

HADRIAN LEARNING TRUST

Minutes for Meeting of Board of Trustees

6pm, Wednesday 24 March 2021

Via Teams

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

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

Part 1 Classified Non-Confidential

1) Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were received from BH.

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. CG advised PF that she would forward a copy of the declaration form for him to complete.

CG

3) 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 – 24 February 2021 – Part 1

4) Governance and trustee recruitment

Trustees welcomed PF to the meeting as a new parent trustee.

GA advised that with PH established as the trustee with the desired financial skills, the intention of the Board remained to recruit someone with the desired educational experience. No suitable candidate with such skills had emerged from the recent request to parents, therefore Academy Ambassadors (AA) had been approached by CG, as agreed at the last meeting. CG reported that AA are now seeking permission from the Regional Schools Commissioner for them to work with HLT, a process that can take up to 20 working days. In the meantime, CG has registered with Inspiring Governance (IG), which is a domain looking to connect skilled volunteers with governing bodies and trust boards.

GA reminded trustees that there should either be two parents sitting on the Trust Board, or two parents on each established local governing body, should the Board decide to pursue this option. He noted that with the move to the new co-located school buildings and the associated new structure of Trust leadership, Trustees may wish to review how the monitoring committees operate before any decision is taken on establishing local governing bodies.

SKe asked if it would be worth going back out to parents to ask specifically if any had the desired educational experience. After discussion it was agreed that the approach in January had been sufficient and that DH and GA would explore potential trustees through IA and, assuming permission given by the RSC, AA, bringing any recommendations back to the Trust Board. Trustees also agreed that, in light of the response in January, the desire to have a Trustee with educational experience and the need to have the necessary complement of parent trustees, a parent trustee should be

DH/GA

appointed from the existing Board parents. JH asked if guidance had been sought from the Trust's legal advisers and GA confirmed that it had.

DH/CG

5) School updates

GA provided an update on the return of all pupils to school at HMS. Testing had been a success, led extremely well by ES, with excellent support from other staff and a number of volunteers. Attendance levels have been high and pupils are back in the right routines. Support for the small number who have struggled is in place. Extracurricular provision is up and running within the scope of the current guidance. Although pupil engagement with live teaching during the recent lockdown was high, comprehensive plans are in place for those needing additional support with their learning. These will be considered more fully at the next HMS Monitoring Committee.

NS advised of a similar picture at QE, with thanks expressed to ES and her team for the mass testing of all students. John Hill was now in post and having immediate impact in coordinating support for those needing it, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Lunchtime clubs and subject support drop ins had restarted. NS went on to explain that the process to determine centre assessed grades was in hand. NS also provided an update on recent staffing changes. GA updated trustees on an individual student behavioural matter.

6) Stakeholder engagement

DH attended the event for CS on Friday, noting the exemplary behaviour of the students. DH also thanked QE staff for their efforts over the lockdown period at their weekly briefing on Tuesday, and will do similar with HMS staff on Thursday.

GA advised that a working party had been established to plan a summer farewell event at HMS. He will liaise directly with KC and SKe as the plans develop and will update trustees at future meetings. SKe noted that a photography project had been mentioned and that it would be good to have a photographic record of the final term. VJ commented that there may be a fundraising opportunity associated with this.

DH advised that an event to celebrate the opening of the new school buildings was more likely to be appropriate in the summer term of 2022, given the ongoing demolition and site completion works intended for the autumn and spring.

7) Urgent business with agreement of Chair

DH advised trustees that KI had sent a message thanking them for their support whilst she has been at QEHS.

CG read trustees a message from SKi thanking trustees and members for his leaving gifts.

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 5 May 2021.

Trustees moved onto Part 2 of the agenda.