



**KINGSTEIGNTON SCHOOL: United Schools Trust**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021**

**Trustees present:**

DB  
PF  
JSU (Chair)  
CP  
KP  
CVW  
KW  
MW  
SW

**In attendance:**

RC, Business Manager (for first items)

**Clerk – SJ**

**Minutes of Board of Trustees meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021**

The notes from the previous meeting were confirmed as being an accurate record and will be signed.

The following outstanding items were referenced:

- **XMA**  
RC confirmed that once all ICT equipment has been purchased for the remaining classrooms there will still be some money remaining in this budget. She will provide confirmation of how much.
- **Cladding update**  
KP noted that following the correction to the installation of the cladding of the school building, that he has not yet received the photographs to provide confirmation that there is no latent defect behind the cladding. It has been confirmed that photographs were taken, and it is hoped these will be received soon.
- **Trustees attendance at training**  
The Chair thanked Trustees for the training that they have attended. She reminded Trustees that training is available through Babcock at either a discounted rate, or for free.
- **Trustees**  
The meeting **agreed** that now that everyone has returned to school, it would be a good time to try and recruit some additional parent trustees. A letter was sent w/c 29 March 2021 inviting parents to step forward.  
Additionally there are other trustee vacancies. JSU will contact Aspiring Governance to see if they know of anyone looking to become a trustee and she will report back to the next meeting.

**Finance**

The following points were discussed:

- The updated Finance Policy and Scheme of Delegation was **approved** by trustees

- RC was confirmed as being the Chief Financial Officer
- RC confirmed that the new cleaning contract is in place and operational
- The School Resource Management Self-Assessment Tool (SRMSAT) has been completed with Trustees, which included a checklist of 42 questions. Any Trustee that has not had input into this was asked to review the document and feedback to RC before 31 March 2021 so that she can submit by deadline
- Three organisations were asked to provide tenders for the landscaping contract. These have been received and the contract awarded to AC Landscapes. They provided a competitive quote and were the most local
- The school budget was discussed, and the updated position approved

### **Principal's report**

PF had shared her report with Trustees ahead of the meeting. She highlighted the following:

- Tutoring is being provided as part of the Government-funded catch-up. The children are enjoying this and are making excellent progress
- The Single Central Record has been updated, which will have an impact on recruitment of anyone who has previously lived abroad. She encouraged Trustees to look over this when they are able to visit school again so that they are familiar with the document
- Attendance since the return to school has been excellent and currently stands at 98.01%

She noted that the children are happy to be back at school. Trustees thanked her for her report.

### **Trustee reports/Committee feedback**

A number of Trustee reports had been shared ahead of the meeting following their (mostly virtual) visits to school. The contents of these reports were noted, and Trustees thanked for their time and commitment in writing these.

### **Safeguarding/Accidents and Complaints**

#### **Delayed Admission Request**

An application was made to delay entry to Reception for a year. The meeting respected that this is the parent's decision; however considered that the Reception year is likely to be full, which will mean there is unlikely to be a place in Year 1 next year. They will need to apply again for entry into Reception next year and their application will be considered; however the school cannot guarantee a place.

#### **Safeguarding**

A trustee visit was undertaken, and their report will be submitted to the next meeting. KW had shared two One Minute Guides to be read by all staff and Trustees as a reminder of the signs of a variety of safeguarding concerns.

#### **Complaints**

There has been no reply to a complaint response that was issued; Trustees **agreed** that it can be assumed that the complaint is resolved.

### **Curriculum**

PF provided a brief overview of the Learning Challenge Curriculum. This was inspired by a teacher who wanted a more motivational and interesting curriculum, which coincided with Ofsted's emphasis on the wider curriculum.

The curriculum is built around the principle of asking big questions, with question-led units. It links the core subjects including English, maths, geography, history, science and ICT to develop as many

opportunities as possible. The 'big question' is always linked to the national curriculum, with history, geography or science related questions often being the starting point.

Each topic starts with some pre-learning tasks and an elicitation task to gain an understanding of the children's knowledge at the start. The big question also serves to engage the children's curiosity and motivate them to want to learn more. The starting point often includes other stimuli, such as a trip to the zoo, a special visitor with exceptional knowledge, or some role play, to enable the children to immerse themselves in the subject. Each topic enables the children to take on a state of being, whether that's a geographer, historian, detective etc. Knowledge mats are created and shared with families at home, which outline the sticky knowledge that the children should acquire. Sharing with families also encourages discussion of the topic at home.

The curriculum has been developed with the United Schools Federation. There is cross-curricular writing every morning. This is already having a significant impact in the standard of writing.

At the end of the unit time is set aside to review and assess. This includes a final task, which could be a piece of writing, an oral and/or IT presentation, which often provides the opportunity for children to present to an audience.

Each topic is recorded in a book, which is passed up to the following year's class. This enables previous year's learning to be revisited – the next time there is a history topic what was previously studied can be revisited. The aim is to provide the children with progressive learning.

The curriculum suggests a number of fiction and non-fiction texts, many of which are included within Babcock's learning sequences, which also supports Ofsted's targets.

The Learning Challenge Curriculum also lends itself to embracing links with the local and wider community. When they had only recently moved to the building, the building topic involved the builders providing the children with live updates about their school. Every effort is made to embrace the local community.

The curriculum is inclusive of other cultures and ethnic groups and focusses on people who have been successful who are from other ethnic groups. For example, one child's father grew up in Kenya and came into school to share some of his Kenyan experiences.

A bespoke week will provide a forum to cover any elements of science that could not be incorporated into the curriculum.

To conclude, the curriculum provides a flexible approach that can be personalised to our unique school, incorporating a wide range of teaching approaches. It provides a clear progression of national standards, is challenging, inspiring and motivational for children and teachers.

Penny concluded that all the staff enjoy the curriculum and are confident to teach it and the Trustees reflected that it was lovely to see Penny so animated and passionate about the curriculum.

### **Business brought forward by the Chair**

JSU noted that the next meeting will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> April, which is only three school weeks away. As not much is likely to have changed, she suggested that the meeting focus on next year's budget, catching up on matters arising and the strategic plan.

### **Dates and times of future meetings, to be held virtually until further notice:**

- Monday 26 April 2021 at 5pm
- Monday 24 May 2021 at 5pm
- Monday 28 June 2021 at 5pm
- Monday 5 July 2021 Strategy/planning mtg for 2021-22 at 2pm, Members meeting at 4.30pm