

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

ACADEMY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Monday, 21st June 2021

Time: 5:45pm Meeting

Venue: Laurus Ryecroft High School, Lumb Lane, Droylsden, Manchester M43 7LJ

Clerk: C Vogt

Present: J Crawford (Chair), S Marsden, C Nevin

In attendance: R Carling

Item	Action	Initials
1	Clerk to ascertain whether details of share portfolios need to be recorded	Clerk
	on the DOI form and advise SM accordingly	
1	CN, MV and JC to meet before the end of term to consider what KPIs are	CN/JC/MV
	critical and how tracking for all KPIs should be undertaken	
1	Governor questionnaire to be circulated, with a request for volunteers to	Clerk
	have their responses videoed.	
3	Feedback on SM and RC's meeting on safeguarding issues will be provided	SM/RC
	to Governors at the meeting on 20.09.21	
3	Academy Committee Annual Report to be finalised and issued to the Trust	Clerk/JC
	Board	

Agenda – Part 1				
Cat	egory	Item	Notes	Action
1		Apologies	J Crawford (JC), as the new Chair of the Committee, welcomed all to the meeting. C Nevin (CN) joined via Teams video link.	
			It was noted that M Vevers (MV) had sent apologies for the meeting due to an emergency domestic situation which had arisen. Apologies were also received from L Booth (LB) and A Ali (AA) was not in attendance.	
	Ŋ		There were no declarations of interest in any of the agenda items.	
	ment	AOB items	None	
	Governance Arrangements	Register of Interests	The Clerk circulated the Register of Interests prior to the meeting and confirmed that the register had been updated with information provided by AA and S Marsden (SM).	
	Govern		SM queried whether details of share portfolios need to be recorded, as it was noted that CN had	Clerk

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	provided this type of information. The Clerk will look into this and advise SM accordingly.
Code of Conduct	The Clerk circulated the Code of Conduct prior to the meeting and there were no changes to note.
Part 1 minutes	The minutes of the meeting held on 4 th March 2021 were approved as a correct record of the meeting. Matters Arising The following actions were confirmed to have been carried out:
	 JC met with MV on 17th June 2021 to discuss the Chair role. The Committee noted that CN, MV and JC were yet to meet to decide what KPIs were critical and how they should be monitored. This will be arranged before the end of term. R Carling (RC) confirmed having circulated details of diversity, LGBT and knife crime sessions to Governors. The programme of events for the Summer Term had been circulated to Governors. RC advised that a workshop was taking place on 23rd June 2021 focusing on mental health and wellbeing, with a live session from the New Rules band. Governors were welcome to attend. There had been four workshops in the last seven weeks covering safeguarding, knife crime and exploitation. These had been very successful. Sessions with Kooth online counselling services had also been arranged. In addition, a careers assembly was planned this week, together with future assemblies focusing on climate change and British values. A final end-of-year assembly with rewards will take place.
Membership: Recruitment Update/ Succession planning	RC advised that there had been discussion about recruiting additional parent governors but was unsure how far this had progressed. Unfortunately, CN had to leave the meeting at this point due to technical problems.
	On behalf of the Committee, JC asked for thanks to be recorded to CN on his invaluable support and hard work in steering the Academy Committee (AC) as Chair, until standing down after the meeting on 4 th March 2021.
Scheme of Delegation	The Committee reviewed the Scheme of Delegation and there were no changes to note.



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		Trust Board Update	The Trust Board Updates from February and March were noted by the Committee.	
		Social Media PR	The Clerk advised that the Governor questionnaire would be circulated within the next few days. The aim was to collate answers from Governors to promote the role and the school on social media. There would be an opportunity for Governors to have their response filmed if they so wished.	Clerk
2		Review Strategy and Development Plan, including Strategic Priorities and Critical Success Factors (School level)	SDP 2020-21 Summer Actions RC presented this item, confirming the details had been agreed by the Leadership Team (LT). The aim was to decide key actions to develop the school, with middle leaders having been given specific targets. It had not been possible for all the actions to be fulfilled due to Covid but, where possible, improvisations had been made. For example, professional development had gone online with weekly training sessions. Collation of pupil data had dropped due to Covid and information was only available for core subjects taught online such as English, Sciences, History and Geography.	
			It had been possible to run interventions before Christmas and after Easter but not for the whole school. Progress was linear and reviewing the curriculum was the key priority, looking at whether what is being taught is the right thing and how the curriculum needs to be shaped for next year.	
			The curriculum journey at KS4 was being planned, with guidance from Trust leads in Sciences, History, Geography, Maths and English. Different programmes, such as those for literacy and disadvantaged pupils, were being reviewed. Also, whether Pupil Premium students were picking the right options to gain entry for university.	
	School Performance and Accountability		Q: JC asked if students were not choosing the right options for university, what can the school do? RC said the response would be tailored case by case to encourage individuals. Ben Davidson (BD) is in charge of options, and brings together small groups to assist them in choosing the correct options.	
	iance		Other key points in the SDP were:	
	School Performs		Cultural capital projects were in hand to provide enrichment opportunities for students and it was noted that SM may assist with these. One project had already taken place with Pupil Premium students on 'Foods'	





- of the World' which included sushi tasting. The school will assess what impact this has had on options, engagement and behaviour.
- The drive towards excellent attendance was also crucial.
- It had not been possible to hear the student voice fully due to Covid. An end-of-year drive was taking place to ascertain how students are feeling, and what is their preferred subject of choice and why. This information will feed into curriculum plans and will be led by LB and BD.
- Academic reports were being finalised. From September, there will be a better understanding of who is behind and which intervention groups been successful.
- Leadership and service is an important focus.
 All ambassadors and form captains have been appointed and one representative from each form will attend student council meetings.
 This will provide an opportunity to discuss what is right and wrong with the school, allowing to students to feel they are being listened to and have a way of escalating any issues or ideas via the council representative.
 The council will be given a budget which should empower the youngsters and encourage leadership characteristics.

Q: JC asked who is leading the student council initiative and how will the council feedback to the senior team?

A: RC said Heads of House were involved in the student council but the overall lead had not yet been finalised, nor had the feedback process been fully decided.

Q: SM queried how those who might naturally stand back from being part of the student council could be encouraged to participate?

A: RC advised that those students with potential to thrive and benefit were being steered into putting themselves forward.

- Competition and physical endeavour was being promoted, as this had not been possible during Covid. The field had been opened today and a Sports Day was planned. Y7 took part in a softball competition last week and more interschool competition will be scheduled.
- Culture, creativity and rhetoric were being considered to see what else could be offered.
 Cultural capital was being promoted with line managers and department heads planning



this. Staff development was discussed at the LT meeting today, with the aim of taking staff training to the next level. There will be a new leaders programme and a safeguarding day for staff. FPLs of 25 minutes duration are currently taking place each week. A carousel opportunity is offered to staff to pick 3 of 12 different workshops in their particular field of There is an inset day for interest. safeguarding discussion at the beginning each of year but this needs refreshing. Generally, one day per term is set aside for inset days. RC remarked that staff training and development at the school is first-class. Q: SM asked are there any crimes being dealt with and how are these being handled? RC responded that one student had been issued with a crime for malicious communication and it has been agreed with the Police that there will be restorative justice, with no further action taken. The crime was committed in mid-May and it has taken six weeks to come to this decision which is a long time to have to wait. It had impacted particularly badly on the parents. Q: JC asked if the incident had taken place at school and would the school be automatically advised of crimes committed by their students? A: RC said the incident had taken place off

A: RC said the incident had taken place off school premises at the park. SM said it would not necessarily be the case that the school would now be advised of crimes. When SM was attending the school in a police capacity, this information would have been passed on. However, it is good practice for the school to be given details and enable issues to be 'nipped in the bud' before multiple crimes are committed. Police were swamped with incidents, hence the delay in dealing with the matter.

Ensure Delivery of School Curricula and Assessment in line with the Trust's approach

Head of School Report

RC presented the report, advising that:

Attainment had been affected by Covid. However, there would be a first results day for Spanish GCSE in the summer which should be an opportunity for staff and students to celebrate together. Data was hit and miss due to 12 weeks of online learning from which it was difficult to judge progression. Y7, Y8 and

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			 Y9 data is currently being collated and gaps will be identified, with interventions put in place. Tutor groups had been organised by teachers in Maths, Spanish and English, as well as reading groups run by the Heads of House. There had been a spikes in Cs due to the school tightening up its policies but behaviour was generally going well. Exclusion data is 	
			very low in comparison to the national average, and was the absolute final solution once all other avenues had been explored.	
3		Finance Update	The management accounts for March and April were circulated prior to the meeting. Governors noted a surplus.	
		Policy Reviews	The Anti-Bullying, Child Protection, First Aid, PHSE, Gifted and Talented, SEND Accessibility, Behaviour, Uniform and Mobile Technology Policies were circulated prior to the meeting.	
			The Committee noted amendments and those Governors present approved the Policies. Governors absent from the meeting will be asked to approve the Policies via email.	
		Safeguarding and SEND Link Governor Updates	SM confirming being the Governor responsible for this and arranged to meet RC half-termly to discuss. RC advised that nine EHCPs were joining from September in Y7. This was in addition to the existing five already in school and another four/five being processed. There could be as many as 20 in all which would have a significant impact. No other school in Tameside had taken as many. SM remarked that this was clearly because the school was considered able to handle these students effectively. RC said the school had objected to some proposed students because it was felt their needs could not be met. Transition days over two sessions had been arranged for small groups of 13 and 14 students.	
	oring		Q: SM queried whether additional staff were being recruited to assist with the EHCP students?	
	r Monita		A: RC said an interview was taking place this week for an additional member of staff.	
	Governor Monitoring		SM and RC agreed to meet on Thursday 16 th September to review how the new EHCP students were faring, and discuss safeguarding and child	SM/RC



			protection issues. Details will be reported to the AC meeting on 20 th September 2021.	
		Governor Self Review of Impact	The Clerk reported that a first draft of the Academy Committee Annual Report had been presented to the Governance, Oversight and Standards Committee for review. The report is to be finalised and then issued to the Trust Board.	Clerk/ JC
4	Governor Developmen t	Governor Training — Review Trust Plan	Governors reviewed the training plan and log, and agreed that a drive to increase training and recording of courses taken should be made in the next academic year.	
5	Community Engagement	Stakeholder Engagement	JC confirmed having met with MV where this item was discussed. It had not been possible to progress engagement during Covid. However, there were several good ideas in the pipeline, including bring parents into school, which should be possible to action from September.	
	AOB		There were no other items of business to discuss. This session of the meeting closed at 18.53.	
	Meeting dates	Academic year 2020-2021	Monday 20.09.21 Thursday 25.11.21 Thursday 03.03.22 Monday 20.06.22 All meetings will start at 5.45pm	

Agenda – part 2

The press and members of the public to be excluded from the meeting at this point under 2003(school governance procedures) (education) regulations because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Impact of Meeting / Key Outcomes

- The Committee gave thanks to CN for acting as Chair and steering the Committee over the last few months.
- The Anti-Bullying, Child Protection, First Aid, PHSE, Gifted and Talented, SEND Accessibility, Behaviour, Uniform and Mobile Technology Policies were approved by those present. Governors absent from the meeting will be asked to signify their approval via email.
- As Safeguarding and SEND governor, SM will meet half-termly with RC to discuss and review these areas, providing feedback to the Committee.
- The Committee agreed to increase the take up and recording of Governor training in the new academic year.

Signed by the Chair:

Julie Crawfond

Date: 20.09.21

