Highfield Academies

Local Governing Body Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date	23 rd November 2021
Time	5.30pm
Venue	TEAMS

Governors Present

Lorna Robinson (LR Chair), Adam Daw (AD HEA Head of School), Yvonne Skillern (YS HLA Head of School), Madeleine Albert (MA), Vicky Berry (VB), Victoria Leeks (VL), Amanda Rigler (AR)

Others Present

Simon Bainbridge (SB Executive Headteacher), Karen Jarvis (KJ Trust - HLA), Gemma Evans (GE Clerk), Jane Horn (JH)

No	Item	ACTION
1.	Acceptance and Apologies for Absence	
	Mark Ladbrook was absent – apologies were sent retrospectively.	
2.	Declaration of Interests with regard to items on this agenda	
	There were no declarations of interest.	
3.	Agree the minutes of the last meeting and matters arising not on this agenda	
	The Minutes of 7 th October 2021v were agreed as a true record and will be signed digitally by Lorna Robinson (LR).	
	All actions have been completed.	
	Matters Arising:	
	 Governors visits all booked in. AR and VL visited HEA on 22nd November for a pathway visit. Report to follow. JH attended this meeting with view to joining the LGB for HLA and HEA. 	
4.	Business Manager reports from HEA and HLA:	
	Business Manager reports from HEA and HLA:	







•	KJ attended this meeting with a verbal report. Karen is stepping back to a more Central Trust Role. Discussions are being had surrounding potentially appointing a new Admin support assistant to support the HLA admin team. Office staff looking to be trained to step into the business manager role. YS to provide financial reports going forward in the meantime. Finance is experiencing problems with invoices being late or not being paid. This is being discussed at Trust level between YS and KJ. The lift is still not working. It has now been out of action for a year. Parts have been promised this w/c 21/11/21. This has been raised with Belrock as students cannot access their classrooms easily. Hydro Pool – KJ attended a meeting with the local authority and Morgan Sindall to discuss. The pool has been out of action for a year. KJ explained that this leaves children missing out on their therapy which is an important part of their treatment. The issue is with the water table and how the plant room floods when it rains. This is being investigated as there could be holes or cracks in the pipes. Total spend this far exceeds £30k. Morgan Sindle will be paying for some of these costs. Full Annual Health and Safety Audit being carried out at HLA which is going very well. YS thanks KJ for all her hard work, commitment and support.	YS
PE su	bmitted reports for all of the following:	
•	SBM Report November 2021 Forecast Summary October 2021	
Action	n: These were not circulated prior to the meeting. GE to circulate.	GE

5.	HT Reports:	
	Additional items to include in HT report:	
	HLA	
	 Pay and Performance Management info to be added to the report. Performance reviews and pay has to be backdated to April 2021 due to an administration error. Covid – A small cluster of students have covid. Public Health advised 'ringfencing' the class and gave HLA good advice regarding safety and hygeine. Monitoring covid levels to ensure classes stay open and reinforcing the message to parents to continue to ensure students have LFT's and keep an eye on symptoms developing. 	
	Questions were invited:	
	Q : AR – What does raising lunches mean?	
	A: YS- We are unable to raise lunch prices, as we need to keep the price of a school meal the same as LECA.	
	Q: AR - What access do LAC/CIC have to online platforms and home learning etc?	
	A: YS and SB - All students in care have access to the platforms through carers or representatives of the child. Termly PEP meetings take place across HEA and HLA.	
	Q: LR – It is good to see an increase in funded school places available, how has that been made possible? What are the details?	
	A: YS – We have some space at HLA, which means we are able to open up another classroom giving us 10 extra spaces for Sept 2022 - meaning 14 spaces overall.	
	VB – Would like to point out that the new admissions panel process that has been put into place at HLA and HEA, is helpful and has helped her professionally to structure good discussions within her role to aide parents through the placement process.	
	HEA	
	 Attendance is good. There has been some difficult behaviour, which is being managed well by school. CPD – Upon reflection The National College membership actually does not offer enough special school specific courses. DM and AD are still developing Insights. 	
	Questions were invited:	
	Comment - AR - If there is not any appropriate training through the national college then NASEND is a good option that AR joined for free.	
	Q: AR - Could the School Improvement plan show more about the impact anticipated rather than the outcome in certain statements. It would help governors to understand what the ambition is. This will enable governors to structure questions during visits also.	AR

	A: AD confirmed that the new version was not uploaded to the website. AR to look and go back to AD with any suggestions following the meeting.			
	Action: Govs to look at the School Development plan and add some challenges to the statements.			
	Q: LR How is the impact evidenced in the school development plan? Can we add a challenge to include the step after the outcome?			
	A: AD - The correct plan is now on the website.			
	Q: MA – Progress and attainment. Evidence of progress is of a very high standard and there's plenty of challenge evident. How so we take your word for that and check the accuracy of what you are saying?			
	A: AD- Governors to join a Learning on the page meeting. DM to forward meeting dates to GE to invite Governors to attend virtually.	DM		
	Action: DM to send dates to GE.			
	Q: LR - Can Governors be on mailing lists?	AD/DM/YS		
	A: DM and YS to add a Governor account to School Story on class DOJO.			
	Action: AD/DM/YS to arrange for DOJO a log in for Governors			
6.	Safeguarding			
	Action: GE to chase the Safeguarding Lead training.	GE		
7.	Governance			
	 GOVERNOR VISITS ML visited HEA for a Health and Safety visit which seemed to be a positive visit. Any questions surrounding ML report can be emailed directly to ML. MA visited HEA. Visits will be every half term. MA had the 			
	 opportunity to look at My Concern and how it is used to report and evidence. Next steps is to ask students appropriate questions about how safe they feel in school. MA will cover the safeguarding role for HLA whilst we fill the gap for safeguarding lead for HLA. Action: YS to email MA to arrange a date for a safeguarding visit. VL and AR HEA for a pathway meeting. They met with SR and JH who were incredibly generous and how inspiring they were when they talked about their role. It gave them a real good sense about the pathways and how they are fluid tools, that are used to support individuals as unique beings, and how they are always responding to the needs of the pupil in their care. Action: LR to take on the pupil premium LINK role. 	YS/MA AR and VL LR		

	HEA	HLA	
Safeguarding	MA	MA (Interim)	
H&S	ML	ML	
Pupil Premium		LR	
Careers		LR	
Quality of Education – Yellov Pathway	v ??/ML/MA	??/ML/MA	
Green and Blue Pathways	VB/ AR / VL	VB/ AR / VL	
Wellbeing	tbc	tbc	
Cultural Education		AR	
Children in Care	MA	MA (Interim)	
LINC	VB/ AR / VL		
Pay Committee	??/MH/LR	??/MH/LR (MA to step in if	
Pay Appeals		eeded) tbc	
Link governor roles includ	ding pathways		
Policy Reviews			
Policy Reviews Policy Reviews			
	Use Policy.		
Policy Reviews	-		GE
Policy ReviewsE-Safety and Acceptable	o ratified.		GE
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	Careers Strategy						
	Comment: AR enjoyed the p						
	aspirations through Arts and C						
	Q: LR – A DFES document is li careers policies are excellent policies.						
	A: YS – Will check with TN to s						
	Action: YS to get in touch wit is.	YS					
	Action: GE to get in touch w	licies.	05				
	Happy to ratify all the Career	rs Policies.			GE		
9.	AOB						
	SB – There was a discussion surrounding if leaders could create a presentation for the governing body about their areas of responsibility and an update on steps, implementation and how it impacts in classes. To be discussed at the next meeting.						
10.	Date of Next Meeting – 26th Ja	nuary 2022					
	MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERY	ONE!					
1	Action Log						
Actio	n Log						
ITEM	ACTION	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBILITY	UPDATE			
	ACTION Provide Business reports for the next meeting whilst the	DEADLINE Next meeting	RESPONSIBILITY YS	UPDATE			
ITEM	ACTION Provide Business reports for the next meeting whilst the admin team is assembled. Circulate HEA business			UPDATE ✓			
ITEM 4a	ACTION Provide Business reports for the next meeting whilst the admin team is assembled.	Next meeting	YS				
ITEM 4a 4g&h	ACTIONProvide Business reports for the next meeting whilst the admin team is assembled.Circulate HEA business reportsGovs to look at the School Development plan and add some challenges to the	Next meeting	YS GE				
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8b	Check the Adult safeguarding policy together. SB to send to VB. Happy to ratify following the change.	SB/VB	✓
8c	GE to amend the Safeguarding policies to reflect ML stepping down.	GE	✓
8d	YS to get in touch with TN to ascertain what the DFES document is in the Careers policy.	YS	
8e	GE to get in touch with RB regarding renewing HEA Careers Policies.	GE	\checkmark