moving the Attendance & Behaviour remit to T&L. All agreed.	

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	<p>Campbell Orr to be invited to T&L.</p> <p>Lead governors: WR - lead governor for Inclusion & Positive Learning – fit with role as safeguarding governor SR - lead governor for Community & Parental links Curriculum – all agreed this was a function of the whole committee so no logic in a lead governor.</p> <p>Various minor amends – EV to amend document as discussed, and circulate via email for virtual agreement to ensure all amends captured.</p> <p>Discussion on the merits of a parent communications policy. Agreed this was a protocol rather than a policy. SR advised there had been a focus from OFSTED on this aspect. SR agreed to explore further.</p>	<p>EV</p> <p>SR</p>
5	Approval of the Part I and Part II Minutes of 7/6/16	
	<p>Committee structure has altered in the 2016/17 academic year and minutes from previous Teaching and Learning Committee in 2015/16 not yet available. Minutes to be covered by next Teaching, Learning & Achievement Committee.</p> <p>AR advised that as FFT data had just been received the TL&A Committee dates would be set. (update: scheduled for December 7th).</p>	
6	Matters Arising from the Minutes.	
	<p>Committee structure has altered in the 2016/17 academic year and minutes from previous Teaching and Learning Committee not yet available.</p>	
7	Cycle of Business (as per Terms of Reference)	
	<p>Year 9 Options Process. See detailed discussion at item 9.</p>	
7c	<p>Review Policies. EV advised that Philip Govier, FGB Co-Chair is currently looking at all policies in terms of review dates, ensuring policies are necessary, and are aligned to the most appropriate committee.</p>	
8	Curriculum Reports (attached where available)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IAG <p>EV gave a brief overview of visit with Ian Jones and SMCC to Petroc Open Day in late June; very positive. AR commented that destination data would be valuable.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding <p>WR's report is going to FGB next week (November 22). Campbell Orr has weekly meetings with his team. WR has attended one. Safeguarding training with governors is proposed (update: arranged for 5.30pm prior to FGB November 22). Current challenge is ensuring paperwork follows pupils moving between schools. Bullying figures are improving.</p> <p>EV advised that recent Chairs training had strongly suggested governing boards appointed deputy safeguarding leads. It was agreed to raise at FGB.</p>	

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	<p>At least two new governors are expected to join the governing board and either may be well placed to fill this role.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community/Parent links <p>SR suggested an SLT community champion to mirror community lead governor. AF to consider and advise preferred nominee.</p>	AF
9	<p>Curriculum Considerations</p> <p>DL provided a detailed briefing to the committee on the current curriculum offering at SMCC for each of years 7 through to 11.</p> <p>Recent changes have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of KS4 commencement after the summer half term • Introduction of Enterprise and Skills lessons for years 7 and 8 • Selection of focus on either French or German at the end of year 7 <p>The first two initiatives were felt to be successful, albeit GCSE results from the early commencement of KS4 would not be seen until summer 2018. Governors queried the rationale for the ability to learn only 1 MFL in years 8 and 9. There was felt to be a negative impact in terms of the ability of students to pursue MFL at HE level, as two MFL GCSE's would normally be required. However, there was an understanding of the challenge in providing 2 languages in a smaller school. There was discussion about alternative options such as the use of an opt-in period 6, resource sharing with other schools, or a Petroc 1 year GCSE course. It was agreed that the MFL department needed to remain focused at this current time, although these options should be explored.</p> <p>There are particular challenges to SMCC, generally due to its size and budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Striving to ensure subject specialist teachers are always utilised – SMCC is successful for the majority of the timetables, aside from some Year 7 lessons, and has more specialist teaching than other schools of comparable size. • Period 6 lessons have been used to offer further subject choice. The challenge is that teaching staff are not contracted to deliver teaching in period 6, and this session is not accessible to all – for example those who rely on a school bus. • There are invariably subjects each year with a poor take-up. 10 pupils is the minimum requirement for break even, although DL will strive to ensure lessons with 6+ can run. This has meant some subjects have been absent in some years – for example textiles. WR raised a concern that subjects may fall off the curriculum forever. Performance and D&T subjects were agreed as particularly at risk. <p>DL advised that historically around 60% of pupils had secured the GCSE options they wanted in year 10. During the last 4 years this had been between 70% and 79%.</p> <p>DL advised the Options Evening would occur before the end of term.</p> <p>Governors discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ebacc – it was agreed Ebacc should not be forced. This wasn't in line 	

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