



Local Governing Board to The Learning Alliance

Cheshire Studio School (CSS) LGB
MINUTES – Part I



Date: Monday 26th June 2023 at 4:00pm

Present:

Mrs C. Millson (Chair) (CM)
Mr D. Walton (DW)

Absent:

Mr D. Hermitt (DH)
Mr N. Jackson (NJ)
Mrs A. Sennett (AS)

In attendance:

Mrs K. Key (KKY) - Headteacher
Mr C Leigh (CLH) - Acting Deputy Headteacher (Items 4.1 to 4.4 inclusive only)
Mrs H. Weigh-Williams (HWH) - Assistant Headteacher
Mrs A. Thatcher - (ATR) Assistant Headteacher
Mr C. Parr - (CPR) - Assistant Headteacher
Mrs V. Lally - (VLY) Literacy Lead (Item 4.4 only)

Clerk: Mrs C. Gritton

Administration

- Welcome, Apologies and Confirmation of Quoracy - The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received and accepted from DH and **it was noted that the meeting was not quorate** but would continue on an information only basis and no decisions would be taken.
- Declarations of Interest - There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interest.
All papers and policies referred to had been uploaded to Governor Hub (GH) prior to the meeting, unless otherwise stated. Item 4.4 was taken first, but recorded in Agenda item order for ease of reference.
- The Minutes of the meeting of the KA LGB held on 2nd May 2023, were approved.
Matters Arising – Paper Actions from CSS LGBs –June 2023 Meeting was received and Actions noted thereon. It was confirmed that the school had completed the Parent Governor election process and no nominations had been received. A large number of nominations had been received in the Knutsford Academy (KA) Parent Governor election and it was agreed that one of the unsuccessful candidates should be considered for appointment to the CSS LGB. **ACTION: AH and CJM and KKY** will meet to discuss Parent Governor appointments.

4. School Performance and Welfare

Paper 4.0 – 5.0 Head Teacher’s Report CSS LGB was received.

4.1 Roles and Responsibilities of the newly formed SLT

Challenge: Governors asked about the planned library and it was reported that the intention is to create a E-library, on the Bexton Road site, as this will best support the whole school reading strategy.

4.2 School Improvement Priorities (SIP) It was reported that some key areas of school improvement will be elements of KS4 being included in KS3 to stretch and challenge all learners, a focus on whole school reading and oracy and the strengthening of relational practices, literacy and curriculum enrichment. The 3 values of ambition, kindness and respect are being introduced across KA and CSS and staff share best practice and inclusion for teaching and learning across all faculties and phases, with a Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and Pupil Premium (PP) focus.

4.3 Admissions and Pupil Number Update It was reported that numbers are increasingly stable and a total of 1408 pupils, for CSS and KA, is anticipated in September. A slight rise in CSS Yr12 numbers is anticipated for September, with 35 applications currently and Yrs 10 and 11 are fairly stable. Staff continue to discuss CSS as an option with Yr9 KA pupils.

Challenge: Governors asked whether KA Yr9 pupils are on the right pathways for Yr10. It was reported that KA and CSS are ensuring that CSS is the right pathway for those that choose it.

KKY reported that the upper school site is at capacity so the Trust is carrying out feasibility studies to look at how to maximise use of both sites.

4.4 Reading A report by VLY. **It was reported that** the school had undertaken a programme to screen Yr7 and low attaining pupils and 30-40 pupils had been identified in each year group, a small number of whom showed a reading age of 10. The school has considered the research into how to best support those pupils and improve reading fluency across the school and the programme selected, utilised since September 2022, supports all pupils including high attainers. The school has recruited a TA with primary school teaching experience, specifically for reading intervention and their phonics training expertise is proving invaluable and successful. In the first term of the 2022/2023 school year, 94% of pupils in 1 to 1 interventions, moved forward by at least a few months and over 50% by a year. In the second term, 96% moved forward again and additional pupils were identified and added to the programme.

The next steps will be to relaunch the whole school approach and ensure the interventions are built into the curriculum in a consistent way. Yr7 and low ability groups will be retested and small group interventions introduced. Oracy will also be a focus for all abilities across the school. KKY and Governors thanked VLY for the highly impactful work.

Challenge: Governors asked whether pupils are choosing to read. It was reported that all pupils understand why reading is important, are willing to get involved, embrace interventions and want to improve and some have started to choose to read outside of interventions and lessons, with great impact and it is anticipated that impact will be seen across the curriculum.

Challenge: Governors asked whether all pupils are reading out loud, noting that some may lack the confidence to do so. It was reported that pupils have the opportunity to read out loud in 1 to 1 interventions and are all building their confidence.

Challenge; Governors asked whether primaries are involved in the interventions. It was reported that the school is working with primaries to understand how they teach reading, to assist with interventions.

VLY left the meeting at 4:40pm

4.5 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) **It was reported that** learning has been aided by consistent learning support assistants (LSAs), encouraging inclusivity and providing good support. LSAs have undergone a bespoke training programme and some have also accessed additional learning. The school ensured that all pupils' examination access arrangements' needs were met. The next steps include:

- Improving identification of SEND; the Trust is providing a SEND identification tool to encourage consistency across the Trust schools
- The continued development of positive relationships with families with SEND, strengthened and supported by LSAs
- Continued staff development to support primary needs, mainly in cognition and learning, autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- A review of the monitoring of the type of data gathered/needed and progress
- A review of the curriculum to ensure it is appropriate for all learners

It was reported that fewer pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are anticipated in September and the school's screening tool will enable staff to cross-check the information provided by primary schools to ensure all those with needs are identified.

KKY reported that thanks to the good work of ATR, the new SENCo can begin their role in a place of much improvement. KKY and Governors thanked ATR for her work in the department. ATR reported that the improvements are a testament to the SEND team.

5. School Welfare

5.1. Attendance **It was reported that** attendance is encouraging and figures are above the national average. A new policy and working procedures are being worked on to further support improved attendance. A new role is being created for an attendance officer to add capacity to the Student Support Team.

5.2 Behaviour **It was reported that** external suspension figures were fewer, due to the use of the Reset room, now open 5 days a week. The detention programme has been built into the directed time and is working

well. Restorative conversations continue to improve and HWH is working on the inclusion of respect, kindness and ambition in the Code of Conduct.

5.3 Safeguarding It was reported that staff had received safeguarding updates and there are plans for the Trust to provide Governor safeguarding training as soon as practicable. The Supporting Children in Educational Settings check has been completed and sent to SCiES. Nearly every area is fully realised. Communications with was identified as requiring further development and this is underway. The SCiES school visit is deferred to November 2023, but in the meantime, Ofsted found no areas of concern. Team teach de-escalation training has been completed.

5.4 Looked After Children (LAC) It was reported that LAC and other categories of vulnerable pupils, are not reducing as is usual this time of year, but it appears that the threshold is rising for Child in Need, as seen across the Trust schools.

5.5 Staffing Matters 2 Deputy Headteachers have been appointed and Governors were provided with a table showing the areas of SLT responsibility. (HT Report 4.1). Staff movement figures are similar to previous years and applications for most roles were strong. Staff wellbeing is a Trust focus and the support the Trust provides for training is very good. The school is good at retaining talented staff. English, Maths and Science are slightly overstaffed, to allow for interventions. Staffing feels solid, good appointments have been made and SLT feel staff capacity is ready for the new school year.

Challenge: Governors asked whether the school now has enough cleaners and site staff. It was reported that it remains challenging to recruit cleaners, but 6th form pupils have been recruited and are doing a good job.

6. Policy Updates

6.1 It was noted that school policies were up to date as at 26th June 2023.

6.2 Link Governor Monitoring It was reported that the Chair had met with CLH and would continue to offer support until the new SENCo is recruited and a SEND Governor appointed. **It was confirmed that** there was nothing significant to report.

7. Governance

7.1 LGB Composition and Terms of Office ACTION: As reported for the Actions Log above.

7.2 LGB Skills Audit It was confirmed that Governors had completed the Skills' Audit as requested by the Director of Quality.

7.3 Website Compliance It was reported that the website is compliant.

8. Other Matters

8.1 Local Matters It was reported that it is hoped that improvement work will commence on pupil toilets and the kitchen over the summer and KKY is regularly meeting with the Trust to discuss potential options for the drama and leisure centre.

8.2 Matters to Share with the Trust Board A summer briefing regarding the merger, from Trustees would be appreciated.

8.3 Matters from the Trust Board to Share with the LGB Nothing to report.

8.4 AOB The Chair reported that Chairs Forum had discussed:

- Marketing across the Trust was an area for development.
- Increase in SEND need across Trust Schools.
- Increase in aggressive and challenging contact from parents into school.

KA/CSS will look at introducing a parent contract to support parents and staff and include a question in the staff wellbeing survey to gauge the level and 'tone' of parental contact. **KKY/SLT Action.**

Finance - P7 and P8 monthly accounts had been received.

Governors were invited to meet with the new Senior Deputy Headteacher, Mr Lawes at the school on 17th July, between 2-3pm and invited to the 28th June School Parliament and school tour 2:30 to 3pm.

Date and Time of Next Meeting: Monday 2nd October 2023 at 4:00pm

Meeting Closed 5:30pm

Minutes approved:

Date:.....

