

**CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE
MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING**

3 December 2014

Bearsden Academy, Bearsden, East Dunbartonshire

NOTE OF MEETING

LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS AND ATTENDEES

Board Members

Name	Organisation
Janet Brown	SQA
Mike Corbett	NASUWT
Iain Ellis	National Parent Forum Scotland
Larry Flanagan (on behalf of Susan Quinn)	EIS
Mhairi Harrington	Colleges Scotland
Grant Jarvie	Universities Scotland
Alan Johnston	Scottish Government
Graeme Logan	Education Scotland
Ann MacDonald	STEC
Bill Maxwell	Education Scotland
Ann McIntosh	AHDS
Bill Miller	CLDMS
Ken Muir	GTCS
Robert Nicol	COSLA
Fiona Robertson	Director of Learning (Chair)
Andy Smith	SLS
Andrew Sutherland	ADES
Damien Yeates	SDS

Officials

Denise Brock	Education Scotland
Jeane Freeman	Scottish Government
Jane Gallacher	Scottish Government (Secretariat)
Lorraine Sanda	Scottish Government
Tim Simons	Scottish Government
Kit Wyeth	Scottish Government

Apologies

John Edward	SCIS
Terry Lanagan	ADES
Jane Peckham	NASUWT

1. Welcome & apologies

1.1 Fiona Robertson (FR) welcomed Board members and thanked George Cooper, Headteacher of Bearsden Academy, Mike Corbett (MC) for his facilitation and the staff and pupils for welcoming the Board to their school.

1.2 FR introduced Damien Yeates (DY), Chief Executive, Skills Development Scotland, to his first meeting of the CfE Management Board. She also welcomed Larry Flanagan (LF) from EIS on behalf of Susan Quinn and a number of Scottish Government colleagues – Jane Gallacher (Secretariat), Lorraine Sanda, Tim Simons and Kit Wyeth.

1.3 Apologies had been received from John Edward, SCIS, Terry Lanagan, ADES and Jane Peckham, NASUWT.

1.4 FR noted that the Board had last met in September and that a great deal of change had taken place over the past few months at Ministerial level, including a new First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning. FR highlighted the forward agenda for the new Ministerial team was tackling inequality and the Cabinet Secretary would be invited to attend a future meeting of the Board.

1.5 The Board formally recorded their thanks and best wishes to the former Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, Michael Russell.

Actions:

- **JG to invite Ministers to the March 2015 meeting**

2. Note and actions from the last meeting

2.1 MB members agreed the note of the meeting on 22 September and noted that the papers and note will be published online.

2.2 Alan Johnston (AJ) provided an update on the actions from the September meeting, noting that most would be addressed later on the agenda.

3. CfE Policy Issues

3.1 At its September meeting, the CfE Management Board agreed that in forthcoming meetings it would consider a number of specific topics:

- the Broad General Education (BGE) and the transition to Senior Phase, including assessment arrangements
- curriculum models within the Senior Phase, supporting the DYW agenda

- the new qualifications, particularly arrangements for Highers

3.2 The Board also agreed with a proposal to look at each of these topics through a particular set of ‘lenses’:

- Original intentions
- Evaluation
- Experiences of all

3.3 The Board discussed the first of the topic papers: Broad General Education and the transition to senior phase. Alan Johnston and Graeme Logan provided an outline to this paper, outlining a national view on the current situation with BGE and highlighting current key issues and areas of action. AJ suggested the discussion focussed on 4 key questions:

- how much progress have we made in delivering a positive Broad General Education, from the perspective of our young people in particular?
- do we have a clear, shared view of the key issues we face in making a reality of the original aspirations?
- are our current areas for action properly targeted on the key issues we face?
- are there further actions that Management Board can take to help to make progress?

3.4 Points made in discussion included the following:

- the need to consider appropriate “de-cluttering” of the education landscape to allow schools to be clear on priorities
- language and messaging around the Broad General Education needs to be clear with a strong focus on the skills agenda
- we should continue to promote messages of autonomy and curriculum design within the BGE which would be important if looking at closing the attainment gap
- the need to reinforce the original aspirations of BGE. In particular the Board should consider whether a communication from the Board providing general direction would be helpful for the profession looking for them to share more widely good practice.

Actions:

- **AJ to circulate broader KPIs to Management Board and otherwise take forward with Analysts to adjust.**

<h4>4. Developing Scotland’s Young Workforce</h4>

4.1 AJ outlined the paper, providing an update to Management Board on key developments on the Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) programme since the last meeting in September. In particular Board Members’ attention was drawn to the following:

- The view that it may be necessary to consider the development of an alternative Key Performance Indicator relating to qualifications;
- progress with planning, and;

- the intention to write to Directors of Education on DYW

The following views were expressed by individual Board members:

- the KPI should focus efforts on destinations and make levels appropriate;
- the KPI should be turned into a positive;
- there was a need to create language around work-based journeys/pathways;
- there was a partnership responsibility to ensure that no young person left a pathway, and;
- the KPI was not yet capturing the real policy intent.

4.2 GL provided an update on the Curriculum, Learning, Teaching, Assessment and Support (CLTAS) forums. GL advised that there were further updates coming through and that membership across the forums needed to be consistent. The Board agreed that the purpose of the forums needed to be explained effectively to all stakeholders. GL proposed a broader paper to circulate to the Board.

5. CfE Implementation Progress

5.1 FR invited Bill Maxwell (BM) to provide an update on progress with implementation.

5.2 BM introduced the paper under this agenda item. This noted that the programme was on track for delivery. He highlighted the following key developments since the Board met in March:

- the membership of the Implementation Group had been extended to better reflect the Wood agenda, with SFC and SDS being invited to join;
- many schools were now planning to change their curriculum models from the approach they had taken in 13-14. Many were reducing the number of subjects offered in S4 from 8 to 7 or 6;
- the Implementation Group had been looking at Insight and how this is developing – in particular the incentives that it will send through the system. Once it was available further work would be needed to help schools embed this;
- the Implementation Plan published this year focused on community learning and development and college involvement, and would help schools in their planning. This would be updated to cover the outcomes from the Reflections working group ;
- work was in hand with Scottish Government analysts to look at how exam statistics would be presented in the next session;
- work had been undertaken with Polmont Young Offenders Centre looking at how CfE was being implemented in other places of learning;
- a range of further resources were being developed including a BGE Toolkit, Talking Heads video clips of Headteachers talking about their curriculum approaches and the rationale behind these;
- a new version of How Good Is Our School is being developed and will be published in the next Academic Session, looking at the range of different improvement approaches and new indicators;

- Education Scotland were reviewing access to materials and developing the “3 click rule” as a priority going forward;
- On-going work on a new release of Parent-zone Scotland.

5.3 JB covered the following key developments on qualifications:

- SQA were developing information on CfE in relation to understanding standards, assessment and verification;
- there had been a meeting with all SQA Co-ordinators to ensure they were fully up to date;
- SQA were considering how to further improve access to materials.

5.4 Denise Brock (DB) noted the following key points on communications:

- The Referendum on independence impacted on the level of public communications that were issued in August and September due to the guidance around publicity during this time. The Scottish Learning Festival took place in September and was a key area of activity during this period. Significant coverage relating to the setting up of the new Curriculum Learning, Teaching, Assessment and Support forums (CLTAS) and the review of inspection services were achieved through activity and interviews that took place at SLF.
- A number of opinion pieces from the Education Scotland Executive Team appeared in The Herald during this period including one from Bill Maxwell on tackling bureaucracy in early November amongst other comment and articles relating to the issue.
- As schools settled into the new term there has been ongoing media and political interest in the new Highers and how schools are making decisions.
- Since results day in August there have been a number of media reports in relation to the post result services and in particular the cost of appeals. More recently there has been interest in the External Assessment Reports published by SQA with a number of media focusing on different areas such as whether some pupils were entered for exams at the correct level and more specific issues such as poor handwriting.
- The Education Scotland website is under review and a new look site will be delivered in spring.

5.5 The Management Board noted the communications activities and agreed that the planned actions as detailed in the paper should proceed as planned.

6. AOB

6.1 The Board asked to write to Michael Russell MSP to recognise his leadership of Curriculum for Excellence and to pass on their best wishes for the future.

6.2 The Board agreed to extend the length of the Management Board meetings to half a day to allow more time for young person engagement and in-depth conversation.

Actions:

- FR to write to Michael Russell MSP on behalf of Management Board
- JG to extend future Management Board meetings to half a day

7. Date of Next Meetings

Wednesday 4 March – 9.30am – 2.00pm

Tuesday 16 June

CLOSE 16:00

Summary of Action Points

Item	Owner	Action
1. Welcome	JG	To invite Ministers to the March 2015 meeting
3. CfE Policy Issues	AJ	To circulate broader KPIs to Management Board and otherwise take forward with Analysts to adjust
6. AOB	FR	To write to Michael Russell MSP on behalf of Management Board
	JG	To extend future Management Board meetings to half a day