

HADRIAN LEARNING TRUST

Minutes for Meeting of Board of Trustees

6pm, Wednesday 16 June 2021

Fellside Hall, HMS

In attendance: Graeme Atkins (GA, Exec Head), David Hartland (DH, Chair), Sarah Kemp (SKe), Veryan Johnston (VJ), Tony Brown (TB), Johnathan Holmes (JH), Barbara Hignett (BH), Patrick Ferguson (PF)

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

Part 1 Classified Non-Confidential

1) Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Kate Chaplin (KC).

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) Minutes of meetings

- Hadrian Learning Trust Board – 19 May 2021 – Part 1

Approval

BH noted that she had attended the meeting. Trustees approved the minutes subject to this change.

Matters arising

None.

4) Governance and trustee recruitment

GA advised that Kim Cowie has confirmed her willingness to join the Trust Board. Trustees agreed the appointment.

5) School updates

GA advised that little had changed at HMS since his last report three school weeks ago. Year 6 assessments will take place next week with the results analysis to be considered in due course by the monitoring committee.

The delay in the easing of covid restrictions has resulted in changes to some intended events:

- Transfer day – feeder schools will attend a virtual day
- Year 5/6 disco will be replaced by an outdoor games evening
- Year 8 leavers' prom will be held outside
- Sports day will have no spectators
- End-of-year trips will go ahead as planned

Currently at HMS, one pupil and one staff member are isolating as contacts of positive covid cases.

CG

NS updated trustees regarding positive covid cases at QEHS. Twelve year 12 (new year 13) students have had positive tests. The last four positive tests resulted in over 100 students being required to self-isolate. Public Health advice regarding a 'circuit breaker' has resulted in the year group working remotely. The sibling of one of these cases has tested positive resulting in 56 year 9 (new year 10) students having to isolate. Remote access to live lessons has been provided. Four staff have been required to isolate due to track and trace notifications and are working from home.

Transfer day arrangements are being revised. NS advised that staff will be visiting students in their middle schools. The first day of the Autumn Term for year 9 will be treated as transfer day instead. The year 11 prom is unlikely to go ahead as planned.

NS then outlined the current arrangements for catch up support for those who have fallen behind. In addition, summer school will take place for some year 11 year students, with the focus on maths and English. The St Joseph's site will be used for this given the building works and decant. A comprehensive plan of support for next year, particularly for those from disadvantaged backgrounds who have fallen behind, is currently being prepared that will be costed and circulated to Trustees.

NS

NS advised that the process around centre assessed grades is almost complete and grades will be going into the system on Friday.

Quality of Education reviews have started in maths and will continue over the coming weeks across all subjects. Mark Wilson, SIP, will support with the reviews of science and languages, following on from his involvement in the process at HMS in these areas.

High school curriculum leaders are meeting with middle school staff in the coming weeks as they prepare to lead their subjects across both schools from September.

The timetable rolled over to the 2021-22 timetable from the start of this half-term as intended.

GA advised that the system of controls and associated risk assessment relating to covid at QE have been adapted in regard to face coverings, in light of the recent spike in cases and in liaison with Public Health England and local health advisors. Students are now required to wear face coverings in communal spaces but not in classrooms.

DH asked if many staff have been required to isolate. NS advised that six had been this term, with five isolating at present.

DH suggested that Liam Watters, current Deputy Head at HMS, joins the TB meeting in July prior to commencing his role as Head of School in September. Trustees agreed.

6) Stakeholder engagement

GA advised that dialogue is ongoing between local residents and Highways relating to traffic calming measures and pedestrian safety. GA and NS intend to re-convene meetings with residents via the Hydro Neighbourhood Group on return to school in the Autumn.

DH asked if neighbours had been made aware of the intended demolition works due to take place. GA advised that communications of this nature would be carried out by the contractor and that he would check that this was happening.

GA

The 'Fair-well' event planned for HMS can no longer take place as intended on 10 July. It will now take place in two parts: pupils will be able to enjoy the 'fair' element in year group bubbles on Friday 9 July while a virtual 'farewell' element will go online for the wider community.

SKe asked about the photography project. GA advised that this is still intended.

DH asked if it was intended for the historical society to have access to the site to record the buildings, particularly the Fellside building. GA advised that they were aware of the move and had supported with an intended small booklet on the departure that was in the process of being drafted. It is anticipated that HLT will retain the lease until the end of August although confirmation from the DfE is awaited and is being chased. SS advised that new funding agreements were being drafted to coincide with the change of status. Discussions are ongoing with NCC regarding site security.

7) Urgent business with agreement of Chair

GA advised Trustees that Hattie Currie at HMS was keen to take forward an initiative to raise the profile of the Trust's ethos. Trustees welcomed this and it was agreed that those who wished to contribute directly to the thinking should let Charlotte know their availability to meet with Hattie.

CG

PF asked for an update regarding the 'Everyone's Invited' website. GA advised that there did not appear to be any entries regarding the schools but that NS had still gone to students and parents to reassure and to advise on how any concerns should be raised, with Andy Hedley leading on further guidance to students.

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 7 July 2021.

Trustees moved onto Part 2 of the agenda.