

HADRIAN LEARNING TRUST

Minutes for Meeting of Board of Trustees

6pm, Wednesday 19 May 2021

Theatre, QEHS

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

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. DH advised that his declaration form has been updated to show that his wife has been elected as deputy mayor of Hexham Town Council.

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 March 2021 – Part 1

4) Governance and trustee recruitment

Trustees discussed the previously circulated paper and the suitability of each potential person with educational experience to join the Trust Board. Trustees reflected again on the particular skills being sought and concluded that Kim Cowie best fitted the requirements. As such, it was agreed that Mrs Cowie would be approached with an offer to join the Board and to be invited to the June meeting. A suggestion to appoint more than one Trustee at this stage was mooted but Trustees agreed to keep the remaining post vacant for the time being pending deliberations on the future direction of the MAT.

GA/CG

DH advised Trustees that a formal complaint regarding trustee recruitment had been received, that was being investigated.

5) School updates

GA advised Trustees that HMS pupils' return to school continued to go well. Specific details had been discussed at length at the recent monitoring committee meeting, the minutes of which would be considered later in the meeting.

Since the committee meeting, Mark Wilson, the school improvement partner (SIP), had been in to school to support with quality of education reviews in languages and science. This had been a positive experience and very helpful both in terms of developing middle and senior leaders' thinking and identifying aspects for improvement.

GA advised that year 7 and 8 pupils are no longer required to wear face coverings in school, although staff will continue to wear them in communal areas in alignment with current guidance. The risk assessments (for both schools) have been updated to reflect the revised guidance. Sports fixtures are now taking place and a fuller programme of extra-curricular activity is up and running, but with ongoing limitations linked to pupils having to remain in year group bubbles.

NS advised that the ongoing return at QEHS had been similarly positive. Timetables are ready to rollover after half term, following the departure of year 11 and 13 students. Work is ongoing to complete centre assessed grades – the data is in the system and is being quality assured. Quality of Education reviews will take place across all subjects after half-term, with the SIP supporting those in languages and science. Catch-up support arrangements are in place for after half-term. Relating to this, there is a re-focusing of provision for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, particularly those who have fallen behind their peers.

6) Stakeholder engagement

GA advised that a farewell event will take place from 12pm to 3pm on Saturday 10 July supported by the PTA. The intended format is a summer fair with various stalls, but with the added dimension of some activity to recognise the middle school's time on the site. All remains covid-dependent – planning and preparation will continue with changes to be made in the light of current guidance at the time.

KC updated trustees on communication between QE neighbours and NCC Highways regarding parking restrictions and pedestrian routes.

7) Urgent business with agreement of Chair

None.

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 16 June 2021.

Trustees moved onto Part 2 of the agenda.