

York High School

Minutes of the meeting of the Local Governing Board held on Wednesday 21st June 2023 at 6pm held at the school

Present: Nicki Mitchell (Chair) Val Roddis
Rod Sims (Headteacher) Richard Lavell
Andy Pope Cllr Andrew Waller
Rosemary Swords Sarah Hammond

In Attendance Sally Gordon (proposed governor), Sophie Triffitt (Clerk)

Action

1. **Welcome, Apologies for absence, Declarations of Interest**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies were received and accepted for Ian Savage and Amanda Crouch.

Ms Gordon left the meeting.

Resolution: Governors unanimously agreed to recommend Sally Gordon for Trust Board approval as a general governor.

Ms Gordon returned to the meeting.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 4th May 2023** (previously circulated)

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and approved.

Matters Arising and Action Plan

Action 1: Action remained ongoing.

Action 2: Action remained ongoing.

Action 3: The SBM had circulated the financial assumptions document.

Action 4: Action remained ongoing.

3. **Headteacher Report / Weekly Pulse** (tabled)

The Headteacher tabled the WC 8th May and WC 12th June 2023 Pulse Reports and summarised the school context for the benefit of new governors noting that the demographic of the school had remained static for some time but this was changing with an increasing number of non-white British children joining the school.

The Headteacher noted that SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health) and ADHD were the main areas of need for those with an Education Health Care Plan.

The Headteacher highlighted attendance as an area of risk with current attendance at 84.76% which was tracking slightly further away from national average than the pre Covid gap. Cumulative attendance had slightly increased from the May 8th report and first day calls were being done before 11am. Year 11 on average had one day off per week and the Headteacher emphasised that attendance was a driving factor in GCSE outcomes and grade attainment.

The Headteacher noted the 41% persistent absence (attendance lower than 90%) rate.

The Headteacher made governors aware that 24% of the current Year 6 cohort who will be going into Year 7 are already persistently absent and research suggests that if a child was below that 90% threshold at primary school they will be below 80% by Year 11.

The Headteacher noted that attendance was impacted by Covid lockdowns and industrial action was also having an impact to attitudes to attendance, but some improvements have been made following the new strategies.

In response to a governor the Headteacher confirmed that a small percentage of the York High School pupils who are classed as persistently absent was due to medical / mental health reasons.

Challenge: A governor suggested that it was important to have clarity on messaging given recent challenge from a small group of parents in other Trust schools and to manage communications for those children who are unable to attend for understandable reasons against the challenging general non-attendance. The Headteacher emphasised that it is proven that good attendance leads to good outcomes and assured governors that communications are managed in line with specific personal circumstances and taking into account medical circumstances. There is clear and transparent messaging

with parents and carers that attendance is a priority and this is emphasised at the Year 11 expectation evening.

Challenge: A governor asked if the comments on the South Bank parent Facebook page was impacting staff morale. The Headteacher confirmed it wasn't at York High School as it was primarily parents in the south bank area voicing concerns.

The Headteacher highlighted the level of fixed term suspensions noting that 48% of suspensions relate to 24 pupils. The internal exclusion system is being reviewed to ensure that it is effectively supporting the behaviour system.

The Headteacher noted that the alternative provision places in York are full, and it is financially expensive to buy in additional external support

Challenge: Governors agreed to monitor the suspension and exclusion figures closely going forward.

The Headteacher highlighted that the school is effective at solving complaints at stage 2.

The Headteacher summarised the BRAG system of monitoring pupils and associated interventions fortnightly and reported that 53.7% of Year 11 are expected to get a grade 4 or above against a target of 65%.

Challenge: A governor asked if pupils are engaged with interventions. The Headteacher confirmed that the majority had but that the closer it got to the end of exams the harder it was to get students into those later revision sessions.

4. Where we are Now / State of the Nation RSI Return

The Headteacher presented an update on the current position of the school.

Behaviour

The Headteacher explained that behaviour was proving challenging nationally and it had been a focus on his return to school and he had undertaken stakeholder voice specifically on behaviour which highlighted the need to refocus on consistency across classes and SLT and look at the way messages are delivered including the use of positive language.

STAR Centre – Inspire Academy

The Headteacher explained that the STAR Centre will expand to be a South Bank MAT provision with places for 15 KS3 students with the aim of returning to mainstream classes and a permanent setting for KS4 students.

The building is being refurbished and will be staffed by a Head of Centre, teacher and two HLTA's. There is funding support from York School and Academies Board with associated conditions and there will be payment from Millthorpe for six of their students (three KS3 and three KS4). It will then expand for other schools to commission places.

Challenge: A governor noted disappointment that the Trust did not communicate with the LGB about this provision and governors found out when they saw the published job adverts. The Headteacher assured governors that communication and plans were clear at SLT and it did progress quickly and apologised that governors had not been fully informed.

Strike Action

The Headteacher made governors aware that all unions, including the leadership union, were balloting for strike action.

There had been six strike days so far and school had stayed opened for Year 11 and offered childcare for Year 7. The next planned strike days are the 5th and 7th July. The 5th July is a transition day which creates operational difficulty and it is likely that the school will need to close to all York High School students to enable the Year 6 transition.

The strike action on the 7th July will also mean the Trust Sports Festival will not go ahead.

Summer School

The Headteacher reported that the 40 summer school places filled in three hours and it was unlikely that additional staffing could be found to expand the offering for the 21 students on the waiting list.

Staffing

The Headteacher informed governors that appointments have been made for Maths, Design Technology (one term supply), Science and English. The Director of School Improvement will be supporting the English department.

The Headteacher recorded thanks to Noreen Reid on her retirement for the significant impact she had made to the lives of children in school. Therapist capacity will be delivered through the Teaching Assistant team and training will be provided.

Achievement

The Headteacher reported the predicted Year 11 Progress 8 of -0.67. In response to a governor the Headteacher confirmed the 2018/19 P8 score was -0.27.

The Year 10 cohort coming through are academically similar to the current Year 11 but there is a small group of challenging pupils.

The Headteacher shared examples of individual intervention plans.

Challenge: In response to a governor the Headteacher confirmed that the curriculum and leadership was strong in Maths and he was confident in the staffing appointments.

Challenge: A governor asked for an update on the curriculum review process. The Headteacher explained that post Ofsted and Ms Kitchen leaving Mr Hardy had taken the lead on the CAR process. PE and Pupil Premium have been completed and there was a schedule for 2023/24.

Challenge: A governor complimented the Headteacher on the impact their presence in school has on behaviour but also recognised this as a risk and suggested the need to build in behaviour continuity into the structures and systems to mitigate any future absence.

School Improvement Plan

The Headteacher highlighted the three focus areas for the SIP would be attendance, outcomes and behaviour.

5. Outcomes

Addressed as part of agenda item 4.

6. School Improvement Plan

Addressed as part of agenda item 4.

7. Governing Body Matters

Governor Visits and Training

The Chair was attending Trust Safer Recruitment training on 11th July 2023.

Link Governor Roles

Richard Lavell had agreed to be Safeguarding link governor from August 2023

Action: Headteacher to draft a link governor proposal linked to the SIP.

HT

Timing and Frequency of LGB Meetings for 2023/24

Resolution: Governors agreed to six meetings, one each half term with a 6pm start.

Meetings would start with an SLT update and one meeting would be held earlier to enable students to attend.

8. Teaching and Learning

Addressed as part of agenda item 4.

9. Standards

Addressed as part of agenda item 4.

10. Child Protection and Safeguarding

Link Visit Report (previously circulated)

The link governor has a final visit planned before the end of term.

11. Attendance and Behaviour

Link Visit Report (previously circulated)

The link governor noted that the termly swapping of roles for behaviour had not been as effective as hoped and there was a targeted approach on attendance for greatest impact. The Headteacher reported that the School Improvement Partner had done great work to improve attendance protocols.

12. Special Needs

There was no update to report.

13. Pupil Premium

There was no update to report.

14. **Staffing Update**

Addressed as part of agenda item 4.

15. **Finance Update**

Budget Approval (previously circulated)

The Headteacher explained that the three-year budget plan included building the revenue balance up to the 4% threshold.

Challenge: A governor asked if the YSAB funding for STAR Centre was a long-term commitment.

The Headteacher explained that it was for one year with the expectation that in the second year the provision will be funded from external sources such as commissioned places and ultimately will become a separate 'inspire academy' provision.

Challenge: In response to a governor the Headteacher confirmed that pay assumptions were included but the pay award had not yet been agreed nationally with unions.

Resolution: Governors agreed the budget.

16. **Community**

Cllr Waller reported that the Westfield Project were consulting on use of Sanderson House and £2.5m investment in local people.

17. **York High Families**

There was no update to report.

18. **School Policies**

Dignity at Work Policy (previously circulated)

Resolution: Governors approved the Dignity at Work Policy.

Managing Stress Policy (previously circulated)

Resolution: Governors approved the Managing Stress Policy.

ECT Induction Arrangements (previously circulated)

Resolution: Governors approved the ECT Induction Arrangements.

Pupil Well-Being Policy (previously circulated)

Challenge: A governor suggested including that York Mind had praised York High School on the early involvement of their initiative and reference to the website they were developing which would bring together support available.

Resolution: Governors approved the Pupil Well-Being Policy.

19. **Risk Record** (previously circulated)

The Headteacher informed governors that the Trust had committed capital funding for flat roof works.

Governors had no questions or suggested amends for the risk record.

20. **MAT Business**

Governors were reminded that the MAT Governance Evening was scheduled for Monday 10th July 4.30pm. The Chair and Richard Lavell provided apologies.

21. **Any Other Business**

Andy Pope informed governors that a new Health and Safety system, iAMCompliant, had been bought by the MAT and the SBM was working through uploading required information.

Richard Lavell provided apologies for the July meeting.

22. **Future Meeting Dates**

11th July 2023 6pm

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Approved at LGB on 11th July 2023

Approval

<u>ACTION POINTS</u>				
<u>From the meeting of the Local Governing Board held on 21st June 2023</u>				
	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>WHO</u>	<u>WHEN</u>
1.	Ian Savage to complete Cyber Security Training.	5 (13.09.22)	Ian Savage	Sep 2022
2.	Governors to e mail a head shot photo to Dawn Becton for governor badges.	6 (01.02.23)	Governors	Feb 2023
3.	Chair to complete Safer Recruitment training.	6 (04.05.23)	Chair	May 2023 (planned for 11 th July 2023)
4.	Draft a link governor proposal linked to the SIP.	7	Headteacher	July 2023

July Meeting