



Local Governing Board to The Learning Alliance

SIR WILLIAM STANIER SCHOOL LGB

Online Meeting via Microsoft Teams

MINUTES – Part I



Date: 3rd March 2021, at 4pm

Present:

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

Absent: Mr R Cartwright

In attendance:

Mr J Fraser – Principal
Mrs Anna Norton – Deputy Principal
Mr Pickles – Assistant Head
Mr M Cladingbowl – TLA CEO
Mr D Twambley – TLA COO
Mrs N Phillips– TLA Director of Finance & Governance

Clerk: Mrs C Gritton

Administration

1. The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting. Apologies were received and accepted from Mr Cartwright and quoracy was confirmed.
2. There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interest.
3. The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2020, were approved. There were no matters arising.
4. Composition of LGB – It was reported that the TLA Parent Governor election process is being finalised and SWS Parent Governor elections can begin after Easter to fill that vacancy.

Strengthening Leadership, Collaboration and Governance

5. **Matters for the Trust Board to Share with the LGB** – Nothing to report
6. **Finance Update** – The out-turn for the year is currently estimated to have a surplus of c.£40,000 against a budget surplus of c.£3,000. This is essentially as a result of savings being identified to site costs over the year. Covid-19 continues to cause instability in costs and forecasting. This revised surplus will enable the school to build on the current reserves position to have c.£14,000 by year-end. The Trust reserves target is 5% of GAG, so there is some way to go to build to this figure. It was noted that Central Service staff and the Principal have begun discussions about the 2021/2022 budget and detail will be brought to the next meeting.

Improving Education and Opportunities

7. The Principal shared the Principal's Report (the Report) with the LGB, in slide format and assured Governors that items 7 to 10 on the Agenda were covered in the Report.
 - 7.1 Staff are keen for pupils to return to the classroom to begin to rebuild social and academic confidence. Key to staff thinking and discussion as to how to support pupils, is anticipating pupils' needs.
 - 7.2 **Remote Learning Offer** – Covid-19 has presented staff with opportunities to develop their professional skill set across the sector and opportunities for outreach capacity.
 - 7.3 **The Remote Learning Self-Evaluation Form (SEF)** was provided to Governors at Appendix 4 and Appendices 3a operations and organisation during partial closure– spring 2021 and 3b Review of Remote Learning, show the detail of implemented strategies and planned next steps. Those next steps include a CPD review, SEND and EAL intervention for engagement and assessment and increasing face-to-face teaching and learning and safeguarding. The school's ICT system has coped well with the increased pressure of remote teaching. Appendix 3b - Survey Analysis bore positive feedback. **A Governor asked what were the parental engagement figures for the parent surveys.** The Principal reported that

approximately 34% had engaged, which is a good return for the school, compared to previous surveys. **A Governor asked how the school might consider increasing that engagement and whether surveys might be disseminated in ways other than online?** Smaller, targeted surveys have been carried out since and when it is safe to do so, with regard to Covid-19, paper-based surveys may be utilised more. Hard to reach families are contacted by doorstep visits.

- 7.4 **Catch-up** - Mr Pickles has visited a large number of online lessons to assess the quality of resources, accessibility of learning and quality of communication. Curriculum plans will be realigned to address gaps in learning, following spring term, low-stakes quizzing and an increase in extended writing in depth assessments. Each faculty will report where they have reduced or removed parts of their curriculum to allow for online learning and during a staff induction day, staff will begin to consider timescales and pupil regroupings to ensure every pupil is in the right group to enable them to catch up. Specific strategies will be reported to the LGB at the summer term meeting.
- 7.5 **Covid-19 Testing Programme** - Pupils are to receive three in-school Covid-19 tests before beginning home testing. If testing goes well, there are plans to possibly engage in mass group testing and the school's Risk Assessment, to be overseen by the Local Authority, will be provided to the TLA Trust Board tomorrow. There has been a focus on the most vulnerable pupils to ensure they are prepared to be back in school. The school had a successful autumn term with little disruption with only some Yr10 and 20 Yr11 pupils having to isolate in December. **A Governor asked whether the school had received feedback on the recently released video?** There have been no queries regarding the phased return, a letter has been sent to all parents which was full of information for return.
- 7.6 **Wellbeing** – The Personal Development curriculum has been developed and a recent SCiES report (Safeguarding Children in Education Settings) complimented the way the Personal Development curriculum was adapted for online delivery. Surveys have also shown positive feedback of the Personal Development curriculum. For staff there are weekly wellbeing checks, one-to-one meetings and online updates with tips and recommendations for mental health awareness. The Deputy Principal is keen to maintain the onsite community feel amongst staff and there is now a focus on successful return to the classroom.
- 7.7. **Attendance** – There is daily attendance monitoring and Yr7 data for attendance is particularly strong at 95.3% for September to December 2020 and their attitude to learning was 98%, as they were heavily engaged in online learning. Remote attendance and engagement overall have increased as lockdown has progressed and staff have visited those non-attenders and those less engaged. The school has 82 places for on-site learning and patterns of attendance vary, as it is parent shift-worker need dependant. On-site figures stand at 40 – 50 a day, in bubbles of 15. The Special Education Needs Co-Ordinator (SENCO) is key to a coordinated on-site experience.
- 7.7.1 Autumn 2021 Yr7 pupils are now being considered and a transition programme is being rolled-out. The school is looking to create a primary school feeling within the secondary school in the first weeks of term, to help those Yr7 pupils settle in. **A Governor asked whether online learning strategies are likely to continue for next year and what is the intake for 2021** The school will look to retain those strategies which had a positive impact and continued online learning will be available if needed. The acceptance window for places is currently open, but so far 117 have the school as first choice, 22 as second choice and 11 as third choice. There are currently 131 in the year's Yr7.

8. Strategic Vision

- 8.1 **School Performance** – The school is trialling a Microsoft data system called Power BI, which will allow the school to create its own visualisations and dashboards and the data produced so far allows each teacher to understand where the individual students' strengths and weakness are and will be used to assess what was taught during remote learning and how the pupils who engaged fared, when compared to the criteria of the modelling system in Power BI.
- 8.2.1 **School Improvement Priorities** - Two new members of staff were recruited yesterday for Maths and one for English. Maths is a particular area of development for the school. There have been a few non-curriculum teams' realignments with TLA HR support and the Principal reported that the Crewe

partnership is a particular focus of the Trust. The Trust, via a helpful and informative Chairs' Forum, has welcomed the school to its family and the Principal has had the opportunity to highlight to the Trust, SWS' work locally and Trust connectivity is being built on. The Forest School is now in the process of being built and the outdoor curriculum is an exciting new addition to the school offer.

8.2.2 The school is overdue a Section 5 Ofsted visit and it is anticipated that this could happen any time after 19th April 2021. The Principal assured governors that the school has been ready for a visit since September 2020 and its SEF contains tightly gathered evidence against the objectives. The school's delivery and community support is a powerful narrative and the realigned curriculum and sense of where the pupils are up to and the school's plans to enable catch-up, are in place. The website is being updated and with Mr Routes' support, is soon to be fully compliant. The school's social media sites are now updated regularly.

9. Safeguarding – A few vulnerable and Education, Health and care Plan (EHCP) pupils are not in school and they have been contacted to offer support and staff have liaised with external professional agencies where necessary. The vulnerable cohort has increased during this lockdown and face-to-face form time has been successful with all pupils. Laptops used remotely have been set-up with the same security systems as in school and issues have been addressed.

Governors received the Report

Fostering Identity and Ethos

10. LGB Roles:

11.1 Link Governor update – Nothing to report

11.2 Training Update – Governor Hub training videos have now been uploaded. A series of Talking Heads will shortly be uploaded. The governance team are currently arranging a SCiES Safeguarding training event, which will be compulsory for all TLA Governors. Those unable to attend will be offered alternative events. The LGBs are sub-committees of the TLA Board and as such, Ofsted regime and framework overview training will be provided by the Trust to governors, to prepare and support governors for the Ofsted visit.

11. Local Matters – Nothing to report

12. LGB Policy Review – Appendix 5 - Statutory Policy List has been provided to ensure that as at all TLA schools, SWS has all Statutory Policies in place. Formal review programmes will be rolled-out next year. There was a typographical error reported in the Exclusion Policy in the spelling of the word 'breach', but otherwise **all Policies were approved**. NP reminded the Deputy Principal that the Admissions Policy must go to the Local Authority no later than 16th March 2021.

13. Matters to Share with the Trust Board (exception reporting) – Nothing to Report

The Principal thanked everybody for their time and governors thanked SLT and SWS staff for their support for both pupils and parents.

Date and Time of Next Meeting: Monday 24th May, at 4pm Meeting Closed 5.20pm

Minutes approved:

Date:.....