

Local Governing Body
Minutes of the Meeting
Held on 14th May 2020

Present: Simon Prior (SPR) – Chair, Rolf Purvis (RPS) – Head teacher,
, Lucy Scott (LST) – CEO Jeanette Redding (JRG) – Vice Chair, Lesley Waugh (LWH), Simon
Grapes (SGS), Lynne Martin (LMN)

1. **Apologies:** Jim Warwick (JWK)

From the Chair

- SPR – Stated that remote learning is going well and the feedback from parents has been very positive and this has been communicated to staff

1. **Minutes of Last Meeting**

- Minutes approved by the LGB.

Action – SPR to send NGE signed copy

2. **Reports – Circulated with agenda.**

- a. Disadvantaged Pupils

- SPR – Asked for comments on the disadvantaged report circulated prior.
- JRG – Stated that it had become obvious that engagement nationally from disadvantaged pupils was an issue to be targeted.
- RPS – Provided an update on the DMA PP strategy during lockdown. He stated this had started with the 1000 meals provided for PP student and since the voucher scheme has been rolled out despite the delays these had been provided to students. In terms of connectivity it was very obvious there was a divide between students but Nick Hewitt has made sure that all families are now connected and DMA are taking advantage of the government offer to provide laptops to students which will be distributed. The trust has also invested in providing laptops to students. This has resolved some of the issues that students were facing to allow them to take part in live lessons. On Monday Nick will be talking to all staff about our PP students and how to prioritise them.
- LST – Asked RPS to inform the LGB about the DMA tutor groups
- RPS – Stated that this week tutor groups have been launched starting at 8:45 to help provide structure to the day. By Wednesday 70-80% of students who were targeted were joining in. This helps to provide a positive start to the day.
- SPR – Asked if engagement generally is 70-80%?
- RPS – Stated that 60-70% of pupils are very engaged and there are 10% who pick and choose when to engage and the remaining are rarely engaged.
- SPR – Asked RPS if those not engaging are the students that he would expect?
- RPS – Stated that these were students who he would expect and had previously been unengaged whilst at school.
- SPR – Asked what the mechanism will be to measure closing the gap between PP and all other students.
- RPS – Stated that there will be no national data to compare but there will be the ability to compare across the trust.

- LST – Stated that the Trust will work to provide a dashboard to help provide data for the LGB. When meeting at with the Cambridgeshire heads this morning it was apparent that DMA was way ahead in provision and support during this epidemic.
- SPR – Stated that CHS was concerned that the trajectory of improvement would not be clear.
- LST – Stated that the grades will consist purely of data.
- SPR – Asked if there is a process as a school to challenge awarded grades?
- LST – Stated that at the moment this was unclear, however there is a set criteria so it would be difficult to challenge these.
- JRG – Asked if it might be worth writing to the RSC to ensure they are aware of our concerns regarding external moderation of DMA grades.
- LST – Stated it was an idea worth pursuing.

b. CPD

- SPR – Stated it was apparent from DHT's report that there was a robust CPD programme particularly for NQT's he asked how this was continuing during the closure.
- LST – Stated that the trust have put together an online CPD programme for NQT's including a series of online videos. This initiative has been lead by Peter Watts with involvement from DMA staff and this will be sent to NQT's after half term. She stated that in terms of CPD more broadly staff are participating in some different online courses. There has been lots of learning taking place in terms of working electronically and adapting lessons when teaching remotely.
- RPS – Added that departments meet daily and this provide useful CPD guidance. There has also been joint lessons aiding team teaching and improving modelling. Both schools will have large number of NQT's so this is being looked at to ensure they are nurtured and competent having missed their final term.

3. Transition back to school – RPS

- RPS – Stated that he was expecting a clear message from the PM and a road map to reopening on the previous Sunday in his address. There was discussions about primary schools (certain years) returning 1st of June and those facing exams 10 and 12 to spend some time with teachers before the end of term. This has been more clarified as possibly 1st June. It is important that plans for those students returning does not affect the virtual learning of the majority of students that will still be at home. The plans will surround targeting key students who are not engaged.
- JRG – Stated that she thought it was interesting that the government stated 'face to face' interaction with teachers which is open to interpretation.
- RPS – Added that the secretary of state has since provided more clarity but this is certainly still open to interpretation from individual schools as to how to best address provision.
- JRG – Asked if RPS believed there will there be a transport issue?
- RPS – Stated that there would not be an issue according to NCC but the initial focus will be on local students.
- SPR – Asked in terms of H and S whether RPS is comfortable that the environment will be ready.
- RPS – Stated that the school was well prepared, for example learning in larger open spaces such as halls and avoidance of corridors. PPE and hand sanitiser will also be available and there is also time to prepare for September for larger number of students.

4. Skills Audit – Simon Grapes

- SGS – Presented the skills audit he compiled which had been circulated to the LGB prior to the meeting. He detailed the variety of skills that the governing body had and where he believed weaknesses were in terms of experience the LGB members had. He stated that this skill set is where recruitment for new governors could be targeted.
- LST – States that it was a very positive picture of the competence of the governing board. She stated that it would be useful for David Hutton to provide some training with the governors and for Tracey to talk through budgets to give current members more of a financial understanding.
- SPR – Asked whether it was possible to reach out to the local council to help advertise for governors?
- LST – Stated that this would be appropriate.
- SPR – Stated that governor training would be better left until the autumn when we would hope to have recruited additional governors.

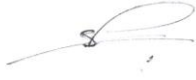
5. Merger Update – Lucy Scott

- LST – Stated that the merger had the agreement of the headteacher board so there was no longer anything preventing the merger. LST has met with all the local governing bodies. The trust has been working closely with Witchford on improving their curriculum. The focus now was carrying out due diligence, reviewing the finance and health and safety procedures of the schools. There will also be some online consultations that parents will be invited to.
- SPR – Has met with the other chairs and believes there are several opportunities for sharing best practise surrounding the merger.
- SGS- Added that he felt the online forums would be a great opportunity and reassurance for parents.

6. AOB

- SPR – Asked if there were any health and safety or safeguarding issues to bring up? None were reported by the LGB.
- SPR – Asked RPS/NGE about upcoming PEX meetings.
- NGE – Updated the LGB that the PEX meetings are being rescheduled for after half term and that she would be in contact with the LGB at a later date.
- SPR – Asked the LGB about Clare Hargraves' email regarding mentors for 6th form students and their chosen university courses.
- SGS – Asked if current university students could be targeted?
- SPR – Asked that all potential mentors are communicated to CHS.

SIGNED BY CHAIR OF GOVERNORS



SIGNED

SIMON PRIOR

DATE 23.9.2020