



Local Governing Board to The Learning Partnership Trust

SIR WILLIAM STANIER SCHOOL LGB

Part 1 Meeting Minutes



Date: Tuesday 12 December 2023 at 4:30pm

Present:

Mrs M Massey - Chair of Governors (MM)
Mr S. Houlston – Vice Chair of Governors (SH)
Mrs P Simpson (PS)
Mrs L Hodgkison (LH)

Apologies:

Mrs S Kay
Mrs S Yates

In attendance:

Miss N Gregg – Headteacher (NGR)
Miss N Glynn – Deputy Headteacher and Deputy Safeguarding Lead (DSL) (NGL)
Mr M Smissen - Vice Principal (MSM)
Dr A Howells (AH)

Clerk: Mrs M Dobson

Administration

- 1. The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting. Apologies were received and accepted from SK and SY and the meeting was quorate. There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interest. Unless otherwise stated, all papers and policies had been uploaded to Governor Hub (GH) prior to the meeting.
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting– The Minutes of the LGB meeting held on 28 September 2023, were approved.
Matters arising – It was discussed that MM was to continue as link governor for Safeguarding and LH would take up the role as link governor for SEND, following Jo Young’s resignation due to her change of role at the Trust.
MM asked for an update from the Ofsted monitoring visit. NGR informed all that the Ofsted inspector appreciated the honesty and apologised that the deficit of language available in the report couldn’t express what he had seen. The Inspector commented how well we were governed and how much trust support we were receiving.

Strategic Direction and Progress Against Priorities

- 3. School Improvement Plan - MM asked about the review column, as it wasn’t clear when the reviews were done. NGR explained that it was more of a narrative of what we have completed so far. MM asked that the impact of the main objective is registered in there. Data is there for 2022, but not for the Autumn Term. NGR confirmed this would be added when available. NGR explained that accelerated reading is not closing any gaps. We are now doing reading and writing and being multi-layered. We also have Carolyn Brennan, joining us from Congleton in January and her specialism is reading.

It was noted that any amendments on the SEF would also be highlighted and presented at the next meeting [Action Agenda 15/02/2023].

Parents Evening – Attendance to parent evenings are around 60%. Follow up calls are made by the Pastoral Teams. Form Tutors chase parents who have not made appointments. MSM said some of the reasons given are childcare issues or shift pattern. NGR said we have changed the timings and shortened the evening to avoid these issues and to diminish a ‘lull’ in appointments during the middle of the evening. NGR said that food was provided for staff, but we need to be careful about staff workloads (1265 hrs) and wellbeing. MM challenged whether if Zoom appointments were offered as an alternative. MSM informed all that the EAL take-up had increased due to the team updating parents on all subjects. LH said whilst 60%

parental attendance was quite good, we still need to engage the community from a PR point of view and it is good to see parents actually in the building.

Three-week timetable – MSM explained that after looking at trending patterns from staff absence, we have looked at redoing one-year group or a few groups to save on external cover costs. MM **challenged** how and about the induction for supply staff and if they understood where the support is? PS asked if behaviour was poor in supply lessons. MSM explained that supply staff are now consistently ours and so are familiar with our routines and procedures. We utilize daily supply teachers far less often. When we do, they are met by the School Business Manager who gives them the school info on a leaflet and the lanyards they need to get them through the day. We are currently going one step further and making up equipment boxes so anyone coming in on supply gets a “survival kit” of everything they need to be successful. There are regular SLT culture and learning walks where hotspots are highlighted, and these include where supply staff are teaching. SLT also undertake drops-ins on supply staff and Curriculum Leaders introduce themselves and are expected to keep an eye on supply staff throughout the day.

Education

4. Admissions and Pupil Numbers – NGR informed all that we are full in years 7, 8 and 9 and numbers are stable at 120 in years 10 & 11. The PAN is 150. We have received 181 applications for the new academic year. *[Clerk post-meeting note: as at 29 Jan 2024 the number of applications were 193 of which 135 were first choice]*
5. Attendance - The Attendance Strategy continues to have a positive impact. The pastoral team continues to encourage students to take responsibility for their attendance and explain how this links to attainment. NGR reported that Attendance has shown improvements in all key areas during the autumn term 2023-24, when compared with the same point in the previous academic year. Overall attendance in the autumn term was 90.08% (a 5% point increase). SEND (K) was 87.7% (4% point increase), SEND (EHCP) = 88.2% (11% point increase), PP = 86.55% (6% point increase). The rate of persistent absence has also improved by 10%, sitting at 39.55% in the autumn term.
6. Behaviour – NGR explained that we have a group of around 25 year 8 students and some small numbers in other year groups that are showing challenging behaviours. The Nurture Groups have still not happened; Cathy Lord (Trust specialist support) can come and help, but can only work with 4/5 pupils at a time. MM suggested having a conversation with Peter Kingdom about Thrive. LH asked would the Year 8s be a Nurture Group? NGR said this is what we would like to do and we wanted a teacher that could facilitate a group. LH asked if the Trust would fund this? AH said that the Trust are trying to manage this budget. NGR added that they are mainly boys. Options require us to consider paying excess for external AP, pay for extra maths tuition or look at something else. LH asked why the Trust wasn't helping in all these areas as they all need addressing. **Action – MM will have a conversation with the Trust as we are looking at the long-term impact.**
7. Curriculum – EAL fits the model of 5 a day. Students have access to the normal curriculum and staff have had the training and the strategies. Staff have their own hub and go and visit lessons. MM reassured that Ofsted thought this was a good system; it is having some impact but has further to go. **Action – to revisit this subject at the next meeting.**

Year 11 Data – MM **queried** if this is current data and not projected. MSM confirmed it as current and said this gave us an opportunity to assess where we were so we can redo the mocks again in January. MSM said that compared to last year, we have a full Maths team and after six weeks, we are still on track for pupil performance to be better than last year. The January mocks will show us where we are at with the current timetable. For those students that don't have KS2 data due to Covid, we have used the FFT50 to establish targets. NGR added that students are still attending after school and we have great numbers attending

Science on Saturday mornings. MM **questioned** if barriers to learning conversations took place? NGR confirmed that learning conversations had taken place and would be done again after pupils had undertaken Mocks examination in January. NGR also noted that all students complete barriers to learning questionnaires with their tutor and that students projected at grade borderlines would have additional interviews and enhanced monitoring. MSM explained that the lower set in maths have alternative curriculum delivering the subject. MM **queried** whether curriculum leader planning recognised some of the barriers to learning. MSM confirmed that teachers were reporting to Curriculum leaders on a weekly basis how key students were progressing, so that curriculum leaders could support any concerns and address any issues quickly. NGR said that we have calendared RAP meetings regularly and we are introducing a departmental SEF in January. MM said that she likes the long-term strategy. LH **questioned** if staff complained about workload. PS said there was an element of good will and it's the first time she has been asked about 1265 hr workloads. PS added that the leadership was seeking to ensure that a fair and balanced workload was allocated to staff, rather than a focus on the 1265 hours allocation. Staff recognised this a balanced workload supported their wellbeing.

Pupil Destinations and Careers – In Charlotte Casewell's absence, NGR has met with Mel Lloyd yesterday. We usually have outside businesses come in and do calendared applications with the year 11 students, but ML said this was filling the gaps, so we have made the decision to postpone. We are advertising for an Associate Assistant Head Teacher for two terms to cover Careers/PHSE etc, so hopefully one of the RSLs may apply. Year 11 Apprenticeships opportunities aren't out yet but will be promoted when available.

8. Quality of Education – MM said she was really interested in the early intervention programme. NGR explained that 14 of our students from all year groups, took part in the Stay Safe/Stay Away Programme. This is the third time we have ran this and these students have engaged the most. We have received fantastic feedback from those involved and interested to see any difference.
Reading Plan – MM **requested** that some quantitative information to be put in the plan. NGR will monitor and deliver.

Welfare

9. Safeguarding – MM undertook a monitoring visit and the next SCIES visit will be in April. MM asked the students questions and felt the safeguarding was positive and that the culture is shifting all the time. NGR will be working on a project shortly to raise more awareness. MM **challenged** if we have a Critical Incident Policy. NGL confirmed that a policy was in the process of being drafted.
10. Welfare and Wellbeing (Students) - SH **queried** if there was a clear spike in child on child incidents? NGL explained that the physical assault reported was an unusual spike and all incident had been dealt with. No sexual violence, but the language used and direct work has been completed. Incidents of self-harm related to one student who also has an EHCP and associated high levels of anxiety with school. The school has taken action and raised concerns with SCIES and scheduled an EHCP review. Rebecca Ellis is also Seeking support from Axis School. LH said the link has been sent out for the outreach, not many on his caseload currently. An incident recorded as Sexual Harassment, was associated with touching (accidental), too tactile and not being aware. Action has been taken which has included providing age appropriate information to pupils. **Action – MM asked to reschedule the Student Voice, which was cancelled due to Ofsted, for after Christmas.**
11. Wellbeing and Welfare (Staff) – Secret Santa Relaunch

Local Matters and Stakeholder Engagement

12. Policies - It was noted that the updated Safeguarding Policy was not on the website, but all else up to date.
13. Stakeholder Engagement – Discussed earlier
14. Stakeholder Engagement – Wider Community – MM **asked** if there was any Media put out to the community following the Ofsted Visit. MM said it would be great to put on Social Media and the school Newsletter. PS suggested the Facebook page and SH thought this would be a good advert for the school.

15. Communication To The Trust

AH to contact Esther Higgs and James Routes to see how to promote positive Ofsted progress report. NGR added that EJO updates Twitter on a regular basis. AH confirmed that Esther Higgs is coming in on 16 January, so the Trust is supporting marketing. MM said that she would contact the CEO direct, especially about the year 8 issues. NGR added that she benefits from the Trust and the support it provides greatly, and without it wouldn't be able to do half of what she does. NGR noted that since the recent merger there are occasional delays in decisions being taken AH confirmed that this is in part a consequence of the introduction of new management systems being introduced to support the increased size of the Trust. However, the system of management delegation remained under ongoing review as they were bedding in. MM asked if AH can go back to the trust with communication issues.

16. AOB – Apologies received by Pam Simpson for the next meeting, due to the Head Teachers conference.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 15 February 2024

Meeting closed 6:00pm

Minutes approved:

Date:.....

Actions

3. SIP update to be included on next meeting agenda	HT	Agenda Feb 24.
6. Behavior (Yr8) Chair will have a conversation with the Trust as we are looking at the long-term impact	Chair	Agenda Feb 24.
7. EAL Curriculum to revisit this subject at the next meeting.	HT	Agenda Feb 24
10. MM asked to reschedule the Student Voice, which was postponed due to Ofsted, for after Christmas.	Link Governor	Feb 24