



## Local Governing Board to The Learning Alliance

### SIR WILLIAM STANIER SCHOOL LGB

Online Meeting via Microsoft Teams

#### MINUTES – Part I



**Date: 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021, at 4.15pm**

**Present:**

Mr A Pearse (AP) (Chair) From 4.20pm  
Mr D Cooper (DC)  
Mrs J Young (JY)  
Mr D Jobling  
Mr J Burke  
Mr S Houlston (SH)  
Mrs E Johnson

**Absent:** Mr R Cartwright

**In attendance:**

Mr J Fraser – Principal (JF)  
Mrs Anna Norton – Deputy Principal (AN)  
Mr M Cladingbowl – TLA CEO  
Mr D Twambley – TLA COO  
Mrs N Phillips – TLA Director of Finance & Governance (NP)

**Clerk:** Mrs C Gritton

#### Administration

1. The Chair had sent apologies that he would be late to the meeting and it was agreed that JY would Chair until his arrival. JY **welcomed** everybody to the meeting. Apologies were received and accepted from Mr Cartwright and the meeting was **quorate**.
2. There were **no declarations** of personal or prejudicial interest.
3. The **Minutes** of the meeting held on **3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021**, were **approved**. There were no matters arising.
4. **Composition of LGB** – It was **reported** and **noted** that a small number of Governors' Terms of Office expire at the end of October 2021 and this will be considered next term. Parent Governor elections will run this term.

#### Strengthening Leadership, Collaboration and Governance

5. **Matters for the Trust Board to Share with the LGB** – Nothing to report
6. **Finance Update – Paper 6.0 SWS Finance Report** had been uploaded to Governor Hub prior to the meeting and was **received**. It was **reported** that based on current outturn projections, less any capital spend drawn from reserves, the reserves position at 31 August 2021 is currently estimated to be c£40,000, which represents 0.9% of GAG. The aim is to build reserves by 1% of GAG per annum until the TLA targeted reserve level of 5% of GAG is met. The Trust has now received its School Condition Allocation (SCA) for the 2020-21 year and due to the late allocation of the funding this year, the Trust has allocated this funding pro-rata based on October census figures. SWS's allocation is £102,000, and the Trust is working closely with JF to consider how this may be best utilised. Future SCA allocation by the Trust will be needs-based following Trust-wide estates' profiling and project severity ranking. The school also has a Devolved Formula Capital fund of £15,000 to support general capital costs.  
AP joined the meeting at 4.20pm
7. **Governors' Skills' Audit** – NP thanked Governors for completing the Skills' Audit and **reported** that it will be utilised to inform LGB training needs.
8. **LGB Self-Assessment – ACTION:** The Chair and Clerk will liaise to determine a suitable date for the LGB to carry out its Self-Assessment, the questions for which can be found on Governor Hub. The Self-Assessment outcome will help inform LGB training needs alongside the Skills' Audit.
9. **Risk Register** – COO **reported** that the Trust Risk Register has been approved by the Board of Trustees and school Risk Registers are being built, which will feed up and down from the Trust Risk Register. More information will follow in the Autumn term.

## Improving Education and Opportunities

- 10. Covid Recovery Strategy** – Since the pupils’ return to school on 8<sup>th</sup> March, staff have been working to assess the impact of remote learning. Gap assessments and recovery are ongoing and an assessment and target setting policy for 2021 will be ready soon.
- 11. Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG)** – A Power Point presentation **11.0 Teacher Assessed Grades**, had been uploaded to Governor Hub prior to the meeting and was **received**. It was **reported** that a reshaping of the core business at policy level is currently underway, which incorporates and consolidates TLA and SWS language. Staffing teams are being built in readiness for September and a three-year plan will be provided to the LGB and TLA Trust Board soon.
- 11.1 Policy for Teacher Assessed Grades SWS** was uploaded to Governor Hub prior to the meeting and was **received**. It was **reported** that the policy aligns with national policy and has been submitted to the examination boards as required.
- 12. Strategic Vision**
- 12.1 School Performance – Grade Distribution** – Paper **12.1 Grade Distribution** Excel document, showing a four-year trend of attainment outcomes by subject areas, had been uploaded to Governor Hub prior to the meeting and was **received**. It was **reported** that all subjects are connected within TLA or external schools for moderation, ensuring structural integrity. An upward trend can be seen in most subjects and the school is on plan for examination scenario deadlines. Science shows an upward curve and it was **reported** that there is a secure narrative and strong evidence and analysis basis for Science should it undergo any Teacher Assessed Grades’ (TAG) scrutiny. **Governors noted a steep drop in Geography grades and asked the reason for this.** It was **reported** that Geography is one of the subject rebuild areas, following a TLA review and feedback.
- 12.2a School Improvement Priorities – Review of Action Plan 2020/2021** – Paper **12.2a Summer Term Action Plan** had been uploaded to Governor Hub prior to the meeting and was **received**. It was **reported** that assessment work for TAG so far mirrors Centre Assessed Grades from last year. Every student is ranked, the pathway tailored and work is reset around progress. To ensure formative assessments are diagnostically accurate and impactful, Dashboard are updated 6-weekly, rather than termly. Work has resumed on the 3 key areas of pre-lockdown work, such the consideration of the driving force of the changing profile of SWS students. There is a clear, strong connection to teaching staff helping shape policy and influence processes and where there is certainty in data, it is being used to drive work. After the May half term, there will be a focus on implementation and ratification of new policies and in consultation with staff and with mind to their workload, a focus on how the school day can meet recovery requirements. SCA funded internal safety work is planned with a mind to safeguarding in the 1050 pupil footprint building and it is hoped that staff and desktop computer monitors, basketball courts and table tennis tables can be in place for September.
- 12.2b Draft 2021/2022 Action Plan** – Paper **12.2b Future Direction Curriculum and teaching Structures** was uploaded to Governor Hub prior to the meeting and was **received**.
- 12.3 Quality Assurance Process** – Papers **12.3a Teaching and Learning QA Framework, 12.3b Teaching and Learning Teacher Performance QA Framework and 12.3c Subject Review Process** were uploaded to Governor Hub prior to the meeting and were **received**. The SEND profile has changed; 47% of the incoming Y7 pupils will have an identified need. Lessons and resources are therefore being adapted to make them more supportive of SEND needs and the Teaching and Learning Policy and Behaviour Policy each ensure that pupils can learn in the most appropriate sets and lessons to meet their needs.
- 12.3.1** It was **reported** that attendance, showing an increase overall, was higher than the national average during summer half term 1. The usual Y7 attendance dip was not in evidence and although persistent absence numbers are high, they are being addressed. There has been a significant reduction in fixed term exclusions, but there has been a recent small spike in Y9 exclusions. The reset room is being effectively utilised for repeat exclusion pupils’ curriculum recovery, manned by a senior member of staff and utilising online live-lesson events, to reset standards and ensure pupils are ready for GCSE lessons in September and other pupils are not disrupted. Every pupil has been given their first choice GCSEs.

12.3.2 SH was thanked for his support carrying out Governor meetings to support pupils and their families and creating a profile of each pupil to help inform decisions about how best to move forward. SH **reported** that meetings have been very positive and that pupils have bought into the behaviour change ethos. **Governors asked about setting and asked whether that is something that the high schools do across the Trust.** It was **reported** that as part of TLA strategy, schools are looking at setting across the Trust for secondary and that SWS have already done the work; staff have ranked in class and the year groups have been ranked according to attendance and attitude to learning and planned work this week is to ensure that the sets are appropriate into the pathways, but going forward it is likely to be a TLA model. JF ran through the Governor Questions and answers posted to Governor Hub prior to the meeting and there were no further questions arising.

**13. Student Welfare (including Safeguarding)** – It was **reported** that the Safeguarding Children in Education Settings (SCiES) review of 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 had been comprehensive, providing key actions which have been delayed due to lockdown. Policies have now been rewritten and an updated action plan provided on 18<sup>th</sup> May was positive. AN thanked JY for her support. TLA schools’ safeguarding leads meet every half term to share best practice across the Trust. The SWS safeguarding team have seen an increase in many safeguarding areas since the return to school.

#### **Fostering Identity and Ethos**

#### **14. LGB Roles:**

**14.1 Link Governor update** – The Chair confirmed that an update will be provided shortly, in readiness for September.

**14.2 Training Update** – As updated by NP at items 7 and 8. Governors were asked to inform the Clerk if they are not available for the June 8<sup>th</sup> Safeguarding training.

**15. Local Matters** – It was **reported** that catering is to be brought in-house. The COO **reported** that investment is being planned in a canteen cashless system. There is also a proposal for a 6-month trial period of operating the leisure centre business, supported by Congleton High School Leisure Centre staff, starting in July.

**16. LGB Policy Review** – It was **reported** that policy put forward for approval had been shaped with a clear staff voice from workshops.

**16.1 The Teaching and Learning Policy was approved.**

**17. Matters to Share with the Trust Board (exception reporting)** – Nothing to report

#### **AOB**

DC thanked everyone for their support in this his last meeting. DC wished all the best for the school and staff and JF and the Chair thanked DC for his hard work for the school and his support.

**Date of Next Meeting Autumn term TBC.**

**Meeting closed at 5.08pm**

Minutes approved: .....

Date:.....