

HADRIAN LEARNING TRUST

Minutes for Meeting of Board of Trustees

6pm, Wednesday 20 January 2021

Via Teams

In attendance: Graeme Atkins (GA), Veryan Johnston (VJ), Kate Chaplin (KC), David Hartland (DH), Tony Brown (TB), Johnathan Holmes (JH), Barbara Hignett (BH), Sarah Kemp (SKe)

Also attending: Charlotte Gaines (CG, Clerk to Trust Board), Neil Seaton (NS, HoS)

Part 1 Classified Non-Confidential

1) Apologies

No apologies for non-attendance were received.

2) Declaration of pecuniary, business or personal interests

No declarations of pecuniary, business or personal interest were made in addition to those already recorded in the Register of Interests.

3) Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

David Hartland was elected as Chair of the Trust Board (proposed by DH and VJ).

Sarah Kemp was elected as Vice Chair of the Trust Board (proposed by DH).

4) Minutes of meetings - approval and matters arising

The Minutes of the following meetings, having been circulated to Trustees, were adopted as a true record.

- Hadrian Learning Trust Board – 9 December 2020 – Part 1
- Hadrian Learning Trust Board – 13 January 2021 – Part 1

5) Trustee recruitment

Trustees discussed the approach that should be taken to recruit additional trustees.

VJ reminded trustees that the 2019 review of governance revealed a need for additional finance support on the board and suggested it would be useful to have a broader spread of trustees' end-of-term-of-office dates to enable stability and continuity. VJ offered to recirculate the governance review paper.

VJ

GA noted that certain committees were benefitting from trustees being willing to sit on them on an interim basis, but that more substantive additional capacity was needed, in general but specifically in relation to finance. He also noted the need to recruit parents, either to the full Trust Board or to local governing bodies. DH noted a gap in strategic and educational knowledge following the departure of SKi. KC suggested that local civic and private sector leaders would have relevant skills which could be transferred to the role.

Trustees agreed that a letter would go out to parents seeking interest from those with a background in finance. GA agreed to draft this and to circulate it to trustees for comment. DH and GA agreed to liaise over potential meetings with any who express interest and will

GA
DH/GA

update trustees at the February meeting. GA also agreed to contact former trustee, PF, to see if he may be interested in a role supporting the Finance and Audit Committee. CG will contact Academy Ambassadors about a possible role for them in supporting recruitment.

GA
CG

6) School updates

NS provided an update on the current term at QEHS including remote learning and on-site provision. He noted that, following parental, student and colleague feedback, the offer had been revised to provide a better balance of live teaching across the year groups. NS also advised that Year 11 parents' evenings and some assessments had taken place remotely. In-school provision was being supported by teachers, LSAs, senior leaders and pastoral staff, with around 40 students attending, although this number was beginning to grow. Lateral flow testing has begun with students and staff who are in school.

NS also provided an update on the latest developments around summer grades for students. He explained that the matter was currently being consulted upon with senior leaders set to submit a response, noting concerns around the proposed timeline. DH asked for an update on BTEC assessments. NS explained that these had been undertaken in January by the majority but that some had opted not to sit them. This variation reflected the situation nationally, which the Government had given licence to, therefore it was now incumbent on the Government to determine a fair approach to grading that reflected students' and schools' differing circumstances.

BH asked what proportion of attendees in school were classed as 'vulnerable' rather than children of critical workers. NS advised that approximately half of those coming in were vulnerable. SK asked how attendance was being monitored, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. NS explained the system of monitoring attendance and completion of work and the arrangements in place to follow up on any concerns.

DH asked how many hours students were expected to undertake each week. NS advised that students were following a full 25-hour week timetable, with daily live form time and at least 50% of the lessons to be delivered live by teachers.

GA provided an update on progress at HMS this term. He complimented LW who has been doing an excellent job, well supported by HC, PFM and the wider staff. The provision is strong with a blend of live lessons and online working. Monitoring of attendance and engagement is taking place, with IT equipment provided where necessary. A small number were being provided with paper packs to support learning. SKe advised that a local firm was offering support to parents with printing.

DH asked for more detail on arrangements for monitoring and supporting the most vulnerable pupils. GA explained that pastoral staff have been closely monitoring the circumstances of vulnerable children, providing support as necessary including liaising with external agencies and undertaking home visits. He advised that he and KC would go into the detail of this at the forthcoming safeguarding meeting.

Arrangements for the approximately 90 pupils attending on-site provision were going well, despite some recent positive cases within two of the bubbles.

GA advised that parental feedback had been very positive, with daily live form time being particularly well-received.

DH asked how well staff had coped with the shift to live teaching. GA advised that their response had been very good indeed, with key people at both schools providing very good support, with lots of sharing of good practice amongst colleagues.

7) Urgent Business with agreement of Chair

GA advised that an annex to the safeguarding policy had been drafted. This will be circulated to trustees via CG tomorrow. He asked trustees to send any comments by the end of the week so that it can be published next week. Trustees agreed.

CG/All

Close and confirm date of next meeting

Part 1 of the meeting was concluded.

The date of the next Part 1 meeting will take place on Wednesday 24 February 2021.

Trustees moved onto Part 2 of the agenda.